



2007 General Membership Annual Meeting notes:

The fourth Annual Membership Meeting of Alaska Trails was held April 25, 2007 in Anchorage at the Cooperative Extension Service Board Room.

Attendance: Lindsay Winkler, Jack Mosby, Blain Anderson, Jack Campbell, Bob Gorman with Geoffrey Orth, Dan Chagnan, and Wayne Biessel via teleconference. Mike Mitchell, Bob Shipley, and Brian Goodman from the Anchorage Trails and Greenways Coalition also attended the afternoon sessions.

The Foraker Group's Mike Walsh provided the afternoon board training from 1-3:15PM on "High Performance Boards" and "Working with Staff." He stressed the development of measurable project and staff standards and/or goals that can be measured to determine your organization's progress and/or successes. Mike stressed to be sure if your goals are not met to determine how to improve your efforts to reach them in the coming year or years.

Following the training sessions, there was a short annual board meeting starting at 3:25PM. Jack M gave a short history of the organization's establishment. Meetings in the Fall of 2002 led to an Anchorage public facilitated meeting of 35+ people April 23-25, 2003 and then to an initial board and incorporation by June 2003. A strategic plan followed along with additional board members from across the state. In 2005, we hired an AmeriCorps Volunteer Kristy Bruner who developed our first beginning-intermediate sustainable trail training curriculum for volunteers. In 2006, we organized a Statewide Trails Conference in Fairbanks and trained almost 100 trail volunteers total that year. A summary of 2007 followed by Geoff: trail design and layout services, education and outreach projects, continue to make the web page more functional as well as expand our quarterly newsletter, CFC application completed, pursuing a mobile tool cache concept, and an annual financial summary. A short discussion followed on the use of travel fund policy development especially for board member travel possibly during the June meeting, creating an advisory board, and establishing an executive director position. No decisions were made on these discussions.

The meeting was then opened for any additional nominations for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and board members at large. Jack C was nominated for secretary, but no additional nominations were made for treasurer or new board members beyond what was already listed in the draft ballot.

The board meeting ended at 4:30PM.

At the evening potluck from 6-9PM, additional board nominations were solicited, but none were made. REI's Outreach Coordinator Cheryl Piazza presented their matching grant check for our successful membership drive (see photo under Membership in our 2007 Annual Report).

For the evenings entertainment, Emilie Pechuzal, YCC Project Leader from the Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District, gave an educational and informative PowerPoint presentation on their Youth Conservation Corps trail programs in the Talkeetna area. That followed with a sneak preview from Kevin Meyer of the National Park Service on his "Guide to Trail Hardening and Wet Crossings" training curriculum. Board member Blain Anderson presented slides on "The Wine Trails of the Rhine River, Germany, and Switzerland" to complete the evening.