

Sun Peaks Recreational Trail Association
2018 AGM Minutes
August 28, 2018, 6:30pm, Hearthstone Lodge

- 6:31 - Meeting called to order by SPRTA President Jase Petersen

- Introduction by Meeting Chair Aidan Kelly
 - Expresses interest in assisting SPRTA in both a business and personal manner
 - Noted that community engagement has been lacking and that we have hit a bit of a road block but knows that the members have not been dormant

- Overview of agenda

- Last AGM was held on June 6, 2015
 - Overview of meeting minutes
 - Missed one year; need to be more on top of them
 - SPRTA was not structurally designed well from the beginning; started out strong with lots of enthusiasm but fell short

- Overview of Financials
 - Currently sitting at a balance of \$23,914.04 in the account; lots of opportunity for the future
 - Firefighters Gala brought in majority of the money
 - Not very much money spent because the association wants to wait for the right opportunity; money that has been spent was spent responsibly
 - Major expense over the last few years was the Master Plan
 - Additional revenue of \$4,293 from High Five Day donations will be coming in soon
 - Need to be pursuing more grants; most trails throughout BC are fully funded by them

- President's Report: Jase Petersen

- Acknowledges that SPRTA started out strong but life got complicated for the board members which meant the association was put on the back burner
- Noted that we had lots of money in the bank so we met with Sun Peaks Resort LLP (SPRLLP) and the Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality (SPMRM) to develop a Master Plan
- We know there are lots of people who are keen on helping us build trails and appreciate the enthusiasm but we are not able to get volunteers out there building until insurance is figured out
- Let's keep the momentum going for Tuesday Ride Nights

Updates:

- Communication and Engagement
 - Everyone is encouraged to sign up on the email list (keep an eye out for an email in the coming weeks)
 - Better communication is promised
 - A website will need to be created soon to keep members updated
- Insurance and Liability
 - In progress; currently speaking with SPR's insurer
 - More complicated at Sun Peaks because of the use of both crown land and CRA
- Board of Directors Structure
 - 12+ other trail associations throughout BC were analyzed; most BODs range from 8 to 12 people
 - Aidan proposes a 9 person board for SPRTA; positions would be as follows
 - Executive: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
 - Directors: Communication, Membership, Fundraising, Planning, Trail Maintenance
 - Positions would be under 2 year terms
 - BOD can be supplemented by committees
 - Bi-monthly board meetings would take place and could turn into monthly depending on workload
- Membership
 - Trail associations around BC range from \$15-60 annually

- The catch 22 for Sun Peaks is that we haven't yet established a proper association so it's tough to encourage memberships; but we need the memberships to keep the association alive and thriving
 - Aidan proposes the following membership pricing:
 - Individual - \$20
 - Family - \$40
 - Corporate - \$50
 - Memberships would be charged annually; not prorated
 - We need to find a way to establish a model for visitors (ie. donation box/use of Trail Forks "Trail Karma")
 - Benefits to be determined (discounts at local shops, etc.)
 - Developing a membership base is important for credibility (ie. obtaining grants/building relationships with SPRLLP, Tourism Sun Peaks (TSP), SPMRM, Thompson Nicola Regional District, etc.)
- Miscellaneous - Mike Sleziak/Aidan Kelly
 - Master Plan was developed because trails are needed to improve the mountain biking experience in Sun Peaks
 - Matt from McElhenney toured all around the resort with different members of the community to locate the best spots for development; he chose to stay mostly within the CRA because of ease of obtaining permits
 - Part of the Master Plan has already been completed by SPRLLP (new green DH trail and Skills Park)
 - Orient Ridge was originally slated for development and most trails were plotted there; however it was announced earlier this year that a new chairlift would be built in this location so trail building in that area has been put on hold
 - A trail we can start building now is a single track loop around the village and possibly rebuilding the old Master's XC Trail
 - SPRTA aims to focus on a combination of revamping existing XC trails and building new ones; the BOD will decide what takes priority
 - Aidan acknowledges the lack of SPRLLP maintenance on the XC trails and considered pulling the XC page off the website until the trails are brought up to par

- Aidan notes that many of the “mountain bike destination” towns in BC did not start that way; many were small mining towns (ie. Revelstoke) and eventually became large tourism hubs. Sun Peaks Resort is on the flip side where it was originally built as a destination but is now becoming a community as well. Lots of work to do to increase mountain bike tourism to SP.
- Next steps
 - Appoint BOD; this will be tricky to do without a membership base to elect
 - BOD to meet and finalize insurance coverage, membership model and roll out a plan
 - Ongoing work to continue in terms of planning and build options to make on the ground progress

Open Floor/Discussion/Questions

Q: What ability levels will the trails be catered to?

A: Trails built by SPRTA will cater to all ability levels

Q: -Networking between different community [and surrounding areas] groups/organizations is very important because we all share the trails and we all benefit from them.

-Use of volunteer trail builders: we have to be careful and make sure the work being done is legitimate and sustainable

A: Agreed. Hopefully by attaining more grants we won't have to rely on volunteers to be building all the trails; we would be able to put the money towards hiring professionals for the major builds. (Note: The construction of the new green trail was contracted out and cost SPRLLP \$200,000. The company hired had only ever built one other trail with private money (ie. grants are out there, let's get after them!))

Q: Shout out to Jase for all the hard work he has done behind the scenes thus far for biking in Sun Peaks.

A: Agreed!

Q: No mention of a Trail Building Director in BOD?

A: Would fall under Director of Planning until the possibility of expansion in the future

Q: For a show of good faith could SPRTA start with repairing the existing xc trails? Could it possibly encourage more people to get involved?

A: Good plan. We have had issues with insurance and liability which has been the main reason that we haven't been able to put any volunteers to work. There was also a misunderstanding about who was in charge of maintaining the trail network; at this time SPRLLP is in charge but we hope to see that changing once SPRTA is more established

*Jase notes that a new blue trail is almost completed between the covered bridge and the bottom of the Morrisey chair

Q: Wouldn't improving the xc trails help bring in more racing events?

A: Yes there is lots of opportunity here and SPRLLP is keen on adding more bike events; we definitely have to focus on improving the existing network first

Q: Where would the responsibility lie for promoting a new trail for events?

A: TSP (Sun Peaks' Destination Marketing Organization)

Q: There was no AGM held last year, is your Society's Act up to date?

A: The Society's Act is being amended

- A reminder to sign up for the email list and to specify what is of interest to you regarding SPRTA (Position on the BOD, being part of a committee, or just mountain biking in Sun Peaks)
- Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm