

2020 SWS AGM Agenda

The AGM is being held online at 7pm on Tuesday, November 24.

Attendance: Nikki, Alan, Alex, Josh, Chuck, Troy, Loren, David, Chris, Alyssa

Membership Attendance: 73

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Nikki calling order - "Our First Pure Virtual AGM" Some Background on Zoom protocols for chat and Q&A, documents have been provided.
 - b. Chuck calling meeting to order at 7:06

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - a. Approved

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Approved

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT - Chuck
 - a. Presentation by Chuck
 - b. Some background provided on the SWS
 - c. Lease has been extended to 2023 season
 - d. Spit is an environmentally sensitive area and the SWS is responsible for the stewardship of the area.
 - e. COVID 19 impacts. We were able to develop safe operating guidelines that allowed us to operate. Thanks to the members and staff for playing by the rules and understanding.
 - f. A big thanks to the staff for their contributions to the SWS and operating through COVID. Shoutout to Chris R.
 - g. There are folks who don't like us, and will find any reason to damage our position with the District. Access is a privilege, so remember to be responsible members.
 - h. There are some bigger picture issues that we need to be watching:
 - i. Estuary Restoration has a direct impact on our operations.
 1. The construction of Culverts is important, even though the construction can be inconvenient for SWS operations,
 2. Hope that any future culvert installations won't impact our operations, but we need to work with the stakeholders to maintain our access while still keeping other stakeholder;s wishes in mind.
 3. Taking out the Spit project has been cancelled, so the focus is looking like the District leading the charge on spit realignment.
 - ii. Renewable Power is an issue

- iii. Woodfibre LNG
- iv. Squamish waterfront development
- v. Some benefits of the COVID - lower crowds on the water.
- i. Finances were OK this year - better than expected.
- j. We should expect the same COVID restrictions for the 2021 season.
- k. Thanks to the Board. A few stepping down: Brett and Alex.
- l. Chuck is stepping down as president, with Nikki stepping up.

5. REPORT ON FINANCES - Josh

- a. Starting at 7:15
- b. A great season, despite COVID. Another big shout out to the staff.
- c. The SWS is a small Not for Profit Society. We do need to save cash every year. Small surplus is the target.
- d. We ended up with an \$8,000 surplus, which was a big improvement over what we had expected when we started with all the COVID shutdowns.
 - i. We had no day fees.
 - ii. Could not take cash, and
 - iii. other COVID-related issues.
- e. Revenues are the same, despite no day fees. Thanks to the members.
- f. We ended up with a surplus thanks to Chris R and his team. Frugal cash management on things like Jet Ski maintenance.
- g. Next year we are likely to not take cash payments again. It is more efficient.
- h. Josh staying on as Treasurer, but wants to transition away from that responsibility over the coming years.

6. MEMBERSHIP AND USAGE ANALYSIS - Nikki

- a. Starting at 7:20
- b. Despite COVID, attendance was higher this year than last year. Note that we lost the last two weeks of September due to culvert construction. So lots of people got to go out.
- c. Lots of mid-week kiting - working from home/CERB kiting may have benefitted.
- d. We did sell 5-day passes and think we will keep them going.
- e. Looked at where the memberships are from $\frac{1}{3}$ Squamish, $\frac{1}{3}$ Vancouver, $\frac{1}{3}$ else.
- f. It was a busy year.
- g. Note that there were only 8 'zero' days. Reminder that it is important to check in. Lots of good reasons to do so.
- h. Retrievals. Retrievals were down, even though there were more visits. Thanks to the members for helping make this happen - good gear selection and responsible sailing.
- i. Busiest day for retrievals - Aug 27 is the biggest day for 2019 and 2020....

7. GRANTS & FUNDRAISING - Nikki

- a. Starting at 7:26
- b. Alex is the normal person, but can't attend the AGM. Nikki Presenting
- c. COVID closed down a few grants that we had planned on applying for.
- d. We use grants for things like Kids' Day, Women in Sport, etc
- e. Request that if members have any grant ideas, please let the SWS board/staff know!.
- f. We looked at Fundraising - SWAG Sales = \$2,200 of profit - thanks members!
- g. Corporate and Personal donations. We are a NFP, not a Charity (no tax receipts). We did bring in \$750/donations. That's a meaningful amount, so thanks to those who chose to donate.
- h. A big shoutout and thanks to Alex for running the swag and Team LTD for implementing it for us.

8. SPONSORSHIP UPDATES - Troy

- a. Starting at 7:31
- b. Troy has been working on a sponsorship deck and trying to roll it out this year.
- c. We pull from the membership demographics.
- d. We also look at our Digital Reach: Email, Social Media, Website. Some good stats here from a sponsorship perspective.
- e. We also look at our Physical Reach: Seacan, wayfinding and signage, changing rooms, jetskis - all branding opportunities.
- f. Sponsorship Package: Digital Presence, Physical Presence, Other
- g. Note no contact details will ever be shared.
- h. Cost: 4 sponsors at \$5,000 each. \$20,000 is too big a ticket, so decided to split it into 4 equal opportunities . No Gold/Silver/Bronze.
- i. Asking for the membership for any ideas or suggestions on companies that might be interested in a sponsorship opportunity.

9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT - Chris

- a. Starting at 7:38
- b. Thanks to all the members for their patience (changes, lineups, everything!)
- c. Overall a pretty good season exceeded expectations considering COVID.
- d. Really want people to keep checking in. It's super important for staff to build relationships with all the members.
- e. No major accidents! A few close calls. Mainly folks launching where there are a lot of rocks. A reminder that new/intermediate kites should move to the end of the Spit. It's safer down there.
- f. A few strange wind days on a few busy weekends. Led to a few folks going out and needing to be rescued. Don't rely on the jetskis. Would you go out if they were not there? No? Reconsider going out.

