



Willow Dog Musher's Association

It is the mission of the WILLOW DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION to protect and preserve the dog mushers' historical way of life today, tomorrow, and for future generations.

Monthly Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 – 7 PM

- A. The April meeting of the Willow Dog Musher's Association was called to order at 7:06pm by Robert Sexton, President.
- B. A quorum was established. Board members present included Robert Sexton, President, Chris Stitt, Vice President, Marianne Schoppmeyer, Secretary, Sue Morgan, Treasurer, Josh Schlosser, Jenny Evans and Tracey Schaeffer, Members at Large as well as many members of the Association.
- C. The current agenda and minutes from the March Monthly meeting were reviewed. Peter noted the clerical error of Jaime instead of the correct spelling of Jamie for Jamie West's name. Marianne noted the error and will correct. Chris Stitt made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes, with the correction to Jamie's name, Tracey Schaeffer seconded the motion. Association voted to accept by majority.
- D. Guest Presentations – Vern Halter regarding the cabin at the WCC – Vern was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Chris stated that Vern will be presenting both sides before we write a letter. He should be able to next month. The membership discussed the type of letter to be sent. Marianne reported from last month's meeting that the membership voted to write a letter stating the dates of usage of the little cabin. Terry Morache volunteered to help gather dates from her rabies clinic records.
- E. Officer's Reports
 - 1. Members At Large – no reports were given at this time.
 - 2. Secretary – no report was given, just asked for patience while things fall into place.
 - 3. Treasurer – Sue state that the past treasurer, Peter Duncan, was here as well – They worked to close out things for the fiscal year on the 31st of March. Sue would like the balance sheet added to this set of meeting notes. Reported on individual balances and that the PayPal Account has been closed and the money has been transferred to the checking account. Thanks to JP for helping her to get the PayPal closed. She also asked that the Association officers sign some additional bank paperwork. She was also able to use the old debit card but a new one is being ordered.
 - 4. Vice President - Chris will make a report during the activities section of the agenda.
 - 5. President – going along with agenda
- F. Committee/Special Groups, Reports:
 - Activities/Special Events/Symposium-Jenny,

Symposium Update by Jenny Evans

The dates for Symposium are October 1st and 2nd. The current committee is made of Jenny and Chris but they are looking for more members. The team is currently seeking a Keynote Speaker. Lance Mackey will be hopefully coming to show his movie and may speak as well. They are also investigating other possibilities

including Hugh Neff. The symposium will not just be panels and there will not be 2 events happening at one time. A volunteer signup sheet was handed out.

July 4th Parade

The Willow July 4th Parade is a fun event that begins at the TP and ends at the Willow Community Center with typical BBQ events to follow. We will need help with designing and building a float. Another sign up sheet was sent around. No need for many meetings we should be able to handle most items through email.

Willow Winter Carnival

We will continue with kids races. We are looking to include a Junior Musher section of the club and continue with informal jr. races leading up to the Winter Carnival. We will need people for a Carnival Race Committee so please sign up.

Races – The Willow Junior 100 and the Earl Norris will be run this year if the weather cooperates. In addition the Knik is also looking for volunteers. Bb Sexton also mentioned the club possibly working toward a race sponsored by the club. Again all races need volunteers.

Merchandise –

All TShirts are on clearance for \$5. The club is in the process of ordering new merchandise. Trying to sponsor an art contest. Hoodies are very popular. The design featuring that Willow is home to more sled dogs than people and with the sign post on it are also popular.

G. Emergency.Preparedness

Chris Stitt reported that Chuck Cubbison will be attending the May 14th Preparedness Fair at the Community Center with the WDMA group. Terry Morache mentioned that we all need to ready to go in the case of an emergency like last year.

Racing Research Committee

Chris stated that we had already touched on fun races for kids, the Willow Winter Carnival Races and that children's races would lead up to carnival. She would also like to see some relay races (skijoring, dog sled, runner) around the lake type of race. More will be discussed once the issue of insurance has been dealt with.

H. Unfinished Business

1. Bylaw changes:

- a. There were some questions about how the end of terms for this year's board as a result of the bylaw changes would be affected. Steve Charles addressed that and clarified that Members At Large Seats 1 (Jenny) and Seat 3 (Tracey) along with the President (Bob) and Secretary (Marianne) are voted on in odd number years (so these positions will only be a 1 year term this time around) and member at Large Seat 2 (Josh) and the Treasurer (Sue) and Vice President (Chris) are voted on in even years (beginning the 2 year term).

2. Letter regarding the cabin at the WCC is currently on hold since there is movement on the Borough level to intervene. Discussion about the past motion to write a letter to simply state the dates we used the

cabin was brought up. Since it was a past motion a letter will be written stating that WDMA has used the building in the past.

