



Alpine Club of Canada
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

October 29, 2005
Seniors' Centre, Canmore, Alberta

ATTENDING BOARD MEMBERS:

Cam Roe, President
Gord Currie, Treasurer
Peter Muir, Secretary
David Zemrau, VP Services
Roger Laurilla, VP Activities (Saturday only)
Carl Hannigan, VP Facilities
Bob Sandford, VP Mountain Culture (Sunday morning only)
Isabelle Daigneault, VP Access and Environment
Gerta Smythe, Vancouver Island Section
Eric Vezeau, Whistler Section
Rob Brusse, Vancouver Section
Andy McQuilkin, Okanagan Section
Mark Earle, Prince George Section
Keith Sanford, Calgary Section
Frank Pianka, Thunder Bay Section
Neil Bosch, Edmonton Section
Rod Church, Central Alberta Section
Richard Berry, Rocky Mountain Section
Wayne Campbell, Jasper/Hinton Section
David McCormick, Saskatchewan Section
Simon Statkewich, Manitoba Section
André Mahé, St. Boniface Section
Sandra Bowkun, Toronto Section
Elfrieda Bock, Ottawa Section
Pierre Gravel, Outaouais Section
Murray Levine, Montreal Section
David Dornian, Competition Climbing Section
Mike Mortimer, Director, External Relations
David Toole, Director, Planning and Development
Bruce Keith, Executive Director

ALSO ATTENDING:

Ron Whitehead, representative of the ENEQ
Bruce Hardardt, Clubhouse Committee Chairman
Fern Hietkamp, Sections Coordinator, ACC Centennial
Lynn Martel, *Gazette* Editor
Roger Tierney, Recreation Officer, BC Parks (Saturday afternoon only)
Lawrence White, Director, Facilities

Suzan Chamney, Manager, Development and Communications (Saturday only)
Audrey Wheeler, Director, Member Services
Nancy Hansen, Director, Mountaineering and Recording Secretary
Paula Zettel, National Office Manager

President's Welcome

C. Roe welcomed everyone and thanked them for volunteering their time and energy this weekend.

Approval of Agenda (All)

Motion by D. Zemrau, seconded by R. Laurilla that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes from May 14-15, 2005 Board Meeting (All)

Motion by K. Sanford, seconded by G. Smythe that the May 14-15 Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Section Reports and Issues (Section Reps)

The Section representatives spoke to their reports. R. Whitehead reviewed the leadership courses and programs that ENEQ offers. He said that more details can be found on the webpage www.eneq.org (the webpage is in French).

S. Bowkun presented a cheque from the Toronto Section for \$2500 as a donation towards the Pat Boswell (Toronto Section) Cabin.

The three most mentioned challenges amongst Section representatives were:

1. Shortages of volunteers to fill Section executive positions
2. Trip leader shortages
3. Some decline in membership numbers in some Sections

Mountain Guides' Ball (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer reviewed the reasons for the change of location for the Mountain Guides' Ball this year (it is less expensive than the Chateau Lake Louise and it is a test pilot for the 2006 Ball). In 2006, the fundraiser will be called the "Centennial Ball".

Centennial (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer passed out his centennial report and spoke to it. B. Keith handed out the new centennial pin to all in attendance. M. Mortimer said that Sections can order the pins in bulk to sell to their members.

ACTION: ACC Sections

P. Muir requested that all board members RSVP to the invitation questionnaire regarding the spring Board meeting in Winnipeg as soon as possible.

ACTION: All Board Members

B. Keith reminded the group that the events in Winnipeg in March of 2006 will include the spring Executive Committee meeting and the spring Board meeting. Board and Executive Committee members will be reimbursed for travel costs as usual. Food and accommodation will be provided. The AGM will be held at the Wheeler Hut in July, but there is no funding in place to bring Board members to this meeting. However, it is hoped that Board members will choose to attend the AGM.

