

# WILLOW DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

## January Minutes

**January 28, 2015**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 by President Chris Stitt, at the Willow Community Center, Willow, Alaska. A quorum was present.

**Attendees** were: Christine Stitt, Sue Morgan, Peter Duncan, Jamie West, TC Waite, Dave Wurts, Robert Sexton, Kari Skogen, JP Norris, Ken Koch, Michele Forto, and Steve Charles

**The Agenda was reviewed and adopted.**

### **Officer Reports:**

Secretary---Jamie presented December minutes which were read and approved.

Treasurer---Peter reports several expenditures made which include \$500 donations to the Willow Jr 100 and to Jaimee and Justin High to help with their fire damage. Future expenditures include a \$500 donation to the Earl Norris race during the Willow Winter Carnival. Peter is sending out a copy of our yearly budget. Currently, there are around 50 members.

Vice President -not in attendance

President---Comments through out meeting.

### **Committee & Special Group Reports:**

Trails: Steve reports that the snow cat has been useful grooming the trails of the West Gateway Trail system. And, has groomed ruddy trails leaving from the Community Center. The Sven Erickson bike, ski, run race is around 15 miles. No snow machines are allowed on the trail but Steve asked for help patrolling the perimeter by snowmachine. Sue may help.

The Earl Norris Race trail has gps coordinates and is 31.2 miles. The trail map is out.

Construction on the Lucky Shot site will be starting soon. This should not affect mushers.

There is a 2 day Trails symposium in Wasilla April 25 and 26 by Alaska Trails, Inc. One session is on easement acquisition using the Earl Norris system as an example.

Animal Care Board: Jamie reported that Title 24 which governs licensing and regulations on domestic animals other than dogs covered in the sled dog facility amendment was passed by the assembly. The trapping regulations which would have setbacks on Borough Roads and trails was deleted. TC and Dave's kennel is the first kennel inspected through the new sled dog kennel inspection process. The Borough shelter is still developing its inspection protocol.

Carnival: Winter Carnival starts on Friday at the kickoff dinner. Earl Norris Race starts at 10am on Sat. Volunteers needed, meet at 9am for assignment from Kari. Drawing will be at the kickoff dinner.

Tech Committee: JP, Sue, Michele and Jamie had a tech committee meeting. Material posted on Facebook was discussed as was some website opportunities. Race links were fixed on the website under events. Some issues were readdressed by membership. Discussion led to some decisions which were voted on: no advertising on facebook and posting on the Facebook page ok for lost dogs. The lost dog section of the website was also modified.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Discussion by membership on questions involving website and Facebook page content. By member vote it was decided that there will be no advertising on the WDMA Facebook page, but it is ok to post lost dogs. The lost dog section of the website was also modified.

2. Race donations have already been given out for the year so the donation process and application for races will be set for next year.
3. A sample of a specialty license plate that had Alaska on top and “the right to mush state” at the bottom was shown to the members. They agreed that we should continue its development.
4. Two letters were written about concern on trapping and public safety. One to the State Parks Advisory Board, the other to the Borough Assembly. The issue was tabled.
5. Although we have not heard anything from the ITC about our merchandise table, we do want to set one up at the restart. Sue will follow through and contact them.

**New Business:**

1. Sue wanted a poll to see if membership thought there were enough group mushing activities. Races and other events were discussed. The result was that additional club activities with dogs should be planned, such as going out to the mushers cabin together and a tour of trails.
2. Membership decided that merchandise such as a t-shirt should be donated to the Carnival to use as a fund raiser.

**Announcements:**

1. The table at the Carnival will be set up only one day and manned mainly by Chris. Contact Steve for help with his races. Contact Bonnie for help with the kids sled dog races. Contact Tina for the “learn by doing” exhibit. Contact Kari for help with the Earl Norris Race for Saturday and Sunday. Contact Robert Sexton to help with the Knik race which is at the same time as the Earl Norris.
2. There is currently an opening for a member on the Borough Animal Care Advisory Board. The application is on the Borough website.
3. There is a Chamber of Commerce meeting at Eagle Quest on Tuesday night.

**Adjourn: 8:50**