

Special ESOC Board Meeting
Tuesday 2 November 2021 7:30 pm

President's Report

This board meeting was called on short notice following a number of email exchanges among a subgroup of the board regarding the issue of car drivers registered on hiking trips and bus fares. A quorum of 10 board members were able to attend the Zoom meeting.

Present were:

Kiyoko Miyanishi

Peter Kubica

Bob Perkins

Eric Leavitt

Barb Brunton

Hugh Powell

Gary Kerr

Greg McKenzie

Johanna Voordouw

Dorothy Lloyd

Hugh began by explaining the board had previously decided the bus fare would be \$20 if registrations were 40+. Therefore, since we had begun allowing car drivers to register for our weekly trips, he indicated he would be only charging \$20 even if bus passengers were less than 40 but overall registrations (including car drivers) were 40+. It was apparent some members were taking advantage of our allowing those who did not wish to ride the bus for health reasons since there were a number of members who sometimes chose to ride the bus (and therefore were not concerned about the health risk) while at other times going in cars for whatever reason (cheaper to drive, shorter time to get to the shorter distance trail heads, etc.). As a result, this would result in lower numbers of bus passengers. He further pointed out that unlike some other outdoor clubs (e.g. Ramblers) who only travel by car, clubs such as MnM, Skrastins, and Evergreens were set up to provide weekly bus trips for outings.

Following a discussion in which Barb suggested charging car drivers some amount of money for registering and Bob agreed we could consider charging some discounted rate (i.e. less than \$20). Gary (winter bus coordinator) pointed out with the onset of winter, this issue could be moot since most members would not choose to drive to the mountains unless they really were concerned about health issues. Others joined in indicating for recent trips, the numbers of bus passengers had been high enough to maintain the \$20 bus fare and the club should continue with our compassionate policy of allowing car drivers to register and join hikes without charge.

Eric pointed out that there were separate issues and that the board should deal with them through separate motions. Hugh moved that as long as there were sufficient numbers of bus passengers for the bus trip to go, the fare would be \$20 (i.e. we would forego our previous decision to charge \$30 for 25-39 passengers and \$20 for 40+ passengers). Seconded by Dorothy. Motion passed.

Bob moved that the minimum number of passengers for the bus trip to go be 30 (as opposed to our previous 25). Seconded by Gary. Motion passed.

Finally, Barb moved that car drivers be charged \$10 to register and join bus hikes. Seconded by Hugh. Motion not passed. An important factor in not charging the car drivers was the bus coordinator's concern with difficulty in collecting from many drivers spread across a parking lot.

It should be noted here that in a recent email, Bob had indicated the club currently had no pressure to make any bus fare changes since funds remained at a level we had already agreed needs to be reduced. However, if we chose to charge car drivers some amount, it would be possible to preserve the current \$20 fare for a longer period.

Eric ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their civil arguments and discussions. We thanked Eric for seeing through the recent changes to the website that has helped day leaders greatly while Eric noted that it was on Barb's suggestion that these changes were made.

Meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.