B. Keith suggested that the fall Board Meeting may be held on Friday, October 13 in order that the remainder of the weekend's Centennial events can be enjoyed by the Board members. A show of hands indicated that most Board members would be able to attend a meeting on Friday, October 13 if that proves to be the most appropriate scheduling.

M. Mortimer thanked F. Hietkamp for her energy and efforts in coordinating the Section Centennial events.

R. Brusse requested that the Jim Haberl Hut be designated as an ACC Centennial project. M. Mortimer requested that R. Brusse provide information about the official opening of the hut to the Centennial Committee.

ACTION: R. Brusse

F. Hietkamp requested that the Sections send new and updated information on their centennial planning to S. Chamney for inclusion on the website. B. Keith requested that the Sections make it apparent whether their events are open to all members and/ or the public. B. Keith also suggested that all of the events listed on the website be delineated as National or Section events.

ACTION: All Board Members, S. Chamney

M. Mortimer thanked everyone that has been involved in planning the Centennial so far, and said that more volunteers are needed, especially during the events next year. He requested that any interested volunteers should contact him.

ACTION: All Board Members

UIAA (M. Mortimer/D. Dornian)

M. Mortimer passed out his report and reviewed the political situation within the UIAA. He described how the UIAA is struggling with governance issues, including what influence and control program components such as competition climbing should have on UIAA decision-making.

D. Dornian said that Canada is quite influential at the UIAA meetings. For example, M. Mortimer is currently representing North America on the UIAA Council. D. Dornian encouraged ACC Board members to stay informed on UIAA matters, since the ACC delegates to UIAA meetings are "representing the Alpine Club of Canada" and should therefore be conducting themselves in a manner consistent with Board priorities.

P. Muir pointed out that as the current VP Access/Environment, I. Daigneault is now the ACC's corresponding member with the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission.

Japanese Alpine Club (C. Roe/B. Keith)

B. Keith reported that he and C. Roe went to Japan in mid October to represent the ACC at the Japanese Alpine Club's Centennial dinner and to give a presentation to the JAC on their upcoming Wapta ski trips. He said that it was a positive experience for the JAC and the ACC, and we should encourage and expect JAC interest and participation in the ACC Centennial in 2006.

Fundraising (G. Currie)

G. Currie said that our second annual fundraising initiative is underway. Members should receive their fundraising solicitation letter by mail in the near future. He said that planning is also underway for applying for a casino fundraiser. In addition, he is planning on getting the ACC involved in a program run by the Calgary Centre for Non-Profit Management that could help us meet our fundraising goals. G. Currie said that some Board of Directors are set up to include members that are expected to donate money to the organization, and to raise further funding through networking. He said that some believe it lends credibility to Board members who are seeking donations if they donate money themselves. R. Brusse talked about his involvement on other charity organizations. He said that based on his experience, organizations need to be careful about fundraising as it is easy to upset donors, Board members and other stakeholders. G. Currie said that he is working on a strategic plan for fundraising in order to pre-empt any problems.

BC Parks (R. Tierney)

Special guest Roger Tierney spoke about the special relationship between BC Parks and the ACC. He said that the ACC is doing an exemplary job of operating the Kain, Kokanee and Elk Lakes huts. He said that the BC Parks "Roofed Accommodation Strategy" is ongoing, and that the ACC will hopefully get a response to its Mt. Robson hut proposal in the spring of 2006.

R. Brusse reported that BC Parks has informally approached climbing groups on the west coast to see if there is interest in development and management of new huts in that area.

Secretary's Report (P. Muir)

P. Muir spoke to his report. D. Toole asked if P. Muir thinks the membership fee rates are appropriate. P. Muir said that it is his feeling that the current membership rates are underpriced, but that his main concern is that non-members have unfettered access to too many ACC services, and it is his intention to try and address this over the next couple of years.

A. Wheeler said that the ACC will be undertaking a membership renewal incentive initiative in 2006. She said that there will be a prize drawn each month amongst those members that renew upon receiving their renewal notice. There will also be letters sent to

ex-members who have let their memberships lapse in the last number of years, encouraging them to renew for the Centennial year.

