Evergreen Seniors Outdoor Club

Board Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024

7:00 pm by Zoom

Meeting attended by:

Dane	Bridge	President	Present
Elizabeth	Whitehouse	Vice-President	Present
Barb	Brunton-Johnstone	Past President	Present
Hugh	Powell	Treasurer	Present
Sharon	Hanwell	Secretary	Present
Johanna	Voordouw	Membership Director	Absent
Eric	Leavitt	Website Director	Absent
Kyra	Fisher	Summer Hiking Director	Present
Douglas	Kosowan	Winter Activities Director	Absent
Greg	McKenzie	Winter Activities Director	Absent
Carolyn	Ardell	Transportation Director	Present
Harold	Kroeger	Transportation Director	Present
Jennifer	Aikenhead	Social Director	Absent
Kim	Tidswell	Social Director	Absent
Peter	Dankers	City Hikes Coordinator	Absent
Joan	McLean	Newsletter Coordinator	Present
Carol	Morris	Telephone Coordinator	Absent
Cheryl	Whitehead	Membership Support Coordinator	Present
Peter	Kubica	Chief Incident Coordinator	Present

Dane Bridge confirmed quorum and the meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and decide on some current issues prior to a more formal meeting in September/October with reports from all members and a review of all outstanding new or past business.

The agenda was reviewed and corrected. Barb Brunton-Johnston moved to accept the agenda.

The revised minutes of the last Board meeting on March 15, 2024 were reviewed. Approval of minutes was moved by Carolyn Ardell; seconded Sharon Hanwell. **Carried**

New Business

1. Bus Registration and Trip Limits
   On July 4th there were 80 people registered for the hike which was both wonderful and problematic. It was wonderful because so many people are keen

to hike and the club is attracting guests/potential new members, which is important to sustainability. It was problematic because:

- there is a big environmental impact when large groups are hiking in the same area. It is important to remember that in addition of the ESOC group there are usually other people making use of the same trail.
- the bus moved locations but could have stayed at the parking lot which would have impacted parking for other users.

It was suggested that the club emphasize that we are a bus club which means that the focus is on filling the bus each week, rather than encouraging large numbers of self-drivers. It is recognized that some members need to drive for health reasons and they have made those needs known. The intention is also to support Associate members who are trying to regain their Full Member status and to welcome guests, who are potential new members. After much discussion it was agreed that weekly bus outings should be limited to 70 participants.

Existing processes will continue to be in place:

- registrations will be accepted on the website until 6 pm on Tuesday night
- once registration closes the bus coordinator will follow the regular bumping process (remove guest, remove associate members and then remove full members based on their draw numbers. The draw will occur on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning so participants will be generally not be shown as confirmed until Wednesday.
    - Everyone up to 55 will have a seat on the bus.
    - Any participants who had draw numbers in the range of 56 to 70 will be emailed and offered the opportunity to self-drive. They will be asked to carpool with the hope that each vehicle will be full or as full as possible.
    - The people who were bumped will be kept on a "waitlist" in case there are people who cancel before Thursday.
    - If participants need to cancel after 6 pm on Tuesday, they are asked to notify the Bus Coordinator as quickly as possible so that a bus seat does not go vacant.
    - Self-drivers will be encouraged to come to Montgomery to make a carpool if their vehicle is not full. Having full vehicles helps minimize our impact on the parking lots at hike locations.

Motion: Carolyn Ardell moved and Peter Kubica seconded that ESOC have a maximum of 70 people on each week's bus trip. The existing bumping system will be implemented when needed. **Carried**

Action: Carolyn, Harold and Liz will work together to create a message outlining the above information to share with the entire membership so that everyone is aware. The message on the event page will also be adjusted to clarify the driving process.

Action: Dane will craft a message for the membership regarding the rationale for the carpooling process.

2. Filling the Bus
   Is there a method to encourage participants to inform the bus coordinators in advance, if they will be a no-show so all bus seats can be filled?