I. New Business

1. May 14 – Emergency Preparedness Fair at WCC - Discussion by group. Jenny will go along with Chris and Terry to represent WDMA...
2. June 18 – Sockeye Fire Anniversary Event at WCC – Discussion
The group decided that we will be part of this activity – more discussion to follow as details become available.
3. Iditarod Start Sign in Willow – Sue Morgan discussed that she noted that the Home of the Iditarod Restart was gone from Wasilla. She wondered if the group felt that it would be appropriate to get a sign up here in Willow. We would want to talk to the Willow Chamber of Commerce and possibly to Willow Creek Studio in the hope that they would be able to create something. The membership is in favor of this and Sue will look further into the matter.
4. T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Design/Merchandise
Jenny sked for a vote on the hoodie design. The membership chose to go with The Home to More Sled Dog design with ½ in a blue color and ½ in a heather gray color. Each hoodie costs approximately \$26 and will sell for \$40.
5. October 1 and 2 - Symposium
Since this was covered earlier in the meeting, Jenny asked for any other questions. She added that we are at the very early stages of planning. Dr. Susan Whiten and Sophie Debruin have already been secured to present on holistic vet care and dog massage. Wade Marrs has agreed to help out Sunday with the Kids discussions and also as part of a panel. Chris is handling both meals for Saturday.

Chris asked the membership if wraps for lunch and chicken bbq with German potato salad for dinner sounded good. She will check with the Lumber Yard and Roni's. She has secured Madeline Goeke for the dessert table. Pre-registration would include both meals. Second meal wouldn't be included in on day of registrations.

Gear swap.... Need advertising.... Save the date out to face book. Gear swap needs to be rejuvenated. Terry suggested creating a separate event for the gear swap to bring people in to the symposium.

Scott Jansen has also said that he would be willing to act as a Sponsor for the event.

6. Membership/Junior Membership
Marianne spoke about a possible 10\$ junior membership. Chris agreed that it might be a possibility, How to handle a junior musher will need to be considered. Insurance issues and bylaws need to be considered. Marianne will find out what Chugiak is doing. It was stated that Aurora Dog Musers charge the same an adult fee.

7. Website/Facebook

Jennifer Hawks needs pictures emailed to her. Past to present pics of whatever WDMA has done. A lot will be content and taken from old and pasted to the new. Store and pay pal were discussed. Pay pal vs Square was discussed. The old PayPal account is now closed. Pay Pal really has no down side and you can transfer money from a distance. With Square you can't transfer.

Sophie brought up the issue with the dual Facebook Page. She stated that it is confusing. We should be more official. More improvement and more detail is needed. The other account is maintained out of state by a past member that posts as if she was here. We need more likes on our page since we had to start all over again when she took the page with her. Kari stated that a community page would be nice. Two pages are

confusing. We should avoid sharing her page or reposting from it. Chris Stitt said she would try to talk with the other page's administrator.

At this point JP asked if Jim Houston could be added to the agenda regarding the old cabin. Bob noted that he could be heard during announcements.

Terry added that something similar with a Facebook page had happened and there was very little they could do about getting the page back under their control.

J. Announcements

Jim Houston spoke about the old log cabin and how it is available for use. There is a McKinley Dog Musers Association wall hanging in the museum. There is a large signed board from all the mushers in the community at the time of the early homesteaders. Mr. Houston is looking for information on this piece. Earlier this year he requested a letter sent to the borough about usage of the building. The building may not survive a move. The building is from 1960 and was dedicated in 1962. It was the first community center. The Spains and Veits were married in the building. Movies and pot lucks were also held there before the new center. Code inspection had listed 16 improvements that needed to be made. The newest inspection has been passed with flying colors. Bob stated that we will be writing a letter of usage. We are waiting on dates that we used the building. Jim states that most of WACO wants it. They just need a management agreement with the building. Mr. Houston will keep it open to the public as a museum.

Steve Charles spoke about the WACO meeting and a letter addressing river and dam. Susitna. Dog mushers might be interested in Susitna Project. Water level studies about down river here in Willow have been neglected. They are the Federal Energy Commission to do further studies on the Sustina River in Willow. All studies stopped at the bridge. The letter states that it is important that they further study the river down here in Willow. The Willow levels will change. Winter levels will have a lot of out flow. River levels will be higher in winter. Summer levels will be lower. They are turning the river upside down. The ice may not be navigable downstream from the damn. Bob asked if the Iditarod Committee is aware of this. Steve did not know if they were. Steve encouraged all to attend the next meeting and to encourage further studies on the effects down toward Willow. The dam will cost 5 -8 billion dollars with a timeline starting in 2019. The purpose is hydro power for electrical needs along the rail belt. They are claiming to be cheap energy in the long run. Selling point is renewable energy. We are asking them to study it some more. Our current WACO board has both trail and dog musher representation.

Tracey addressed emergency preparedness. She talked about having an emergency list of people capable of loading dogs from looking from Houston to Trapper Creek. Bob said this is in his thoughts too. Everyone is worried about their own lots but a possibility of bringing other people in might be helpful. Terry addressed animal control and their lack of help with the Sockeye Fire. Animal control will not send anyone to help evacuate. We are on our own. There is new control on that board. Jenn stated that it is our responsibility to make our own plans.

Emergency Preparedness will be a focus of the next meeting. Chris stated that she will talk to the troopers. Membership suggested that we have certain members from our group be response members. Peter added that there may be a training course that people might take to be certified to be able to go into fire areas. Conversation continued about checkpoints in the north and south. Membership was asked to bring ideas back to the table for the May meeting. Kari stated that we are on our own.

Bob asked if there were any more announcements. All membership forms go to Sue!

Wade asked about applying for snowmachines through grants for grooming. Willow Trail committee applied for matching grants for snow machines for grooming Hessler Norris trails.

K. Adjournment - A motion was made by Chris to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 and was seconded by Jenny. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19