P. Muir reminded the Board that all members are to submit reports to B. Keith regarding any significant fundraising initiatives they are planning to ensure that there are no conflicting applications.

P. Muir said that part of his job as Secretary is to remind Board members of their duties. He said that, for example, it will be very important for all Board members to submit their reports on time next spring, and to read the package ahead of the meeting. The spring 2006 Board meeting in Winnipeg will have a tight time schedule.

ACTION: All Board members

R. Brusse encouraged the Board to consider if it wants the Club to continue offering two-year memberships once on-line membership renewal is fully implemented. The two-year memberships were originally implemented to save National office time and money, but this will no longer be applicable once on-line renewals are in place. He surmised that some Sections likely have difficulties with their annual budgeting process in relation to the two-year memberships.

ACTION: D. Toole

Treasurer (G. Currie)

G. Currie spoke to his report. With regard to membership fees revenue, he would like to see our membership numbers increase. D. Toole asked how the Sections feel about this, since some had stated a few years ago that they did not want their member numbers to increase primarily due to a shortage of qualified trip leaders.

R. Brusse expressed concern over the Vancouver Section's apparent falling membership numbers. He feels that the biggest contributing factor to the Vancouver Section's declining numbers is because many Vancouver members are renewing as unaffiliated members. B. Keith said that we can supply any Section with a list of unaffiliated members in their area upon request. The Sections can then use that information to contact the unaffiliated members and encourage them to rejoin the Section.

VP Access and Environment (I. Daigneault)

I. Daigneault spoke to her report. She asked the Board members to remind their Sections to appoint an Access/Environment representative, and to let her know who that person is.

ACTION: All Board Members

VP Services (D. Zemrau)

D. Zemrau spoke to his report. He said that the "Eastern Leadership" course this summer was very successful. E. Bock requested that an eastern leadership course be offered that is geared more towards hikers. D. Zemrau will discuss this idea with the Leadership Development Committee. D. Zemrau reminded the Board about the upcoming North Face winter leadership course application deadline on November 10.

ACTION: D. Zemrau

D. Zemrau asked the Board if they think it is a good idea to conduct a membership survey in 2006. Nobody expressed concerns over the idea and most saw it as a valuable project to undertake at the start of the Club's second 100 years. D. Toole suggested that we re-use at least some of the questions that were asked in the 1998 survey so that we can note any significant changes in our members' outlook. D. Zemrau asked if there are Board members who would be willing to help put the survey together. P. Gravel volunteered to help.

ACTION: D. Zemrau, P. Gravel

Honorary President (D. Toole)

D. Toole said that Glen Boles is being proposed as the Club's next Honorary President. He passed out a biography about Glen.

Motion by D. Toole, seconded by R. Laurilla that Glen Boles be appointed as the Honorary President of the Club, effective from October 29, 2005 until the Annual General Meeting in 2009.

CARRIED (by unanimous vote)

Honorary Membership and AO Wheeler Award (D. Toole)

D. Toole presented two nominations for honorary membership: Peter Fuhrmann's nomination of Eric Lomas and D. Toole's nomination of Mike Mortimer. D. Toole then reviewed Eric's contribution to the ACC and the mountaineering community in general over the last many years.

Motion by D. Toole, seconded by R. Berry that Eric Lomas be appointed as an Honorary Member of The Alpine Club of Canada.

CARRIED (by unanimous vote)

D. Toole reviewed M. Mortimer's contribution to the ACC and the mountaineering community over the last many years.

Motion by D. Toole, seconded by D. Zemrau that Mike Mortimer be appointed as an Honorary Member of The Alpine Club of Canada.

CARRIED (by unanimous vote)

C. Hannigan asked if any work has been done on the to-be-called President's or Centennial Award. D. Toole replied in the affirmative, but said this award is still under discussion.