- g. Cashless was better and we're going to continue with it as well as finding some enhancements.
- h. This season we'd like to see some gravel repair. The last few winters have been rough.
- i. Sea-doo's are in good shape and running well.
- j. Big target will be to get the air compressor back in action. Don't forget your pumps though!
- k. Objective will be to expand member perks. E.g Demo Gear, similar to the ski gear.
- l. Big shoutout to North Shore Ski and Board for the leaf blower!!
- m. Big shoutout to Mustang. Working on the Spit is hard work and hard on gear. Chris bought Mustang survival gear. "Best thing I ever did". As a result, Mustang are now outfitting our staff as sponsors. Huge. The Arcteryx of watersports!

10. COMMUNITY UPDATES - Chuck

- a. 7:47
- b. SRWS - Update. No real update or plan for next year. They are wiped out from a busy and challenging year.
- c. That's tough for us, as we don't really know what the plans are. They are scheduled to meet with the Squamish Nation and Fisheries in January. 50/50 that they will do another culvert next year. New techniques will hopefully mean that they won't impact our season. They seem to have put the wholesale removal of the Spit on the backburner.
- d. Long-term access from Third Ave. This will be a big upgrade for watersports. District knows and understands this. It will be very expensive and require a lot of fundraising and stakeholders. The District recognizes that they are the best person to lead this development (thank goodness).
- e. 20 years in the future, there will be major changes to improve the Chinook/Salmon habitat.
- f. We will continue to be engaged stakeholders. We have a good relationship with the SRWS at the moment and are looking for a win/win. We will continue to work with them.
- g. Nikki covered the floatplane access. Thanks to member Nikita for helping dig through all the Transport Canada details. We are concerned about the impact an Aerodrome could have on our access. Lots still up in the air. But the general consensus is that, at no point moving forward would watersports be impacted as there is a very old law that grants us the right to access Navigable Waters. This law is fundamental and should protect our access from floatplane developments.

11. NEW BUSINESS - Members ideas, concerns and questions

- a. 7:57

- b. Chuck kicking off.
- c. 5 - year lease - it actually runs from 2019 - 2023 - the negotiations for the lease started pre-2018, and by the time it was finalized.
- d. 50-person limit improved safety? Having a limit of 25 people on the spit was definitely better and safer. 50 people out in the bay seems a bit sparse. Later in the season the lineups seemed to be riskier than having more than 50 out in the water. There were definite peak times - 1pm. The rules for being efficient (ready to rig) made a big difference. Lots of calls for more people out on the water. Have to remember that if the wind dies, we'd all have to come in at once. This was the worst-case scenario that the MoH based their decision on. Note that the 50-person limit was set by MoH/District, not the SWS.
- e. Partner with another society to allow for tax-receipts? It would require a lot of work. Happy to consider options. If any members have any experience with this, we'd be open to suggestions.
- f. Did anybody count the largest lineup? Not really - 20-25?
- g. Limit on Kitters - lots of people suggesting it is too low.
- h. How about setting a staggered access to launching? Depends on COVID requirements, and then depends on if it is something members want and staff are able to implement. Folks need to remember that there are always going to be busy times. Best to avoid those if you can. Having staff help launch/land & deflate can and did make a difference this year helping turnover time. We did try and implement land/launch zones, but that took way too much staff oversight.
- i. Note that the live update of the number of members out on the water was very helpful But it was a manual exercise that required staff to be watching it full time. There may be something in an automated check-in check-out process. But for now, this is not the priority - safety is.
- j. Reminder to check in and say hi - we want to build relationships between staff and members!
- k. Special parking for folks with disabilities? Yes, we can look at this. Best thing to do if you need help, come up and talk to the staff and they will do what they can to help you out!
- l. Signage for Launching and Landing areas. Would extra signage/markings be helpful? This was tried, but it takes a lot of monitoring and enforcement. It is hard to manage - particularly when lots of folks are coming in - like when the wind is dying. Main thing, if you are having issues, come and talk to the staff - they will be happy to help.
- m. Wing foilers....the learning curve is tough - hard to stay upwind - which puts you right into the estuary and need to be rescued. The best solution is to go straight to Nexen and shuttle back. We are wing friendly!
- n. Any more questions? info@squamishwindports.com

12. ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD

- a. 8:20

- b. Alex and Brett are leaving.
- c. Put out a request for help. Had 4-5 people express interest.
- d. Nikki went through the process.
- e. Introduced herself.
- f. Nominated for President
- g. Went through the logistics of the vote, but as no position is contested, then no voting is required. We expect that all directors will be elected by acclamation.
- h. Chuck nominated as VP.
- i. Josh nominated as Treasurer
- j. Alan nominated as Secretary
- k. Alyssa nominated as Community Relations
- l. David nominated as Legal Director
- m. Loren nominated as Operations
- n. Troy nominated as Communications
- o. Steve Tulk nominated as Events!
- p. Dominic Stoll nominated - Director at Large
- q. Isabella Shalygina nominated - Director at Large
- r. James Hoffele nominated - Director at Large
- s. Ned Atkins - nominated Director at Large
- t. Todd Learn - nominated Director at Large
- u. As all nominated directors were not contested, all were named to the board by acclamation.

Nikki is very excited in her new role and is looking forward to the challenges that come in the future.

13. MEETING ADJOURNED

- a. Thank you for attending the meeting this evening.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38.