

TCUC Operating Committee Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2019

12-2pm at the Koehler's House

Those attending

Mary Koehler, President

Lisa Wurtinger, Vice-president

Steve Koehler, Equipment Manager

Connie Cotter, Skills Coach

Mike Schatz, Membership

Dani Chevalier, Freestyle Team Director

Julie Alt, Member-at-Large

Those absent

Art Kotz, Secretary

Ryan Wood, Treasurer

Neala Chevalier, Assistant Freestyle Team Director

Andrew Kotz, Junior Officer/Webmaster

Greta Koehler, Junior Officer

Joe Schatz, Junior Officer

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mary.

Actions taken between meetings

Emergency approval by Mary for purchase of return flight for Pablo.

Approval by board for reimbursement to Pablo for his Spain-US flight. Moved by Mary, approval by Mary, Art, Ryan, and Lisa.

Approval by board to spend \$300 in gym fees for Thawsome Fest. Moved by Mary, seconded by Ryan, approval by Mary, Art, Ryan, and Lisa.

Treasurer's Report

Cash flow is typical for this time of year, with no parade income.

Tundracon expenses were more than anticipated, due to issues with Pablo's travel arrangements.

Other recent expenses include about \$1000 in USA dues. In the future, we will not have such a large expenditure, because TCUC has switched membership systems. Dues will go directly to USA, with USA sending TCUC its portion of dues.

Tundracon report/discussion

Approximately 80% of active members attended at least one Tundracon event.

The event was viewed as successful. Pablo was an excellent teacher.

We discussed the problems associated with Pablo's additional travel expenses.

MONDO recap

Attendance - about 50 members

Debrief discussion:

- Hockey - want better times. We were scheduled for hockey opening and closing every day, with Sunday being particularly difficult, since we had to break down the setup halfway through the timeslot in order to vacate the gym. Permanent hockey times would be nice, so people know what to expect every year.
- Members attending - very few newer TCUC members and families. The cost may be a factor. We discussed a few options: talking with MONDO organizers to see if we could get a discount, TCUC subsidizing families, with TCUC paying for non-riders (parents).
- X-style was poorly attended. It was hoped that with the large number of urban and freestyle riders present, the x-style would attract most of the riders. However, there was little interest in participating. Some audience members were interested, but the poorly working PA made it difficult to generate crowd enthusiasm.
- Workshops - of the three workshops scheduled, one had no attendees, one was cancelled, and the third had three attendees. The workshops didn't get on the official MONDO schedule, so it was difficult for people to know about them. Suggest putting a large information sign at the corral. Suggest offering workshops aimed at the many people attending MONDO who unicycle and could take the next step. These are not TCUC members, but could use this as a way to generate enthusiasm for unicycling.
- Unicycle corral - many unicycles get used over the weekend, suggesting that a large number of MONDO attendees do some level of riding.
- PA system - The current PA system belongs to TCUC and is housed by Karl Wigert. It wasn't working properly. We will suggest to MONDO that another system be used.

Membership site upgrade

TCUC has moved all of its membership information to an online system purchased and maintained by the USA. This will greatly reduce the work required in managing TCUC memberships. All dues will be paid directly to the USA, with USA returning TCUC's portion on a monthly basis.

Events

Thawsome Fest

Set for Saturday March 16 12-4

Planning offline between Connie, Mary and Ryan

Funding was approved via email (see above)

Summer show and gym time

- We've done a summer show for the last few years, just prior to NAUCC. It functions as a dress rehearsal for our Freestyle Team and other freestyle competitors. There is a cost for the show, which will be higher than in previous years. We decided we'd like to do the show again, and possibly encourage and include performances from riders that may not be going to NAUCC. Additional

show pieces could include a hockey demo, followed by pick-up hockey after the show. This decision is pending approval of funding from the officers.

