

Minutes Los Alamos Mountaineers Board Meeting 2 February 2021

Meeting called to order 7:06 PM by president Melanee Hand, over Zoom

Participants included Michael Altherr, Kei Davis, Melanee Hand, BP, Cecile Hemez, Julianna Fessenden, Zack Baker, and Toni Taylor
Regrets Rashi Iyer, Rod McCrady

January minutes were reviewed and approved by acclamation.

The board discussed whether minutes of board meetings should be posted. Minutes are certainly valuable, for example in establishing past understanding of *e.g.* what the financial review means. We current archive minutes on Google Docs, where they are available to the board but not the full membership. The requirement that minutes be posted is not in the bylaws but in the document describing board responsibilities; this document is not as binding as the bylaws. After discussion, the sense of the board is that minutes should be posted. Bill suggested that minutes be posted on the website as well as posted on Google docs. Approved by acclamation. Implementation will require a little help from Zack.

Discussion of Google Classroom approach to training, *e.g.* avalanche training, led by Michael Altherr, present as guest. Michael discussed the mechanics of a Google Classroom. Michael's question: is this a forum that would meet the board's educational mandate? Also suggesting requirements for gear lending, and suggested that we require some level of documented training for life safety gear. Michael had several ideas for training content: backpacking light, top rope fundamentals, etc. Cecile commented that it makes sense to tie training to gear loans.

Michael demonstrated the prototype Google Classroom for avalanche training. The course took him perhaps 16 hours to set up.

Melanee moved that we release Michael's AVI class to the club as a pilot. Toni added an amendment that the release should be restricted to members. Passed unanimously.

Michael discussed the InReach GPS Coordinate database for trails. This database involves a group that shares tracks, with 13 members to date. 4 people have contributed 35 tracks. He proposed that we to open this up to the Club. This would require a content moderator. Club members could view, content moderator could comment, admin could edit. Zack: shall we coordinate this with our trips map site, and with trip reports. No immediate action on this suggestion.

Michael suggested potential contributions that the club might make to other Associations (like American Avalanche Association) for access to training benefits. The club might benefit AVA membership. Contributions might go to Taos Avalanche Center, friends of the CAIC, Access Fund, American Avalanche Association, suggesting perhaps \$100 for each.

Michael commented on oral histories, and suggested a life membership for Gary Clark. Upon reference, we confirmed that Gary and Lynn Clark are already life members. The board was positive on the idea of Gary Clark as a speaker. Life membership was discussed by the previous board in February 2019. Requirements for life membership were discussed after the Feb. 2019 board meeting, per the note at the end of these minutes, but there seems to be no record that they were adopted by the board.

The board discussed membership waivers for financial hardship. Bill moved that we announce possibility of dues waivers, that persons asking for a dues waiver contact a single person,

presumably the membership chair, and that the membership chair decide on a case by case basis without distributing any confidential information more broadly. Also part of the motion, we should wait and see how many people ask for a dues waiver before we tap those who have volunteered donations to cover this expense. The motion was unanimously passed.

The board discussed interviewing LAM Treasures. Jean would film, and the club would need interviewer. Need to ask more interviewees. Our initial invitation list includes Norbert Ensslin, Dave Brown, Bill Priedhorsky, and Elizabeth Kelly.

Sullivan Field parking is a potential problem, with the school district requiring insurance for activities there. This problem is best avoided by telling trip leaders not to park there.

Julianna reports that 120 members have re-upped, 70 waivers received, 12 more waivers signed on line per Zack.

The next board meeting will be held March 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Notes from previous board discussion of requirements for life membership, per discussion involving Toni Taylor, Bill Priedhorsky, and Rachel Cowan in February 2019.

Life membership in the Mountaineers is the highest honor offered to our members It can be awarded to current Mountaineers who have been members for a minimum of 5 years immediately prior to their nomination.

Lifetime membership is a recognition for at least one of the following criteria:

1. Sustained leadership that takes the Mountaineers to a new level of excellence, including LAM Board membership and/or LAM presidential chair.
2. Sustained service that opens new possibilities for the Mountaineers, for example leading LAM trips or teaching LAM skills, e.g., through the LAM climbing school or other LAM activities.
3. Externally recognized accomplishment in outdoor challenges, such as rock climbing, canyoneering, backpacking, backcountry skiing, alpine climbing/mountaineering, by someone who is part of the extended LAM community.