   Our current process is that members who do not show up on Thursday morning, pay the bus fee. We will modify this process when the bus is full:

   Motion: Harold Kroeger moved and Carolyn Ardell seconded that, when the bus is full, a member who notifies the bus coordinator after the Tuesday deadline to cancel their registration will not pay the bus fee IF the Bus Coordinator can fill the seat, as the new registrant will pay the fee. **Carried**

3. Trip Cancellations and Offering Other Options
   The Board was asked to consider adjusting the policy requiring a minimum of 40 participants on bus trips. Some members have offered to subsidize the hike, if registration is close to 40, rather than cancel. For example, if the registration is 39, a member may volunteer to pay for 2 people. Only 39 people will attend but the club will collect the $1000.00 that would be received if the bus had 40 participants.

   It was agreed that we should continue to follow our policy of requiring 40 "genuine" participants. Fifty people are needed in order to break even at the current charge of $25.00 per trip, which means trips with registrations between 40 and 49 are being subsidized. Board members believe these limits are fair and should be maintained.

   During Covid, the club created ESOC Self-Driving Guidelines and these could be used by members who wish to organize a smaller trip if the bus is cancelled. The guidelines are currently being reviewed by Sharon and will be presented at our next meeting.

4. Guests:
   The Board was asked to consider whether to allow guests during the busy summer season. It was agreed that there is always a need to attract new people and to give them an opportunity to see if they are a good fit for our club. Guests will be invited all year round with the understanding that they may be "bumped" if the bus is full.

5. Membership Support
   Cheryl Whitehead is not able to continue in the Membership Support role. Dane thanked Cheryl for all her hard work and for the huge energy and enthusiasm she has provided to ensure that members feel supported as they face challenges. We are seeking a member who can take on the role; someone who knows lots of the ESOC membership and has the time to gather information and make connections. Cheryl is assisting in the search and will offer her insights if there are questions.

6. Greg McKenzie has asked that inert bear spray cans be purchased for training purposes eg. Trip Leader training at the ESOC BBQ. These cans can only be used once and there is better pricing if they are purchased in groups of 5.

   Motion: Barb Brunton-Johnstone moved and Harold Kroeger seconded that the Club purchase 5 inert bear spray cans for training purposes at a cost of $157.50.
   Carried

7. Membership Questions
   It was agreed that the following questions/issues will be deferred to our fall meeting:
   - Do we have too many members?
   - Currently guest need to attend 3 outings within 2 months in order to apply for membership. Should the qualification period be increased to 4 months? Could the outings include city hikes or should they all be bus trips?

8. Next meeting
   Suggested dates for our next meeting are:
   - Friday morning, September 13
   - Friday morning, September 27
   - Friday morning, October 4.

   Action: Sharon will send out a message asking all board members for their availability.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Note:
A summary of the Action Items from the March 15th and July 8th meeting
Are available in Appendix 1

Appendix 1

Summary of Actions Resulting from March 15th Board Meeting

For the Board Meeting after the AGM

Action: Sharon will prepare a final draft of the Policy Document to be shared for approval at the first Board Meeting after the AGM.

Action: Sharon will provide the password for accessing the Incident Reports to the Chief Incident Coordinator, the President and the Incident Coordinators.

Action: Sharon will make updates to the Incident Report and the Incident Report Guidelines based on the above motion and processes and both documents will be brought forward for final approval at the next Board meeting, after the AGM.

Action: Eric will create the new category "Incident Coordinators" so that all Board members and Incident Coordinators will be able to access member and guest emergency contact information from the website, should the need arise.

Action: Sharon will email each of the Board members a copy of the ESOC Handbook so that they can review their job description and make any revisions that might be necessary. A due date for revisions will be set so that the revised document can be shared before the next Board meeting. Any areas for discussion will be reviewed at the meeting and the document can then be approved and posted.

Summary of Actions Resulting from July 8th Board Meeting

Action: Carolyn, Harold and Liz will work together to create a message outlining the above information to share with the entire membership so that everyone is aware. The message on the event page will also be adjusted to clarify the driving process.

Action: Dane will craft a message for the membership regarding the rationale for the carpooling process.

Action: Sharon will send out a message asking all board members for their availability for a Fall 2024 meeting.