Planning and Development Report (D. Toole)

D. Toole said that the Club has come a long way in regards to its effective use of information technology in the last year. A new membership and sales database is in place and replaces a ten-year-old antiquated system. The database is currently being integrated with the National office's accounting system. D. Toole said that the on-line facilities reservation/booking project is also underway, and it is hoped that it will be available for use by the next Board meeting.

D. McCormick said that the ACC webpage is often very slow to access. D. Toole said that National office staff are looking into the speed of the webpage, but that we do not have an immediate solution.

R. Brusse requested that the Sections have better access to the Club's membership database. D. Toole said that rapid IT development is limited by our staffing resources, but that such an objective is exactly what is considered an IT priority at this time.

D. Toole reported that he researched new liability insurance options last spring and summer. He was able to get a total of four quotes from different companies. As a result, we are expecting to pay at least \$20K less in liability insurance fees in 2006.

VP Mountain Culture (B. Sandford)

B. Sandford spoke to his report. He added that a focus of the Mountain Culture committee over the next year will be on the centennial.

VP Facilities (C. Hannigan)

C. Hannigan spoke to his report. The ACC recently received a letter from Glacier National Park indicating interest in pursuing dialogue regarding the ACC taking on the operations of Asulkan, Glacier Circle and Sapphire Col huts.

C. Hannigan reported he expects that the Pat Boswell (Toronto Section) Cabin will be framed in before winter.

C. Hannigan added that a partnership is being formed between the ACC, the University of Calgary, Parks Canada, and potentially BC Parks to research alternative applied energy sources and solutions for backcountry accommodations.

2006 Budget Approval (G. Currie)

G. Currie explained the annual budget process. He said that a lot of work had gone into creating a balanced operating budget for 2006, and that the Executive committee believes the proposed budget is a well balanced financial approach for the Club next year.

Motion by G. Currie, seconded by C. Hannigan that the 2006 operating and capital budget be approved as proposed.

CARRIED

By-Law Amendment (P. Muir)

P. Muir explained that the by-law amendment described at the May 14-15/05 Board meeting now needed to be approved in order to qualify the Club for participation in certain fund raising activities.

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by M. Earle that an amendment be made to the By-law of The Alpine Club of Canada. The amendment involves renumbering Section XII to XIV and adding new section XIII "Dissolution". The wording of this new section XIII is as follows:

In the event of the dissolution of the Club all its remaining assets, after payment of its debts and liabilities, shall be:

- a) disbursed to one or more eligible charitable, religious groups or purposes, or registered athletic organizations with objects and goals similar to those of the Club; or**
- b) transferred in trust to a municipality until such time as the assets can be transferred from the municipality to one or more eligible charitable, religious groups or purposes, or registered athletic organizations with objects and goals similar to those of the Club approved by the board of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.**

CARRIED

Life Membership (P. Muir)

P. Muir spoke about the Club's life membership program. Currently, life membership may be applied for by anyone who has been a member for 25 consecutive years, and whose number of years of consecutive membership plus their age is at least 90. Members have to apply for this membership in writing once they are eligible.

We currently have just over 200 life members. According to our records, there could be as many as 125 more members who currently qualify, but have not applied under the current criteria. P. Muir recommended that the Board consider making changes to the life membership criteria to provide a viable, solid basis for the program on a go-forward basis.

Motion by P. Muir, seconded by P. Gravel that the following be approved with regard to life membership in the Club:

- 1. that the minimum criteria for life membership be 25 consecutive years of membership and 65 years of age;**
- 2. that members who qualify be required to contact the National Office to request a life membership;**
- 3. that the benefits of life membership be a complimentary full membership in the Club (including a CAJ subscription and the huts option) and an ACC Life Member pin;**
- 4. that the Club proceed with the acquisition of life member pins as proposed by the Rocky Mountain Section and Eric Lomas; and**
- 5. that the life membership program described above be made effective November 3, 2005.**

CARRIED

Membership Age Categories (D. Dornian)

D. Dornian proposed that the Board consider raising the age threshold of the Club's "Junior membership" criteria in order to synchronize the age classes across all ACC

Sections. D. Dornian said that there are only a small number of members within the Sections who would be impacted by the change.

