**ESVA Board of Directors Meeting**

**July 25, 2023**

**Zoom Meeting**

1. **Call to Order**. President Joe Blazek called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM PST. In attendance in addition to the president were: Todd Oberlander, Vice President and OPE Rep; Chase Davis, Treasurer and Pathfinder Pres; Diane Howell Evans, Secretary; Dennis Standridge, Eastern AC and Lilac City Rep; Lynn Blazek, Central AC and Sun Striders Rep; Sandi Severtsen, North West AC and Tulip Trekkers Rep; Tony Holt, Central Puget Sound AC; Bonnie Tucker, CVC Rep; Sue-Lon Webert, DVVA Rep; Lisa Robertson, Family Wanderers Rep; Sharon Moats, NW RD and Interlaken Rep; Ed Hainline, NW DRD; Sherry Ogur, Challenge Committee Chair; Russ Kruse, Sun Striders Pres; RoseMarie Hirsch, Evergreen Wanderers Pres; Allan Heritage, Lilac City Pres; and Clay Baulch, OPE Pres. Absent were Pam Greig-Davis, South Puget Sound AC; Burt Paynter, Southwest AC; Emerald City Wanderers, Four Plus Foolhardy Folks, International Wanderers, Over the Hill Gang, Sea-Tac Volkssport Club, Sound Steppers, Vancouver USA Volkssporters.
2. **Attendance Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**. Diane Howell Evans, Secretary, declared a quorum was established.
3. **Welcome to Members and Guests**. Joe Blazek welcomed all in attendance and explained the need for two back-to-back 40 minute sessions of Zoom.
4. **Vote on Acceptance of April 29, 2023, BOD Meeting Minutes**. Sandi Severtsen moved the minutes of the April 29th BOD Meeting Minutes be accepted as written. Todd Oberlander seconded. Approved.
5. **Treasurer’s Report/Update of Current Budget**. Chase Davis asked if anyone had any questions on the 3 financial reports distributed prior to the meeting. There were no questions. Joe stated the Pathfinder costs had significantly decreased due to the ESVA changes made in the number of copies provided to clubs and more discussion would follow under unfinished business.
6. **VP’s Report/Update on Walk Review Program**. Todd Oberlander reported 70% of required walk reviews have been completed. About 30 of the 2023 new or modified YRE/Seasonals still need a review completed. If you volunteered for a YRE review last fall please complete as soon as possible. Todd asked any clubs not renewing YREs/Seasonals or sanctioning new ones to notify him so he can prepare the 2024 list as early as possible. Sharon Moats reminded clubs if a YRE was renewed to please check the OSB information to make sure it is current, complete and incorporates any walk review comments.
7. **Challenge Committee Report**. Sherry Ogur reported the committee was working on a new ESVA challenge named ‘Entertainment.” Details are still being worked out but basically it will cover any entertainment venue you pass on a walk such as movie theaters, sports fields, etc. Announcement of the new challenge later this year. Committee is also reviewing old challenges for the current “Walk Down Memory Lane” challenge.
8. **Area Coordinator Reports**.
   1. **AC Dennis Standridge** (Eastern)– Dennis reported LCVA’s 23 events for 2024 have all been sanctioned. Club will be returning to Wallace Idaho on August 22-24, 2024. The Chamber of Commerce is excited for our return. Weekend will include some new walks.
   2. **AC Lynn Blazek** (Central) – Lynn reported the Sun Striders are doing well. They have a walk on September 9th at Gold Creek Pond near the Hyack exit off I-90. 5k trail is mostly flat and is a combination of asphalt, boardwalk and gravel road. 10k is more strenuous on a hiking trail and trekking poles are recommended as there is one portion through a rocky area.
   3. **AC Sandi Severtsen** (Northwest) – Sandi reported on the following clubs:
      * Tulip Trekkers (President Tom Wallace) – July 29th is the club’s Summer BBQ at Deception Pass, North Beach. Walk at 10:00am followed by BBQ. Reminder of joint walk on August 12th. From 9:30 – 10:00am walk register with the Surrey Trekkers at Peace Arch Provincial Park and from 1:30 – 3:00pm register with the NW Tulip Trekkers at Blaine Peace Arch Park. Club’s nomination committee has been selected to find candidates for positions of President, VP, Secretary, Trailmaster and Treasurer. Statement made that positions held currently will continue until new candidates are voted on. Elections are in November.
      * Sound Steppers (President Sherry Ogur) – Traditional walk held in June. Perfect weather for a walk and 80 walkers came to Mountlake Terrace. Club trip to Peninsula to explore the coast July 5-8th. Members were able to review the new walks offered in Rialto Beach, 2nd Beach and Alava. They also walked Sequim Railroad Bridge and Robin Hill. New officers in term from July 1 – June 30, 2024.
      * Olympic Peninsula Explorers (President Clay Baulch) – Looking forward to the Port Angeles Crab Fest weekend from October 6-8 and the ESVA meetings on October 7th. You can buy tickets for crab lunch to eat before the meeting.
   4. **AC Tony Holt** (Central Puget Sound) – Tony reported the Family Wanderers’ May 20th event at Carkeek Park probably had around 80 participants and the trail was uphill. July 4th the Emerald City Wanderers hosted an Independence Day walk on Beacon Hill. Sea-Tac club hosted an event at Brookville Gardens on July 8th and parking was limited. The Interlaken Trailblazers’ Renton River Days Walk this past weekend was well attended. Upcoming walks include Emerald City Wanderers’ Labor Day weekend walk on Sept 2 and Four Plus Foolhardy Folks’ Sept 30 event on Bow-Samish Island.
