

Minutes of TCUC Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, February 7th, 2015

1-3pm at the Koehler's house

Those in attendance: Mike Schatz, President
Emily Jones, Vice President
Garrett Macey, Treasurer
Kim Chevalier, Secretary
Steve Koehler, Equipment Manager
Jenny Buettner, Historian
Connie Cotter, Member at Large
Mary Koehler, Member at Large
Jacob Miller, Member at Large (left meeting at 1:30pm)
Junior Officers: Dani Chevalier, Neala Chevalier, Ben Hugo, Shelley
Kovacic, Olivia Nord and Rachel Sindelar

Those not attending: Members at Large, Joe Lind and Avonlea Schmitz; Junior Officers,
Bruce Lee and Nick Schatz

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1pm by club president, Mike Schatz

Board Member Reports/Duties:

- Connie Cotter: The printer donated during 2014 NAUCC planning is currently in use, and will be used for 2015 NAUCC. Connie stated that she and Mike Schatz discussed need for paper and toner for the printer, and recently purchased these materials using club funds.
- Jenny Buettner: Stated that the Tuesday uni practice space has been working out well, and that she and Mary Koehler have been handling this responsibility jointly. States there have been offers to help from other club members, though no additional help needed at this time.
- Dani Chevalier: Nothing to report at this time. Continues to write weekly Facebook updates.
- Rachel Sindelar: Current duty has been assisting Connie with Showgroup practice. Rachel stated that she has not yet arranged any freestyle workshops or additional practices.
 - Discussed need to start this process by reaching out to club members and encouraging participation in freestyle events, coming up with possible dates and practice locations, and making final plans/procuring space with the help of Mary Koehler or other adult board member.
- Ben Hugo: No update at this time; no current duties assigned. Mike stated he would give some thought to this and assign a specific task at a later date.
- Neala Chevalier: Mondo poster completed last month. No current task assigned. Mike to assign at a later date.
- Steve Koehler: Stated need for inventory of club unicycles. Planning to purchase a 12" uni for the club, but has not yet done so.
- Shelley Kovacic: No current report or assigned duties. Specific task to be assigned at a later date.
- Mary Koehler: Showgroup costume receipts have been submitted to the treasurer. Coordinating Tuesday practice with Jenny Buettner. Will assist Rachel Sindelar as needed with coordination of freestyle workshops/extra practices.

- *Mike Schatz encouraged those without assigned tasks (especially junior officers) to come up with new ideas to make the parades more fun and interesting to watch/participate in.
- *While discussing freestyle workshops, possible need identified for a TCUC contact person for each discipline before/during NAUCC. Mike stated that these names, when identified, could be included in the weekly TCUC updates.

Treasurer's Report:

- Financial status reviewed, copy of report provided; no significant change since last board meeting.
- With the exception of NAUCC, 2015 expenses anticipated to be similar to 2014.
- “Cash on hand” is higher than historical average.
- Showgroup has broken even the past two years, compared to negative income in previous years.
- USA membership current as of January 11th, 2015.

Inventory:

- Per Mike, 3 club-owned unicycles sold to MadUni during MONDO.
- Discussed need to do updated inventory of club unicycles, including current location. Steve to create an online document with this information when gathered (Connie, Steve and Mike to discuss at a later date).

Monday Space for Showgroup:

- Per Connie, current practice space will be unavailable for at least a week in early April due to a play being performed in the church gym. Gym floor space will be limited for several weeks prior to the play due to temporary extension of the stage above the gym.
- Discussed alternative options for practice space; possibility of not having Showgroup practice during the week of the play. Connie stated that she would prefer not to move practice to a different location, in part to save expense of paying for gym space. Stated that she would be fine with working in a smaller space temporarily, and taking a Monday off when space not available.