C. Hannigan said he believed that changing the age category threshold would impact the facilities' bottom line, as children aged 16 and under currently receive half price rates at the huts. However it was pointed out to him that facilities can continue to set its own independent age criteria for hut rates.

Motion by D. Dornian, seconded by D. Zemrau that:

1. Effective January 1, 2006, The Alpine Club of Canada membership categories be revised to the following:

Youth – 19 and under

Adult – 20 and over

Family – 1 or 2 adults with youth children

And

2. The applicable Club membership fees for the current “Junior” age category (17 and under) become the fees for the new Youth category.

CARRIED

ACTION: A. Wheeler

Ski Mountaineering Competitions (D. Dornian)

D. Dornian spoke about the growing interest by Canadians in ski mountaineering competitions. There will be a competition held at Sunshine Village in Banff at the end of January, and an event at Whistler this winter as well.

National Office Report (B. Keith)

B. Keith spoke to his report and distributed an ACC national organizational chart.

ACC Incidents Communications (P. Muir/D. McCormick)

P. Muir said that there were a couple of incidents on Club trips this past summer that were reported on the Alpine Accidents in Canada website before the National Office was notified of the incidents. P. Muir spoke with the webmaster of the site, and she agreed to work with him to ensure that any information that is posted on the website is timely and appropriate.

B. Keith reminded the Board about the protocol for signing waivers and reporting incidents to the National Office.

Quebec Update (I. Daigneault/Applicable Section Reps)

I. Daigneault reported that discussions between the FQME and ENEQ are ongoing and generally positive. B. Keith said that he recently sent letters to both the FQME and the ENEQ inviting them to become associate members of the ACC. R. Whitehead announced the ENEQ has accepted the invitation, and that an official letter will be forthcoming. B. Keith said that there has been some discussion amongst key ACC National volunteers

about the ACC taking a leadership role in organizing a conference for Canadian and perhaps North American mountaineering and climbing clubs, perhaps as early as 2007.

Section Bylaws (P. Muir)

P. Muir reported that he has sample by-laws for the Sections as a result of a request from one Section last summer. He said that the sample by-laws are not mandatory but instead a model should a Section choose to implement them. He recommended that each Section contemplating using the sample by-laws have a lawyer look them over as provincial laws may differ slightly.

National Mountain Centre Update (B. Keith)

B. Keith reviewed the history of the National Mountain Centre (NMC) concept, which has blossomed into the idea of a large service provision and educational centre. The NMC concept has been given \$250K by the federal and Alberta governments to undertake a feasibility study.

Corporate Sponsorship Update (B. Keith)

B. Keith reported that our corporate sponsorship relationships continue to be healthy. All of the relationships are renewed on a yearly basis, and as a result we do not have any guaranteed long term agreements beyond 2006.

He also reported that the ACC lost our Helly Hansen sponsorship earlier this year. Helly Hansen provided the Club with \$6000 that we distributed in the form of annual grants to individuals who were seeking financial assistance for mountaineering-related initiatives.

B. Keith also talked about a Canmore land developer who requested a corporate membership with the ACC. He said that the application is on hold pending work by B. Sandford to draft criteria for reviewing corporate membership applications.

ACTION: R. Sandford

Canadian Alpine Centre Update (G. Currie)

G. Currie explained our relationship with the Canadian Alpine Centre in Lake Louise. He reported that the CAC appears to be meeting its budget so far this year.

Mountain Guides' Ball (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer reported that the 2005 Guides' Ball held the previous day appeared to have been very successful.

Next Meetings (P. Muir)

- Spring 2006 Executive Committee Meeting Friday March 24/06 in Winnipeg
- Spring 2006 Board Meeting March 25-26/06 in Winnipeg
- 2006 AGM – July 15/06 at Wheeler Hut
- Fall 2006 Board Meeting Oct 13-16/06 in Canmore

The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm on Sunday, October 30th.