- Freestyle Team needs gym space in the summer. We use inexpensive space throughout the year and move to a larger space in the summer in June. The rates in Bloomington have doubled since last year, due to the addition of air conditioning. Dani proposed that we have seven June practices, including the summer show. To offset the increased costs, we decided to hold three of the June practices at the regular space. Pending funding approval from the officers, Mary will contact Bloomington and confirm the space. Mary will also contact St. Matthew church and confirm the space for the June Monday practices.
- We also have paid for dedicated freestyle practice for our individual, pairs, and small groups that are competing at NAUCC. Last year, we paid about \$300 for dedicated practice time. Connie suggested that we allocate a pro-rated amount for this year, based on potential competitors. Mary will determine the numbers and ask the officers to approve the funding.

Parades

Number and location

We've been slightly decreasing the number of parades we're doing over the last few years. Lisa suggested this isn't a good trend, and recommended that we add two parades to the number we did last year, bringing our number of paid parades to 12. We also did the Winter Carnival parade this year, but that is not a paid parade. She suggested that we give a theme for each parade to generate interest. The list of parades that she will apply for and suggested themes is below.

1. St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade (Saturday, February 2)
2. Roberts Good Neighbor Days (Sunday, June 2)
3. Northeast Minneapolis (Tuesday, June 18)
4. Oakdale Summerfest Grand Parade (Thursday, June 20); Theme - Ride a Giraffe
5. Columbia Heights Jamboree (Friday, June 21); Theme - Reunion Parade; Connie hosts strawberries after the parade
6. Savage Dan Patch Days (Saturday, June 22)
7. Roseville Rose Parade (Monday, June 24)
8. Richfield July 4th Parade (Thursday, July 4)
9. Lakeville Parade (Saturday, July 13)
10. New Brighton Parade (Thursday, August 6)
11. Vadnais Heights Heritage Days Parade (Sunday, August 18); Theme - Crazy Socks parade
12. State Fair Parade (Friday, August 23); Theme - Walker Appreciation
13. St. Helena's Autumn Daze (Saturday, September 14)

Incentives

Lisa suggested doing the same incentive as last year. She likes the tradition and consistency. Last year, we gave a \$5 gift card when people came to their 3rd parade. We agreed to this, pending approval from the officers.

Other Parade Discussion

- We discussed the idea of strongly encouraging freestyle team members to attend parades this summer. In recent year, the number of shows that the team has done has decreased.
- Mary suggested that we spend some time this summer polishing the parade look and reminding people at every parade that it's a fundraiser.
- We need signs for the wagons. Mary will order these, pending approval from the officers.
- Use ropes at the State Fair parade to help delineate the riders from the crowd.
- More themes need to be determined. We'd like a "new member" parade, but haven't assigned that yet.

Website update

Steve, Julie and Andrew are working on this. Julie has given some input. Steve needs to spend some time drafting changes.

Jackets

Some members have asked about club jackets. The topic is tabled until the fall.

Social Media Update

Very brief discussion about creating a Facebook event for Tundracon. This was less than successful. Greta has been adding some things to Instagram. It currently isn't linked to FB. Dani will do that. Further discussion tabled until the next meeting.

Unicycle Donation

A former member stopped by a recent practice and donated 5 unicycles to TCUC: a 36", two 6', and two 5' unicycles. The 36 will go into our supply for use as a long-term loaner. This will ensure that a number of people can benefit from this donation. The two 6' are in decent shape and just need saddles. Then they will be added to the supply. We authorized Connie to purchase saddles (less than \$100). The two 5' will be sold. Mike will handle the sale. The two saddles on these unicycles are not currently popular, but are the kind that Connie uses. We will put the saddles from the 6' on the two 5' and give those saddles to Connie.

Member Engagement/Growth

Survey Woodbury Community Education class members - how to get people to join. Lisa mentioned the takeaway from the survey was to be able to articulate why people should join TCUC. Further discussion is tabled until the next meeting.

Jr Officer ideas

Tabled until the next meeting

Meeting adjourned 2pm