Class and Practices:

- Practice leader folders and tools
 - *Jenny stated that she is currently working on the folders, and is almost done. Brought example to show to board members.
 - *Mike stated that the tool kits will be ready in a couple of weeks. Any tools purchased for the Roberts practice will be saved as “extras”, as Paulette Anderson has already purchased necessary tools using alternate funds.
- Buy 12” uni for club?
 - *Steve Koehler will be making this purchase in the near future.
- Hockey in Eagan?
 - *Mike Schatz stated that he is organizing beginner hockey in Eagan, to start at 7:45pm following each unicycle class.

New Web Site:

-Per Mike, new web site contains empty content areas for photos and videos, which will make it easier to give access to other people to edit. Mike stated that he will give editing capability to Jenny so that she can start posting pictures on the web site.

Historian/Social Media:

-Google drive for pictures? Other options?

*Jenny stated that she is still looking into storage drive space

-Get more media for new site

*discussed goal to improve web site appeal by adding more media. Historian currently working on this and is open to additional input/assistance. Mike has updated website to allow easier editing capability, as indicated above.

Parades:

-St. Patrick's Day choices

*New Richmond, March 17th; \$450; Tuesday evening

-pros: Tim Lee able to pull trailer; Paulette encouraging continued club participation in this parade, as many of the unicyclists from Roberts wish to attend.

-cons: Parade is in the afternoon in the middle of the week and many members would be unable to attend.

*Maple Lake, March 14th; \$750; Saturday early afternoon

-pros: Tim Lee able to pull trailer; nice income for the club

-cons: long drive for most members; unless there is a guarantee of good member turn out, would not seem right to accept \$750 to attend

-After discussing both options, was decided that Emily Jones would continue looking for members willing to commit, with 20 people per parade as the goal.

-Parade survey

*At previous board meeting, Mike presented the idea of asking club members to fill out a parade survey to help shed light on why people do/don't attend parades, and what the club could change in order to increase parade attendance. Emily Jones stated that she has since made a list of possible survey questions.

-List of questions reviewed, with additional ideas suggested by board members. Emily will write out the survey to be sent online to club members.

-Participate in how many?

*Discussed the possibility of scheduling less parades this season, possibly increasing per parade attendance. Garrett stated that with current funds, the club could potentially run on 10 parades per year.

-After further discussion, was agreed upon that 18 parades would be a reasonable goal for this year.

-Adjust rules?

*Discussed idea of changing current rules to make the parades less restrictive, which would hopefully increase parade attendance. Ideas presented included relaxing shoe

color and line-up time requirements. Proposed changes as follows:

- require black shoes for all experienced riders as in current rules, but allow new members or less experienced riders to wear neutral colored shoes (anything but bright colors/neon)
- relax parade line-up requirement to 30 minutes prior to start of parade, especially if line-up number is high (club trailer line-up time would not change)

*Emily to write up parade rules ideas and present at the next board meeting.

-Brainstorming

*Discussed other ideas to increase parade attendance, renew enthusiasm

- schedule social activities following the parades
- schedule fewer parades per season (see above notes)
- change routine in back to a “Showgroup style” performance
- have one or two more designated “fun” parades, i.e., crazy sock parade
- bring back the “smile award”, posting winners to the weekly newsletters
- bring back the 5 parade incentive

***Motion** made to bring back the “smile award”, changing the name to “enthusiasm award”. A \$5 gift card to be awarded to the recipient. Maximum of two awards to be given out at each parade, if warranted.

***Vote** held, with all in favor.

***Motion** made to bring back the 5 parade incentive, awarding those that attend 5 parades with a \$5 Target gift card.

***Vote** held, with all in favor.

*Discussed reducing membership fees if a specific number of parades is reached, or increasing membership fees if a minimum number of parades is not reached. Also discussed giving a free TCUC shirt to members on their first parade; fee to be reimbursed by the member if they do not attend a certain number of parades. Both ideas were discarded.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Next regular officers meeting to be held in approximately 5-6 weeks. Mike Schatz will send out a Google survey to determine board member availability before scheduling.