   5. **AC Pam Greig-Davis** (South Sound) – Chase Davis reported for Pam.
      * Capitol Volkssport Club had a Friendship Bike at Vance Creek Railriders in Shelton on July 22nd. Using a 4 seat railrider (similar to a recumbent bike) you pedal downhill for 10k and then uphill for 10k. Fun but pricey! Reminder that the Seasonals Port Gamble and Hoodsport Staircase are ending on September 30th. Upcoming events include Anderson Island on August 5th and you need to buy a ferry ticket online. 7k walk only needs a walk-on ferry ticket whereas the 11k requires a car to get to the start point. Wild and Woodsy 2024 is scheduled for April 25 – 28 and will include a Pub Crawl in addition to the Meet & Greet.
      * Daffodil Valley Volkssport Club has their upcoming Riverwalk Festival walk on Saturday, July 29th, in Puyallup. New walks for 2024 include Edgewood Parks and Nisqually State Park in Eatonville.
      * Evergreen Wanderers next event is on August 19th in Lakewood.
   6. **AC Burt Paynter** (Southwest) – absent, no report.
9. **RD Report.** Sharon Moats reported the first meeting of the newly elected AVA Board of Directors is in October. Special Zoom meeting in August to fill vacant Vice Chair position. Special committee investigating possible rate increases which will be voted on at the October meeting. Suggestions from AVA Board include raising the walk fee to $5 per participant with $2 paid to the AVA. Many clubs feel this will hurt many of them across the country due to the low number of walkers at events. Another suggestion, favored by some RDs, is to increase the fee due the AVA for each paid walker by 25 cents - $1.25 to $1.50. Currently any information on Executive Committee meetings is not shared with Regional Directors due to lack of published minutes on the AVA website and communications from the RD liaison on the Executive Committee.
10. **Ongoing and Unfinished Business.**
    1. **Discussion of ESVA Capital Assessment Finances Drawdown.** Todd reported ESVA finances are down by about $1,800 for FY22. Pathfinder costs were cut by 2/3 for the past 2 quarters. Costs went from $300 per issue run to $100 per issue run. Recommendation is to do nothing at this point in time but when the account balance draws down to $8,000 then review and take action. If the balance falls rapidly then an emergency meeting will be scheduled to decide necessary action. Sandi Severtsen made a motion to not do anything now until financial account balance down to $8,000 then reconstitute the committee to take action. Lynn Blazek seconded. Approved.
11. **New Business.**
    1. **Correspondence.** None.
    2. **Announcements.** None.
    3. **New ESVA Sponsored Seasonal Events in Mt Rainier National Park Sunrise Area.** Joe will sanction three events – Mt Fremont Overlook, Palisades Lake, and Burroughs Mountain – for 2024. Joe asked if anyone was considering a future trip to the area and if interested in verifying the draft trail directions he would be happy to forward the documents.
    4. **ESVA Delegate Report of 2023 AVA Regular Membership Meeting.** ESVA Delegate Sherry Ogur was not available to report on membership meeting so Sharon reported there was a good representation by the NW Region and John McClellan, voted as Vice Chair at the June 14th meeting, resigned a couple of days later. Special Zoom meeting in August to elect new Vice Chair.
    5. **Volunteer to Serve 2 Year Term as ESVA Rep on NW Pathfinder Board.** Joe stated the responsibilities of the position on the Pathfinder Board were minimal as only 2 meetings are held per year. One at a big event like before an ESVA meeting and another one via Zoom. Joe inquired if anyone knew of a club member that might be interested or anyone at the meeting was interested. Todd Oberlander volunteered to serve on the Pathfinder Board. Joe made the motion to appoint Todd Oberlander to serve on the NW Pathfinder Board for a 2 year term beginning July 1, 2023. Approved.
    6. **2024 NW Regional Conference – Discussion/Vote/Delegation of Duties.** Joe and Sharon discussed the document Sharon had prepared listing ideas and committees needed for the conference in Kitsap County. An inquiry was made as to why Kitsap vs. Eastern Washington. Response was the manpower required was more available on this side of the state. Another comment included the welfare of walkers in some of the suggested venues but others who walk the areas frequently felt that might have been the case several years ago but the communities in question had made great strides in community beautification and safety. Joe stated we needed to move ahead with the planning and execution of the conference. Clubs need to go back to their membership and solicit volunteers for the various committees (Co-Chairs, Registrar, Focal Trailmaster, Publicity and Social). Clubs should forward to Sharon the volunteer’s name, contact information and chosen committee.
    7. **Other.** None.
12. **Schedule Fall EC and BOD in-person Meeting Times in Port Angeles.**
    1. EC and BOD Fall in-person meetings at the OPE Dungeness Crab Fest Walk, Saturday, October 7th. EC meeting at 1:00 pm followed by BOD meeting at 2:00 pm in one of the classrooms. Start point is the Port Angeles High School located at 304 E. Park Ave. Start time is 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Finish by 4:00 pm. For more info on the Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival check out the web site at: <https://www.crabfestival.org/>
13. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Howell Evans

ESVA Secretary

Reviewed:

Joe Blazek

ESVA President