



## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Date:** July 8, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00p  
**Location:** Hickory Hills Recreation Area

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Jake Burden.

Directors Present: Jake Burden, Josh Traeger, Molly Stanifer, Peter Lane, Bryan Travis, Rick Gruber, Kim Marian, Nate Elkins

Ex Officio Non-Voting Participants: Tonya Lewandowski and Nora Chartrand

Also Present: Marc DeCubber

Directors Absent: Christi Nowak, Elaine Tait

### **2. Approval of Consent Calendar**

Kim requested that two items be removed from the Consent Calendar (see below). Jake moved to approve the Consent Calendar, with the noted items removed. Kim seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **3. Discussion and Action**

#### *Membership Fee*

- Kim inquired about the origins of the proposed Membership Fee; various Board members provided input; Molly shared budget projections for the upcoming season and Finance Committee recommendations regarding the Membership Fee, to include a recommendation that it not be instituted for the 2025-2026 season. Peter expressed the important difference between fundraising and programming support, seeing the membership fee as the latter. The Board unanimously moved to a vote on the matter.
- VOTE: All Directors except Peter voted to adopt the Finance Committee recommendation to not include a membership fee for the 2025-2026 season.

#### *Laura Ness City Council Candidacy*

- Tonya discussed Ms. Ness' meaningful contributions to the Hickory Hills Advisory Committee and her support of the Grand Traverse Ski Club.

### *Laura Ness City Council Candidacy (cont.)*

- Kim expressed that the Club should remain apolitical in its communications and activities.

### *Marc DeCubber Introduction*

- The Board welcomed Marc DeCubber as a potential Board member. Tonya introduced the Board, and Marc provided information related to his candidacy.

### *Board Composition*

- Josh detailed the state of the current By Laws with regard to Board membership. Josh discussed nonprofit management best practice, emphasizing that the Board should be composed of an odd number of Directors. Discussion followed. Kim moved to set the number of Directors at 11. Peter seconded the motion.
- VOTE: All Directors except Josh voted to establish the Board membership at 11 Directors.
- ACTION ITEM: Tonya and the Board will continue to recruit Director candidates, as the Board composition at the end of the Annual Meeting was 10 Directors.

### *Annual Meeting*

- The Board welcomed members of the Grand Traverse Ski Club community to attend an open and informative session of the Board, known as the Annual Meeting.
- Tonya introduced the Ski Club and updates for the 2025-2026 season, including:
  - A new schedule for programming;
  - A new plan to improve parking lot logistics;
  - A new "Tow Rope Clinic" for young skiers; and
  - A vision for the future of the Club.
- Various members of the GTSC community shared feedback:
  - Improving parking logistics by enlisting older athletes to help with drop-off and pick-up and assigning ski groups to parking areas rather than meeting on the hill.
  - Engaging a volunteer parent to assist near the bottom of the hill to improve organization.
  - Drafting a letter to the City advocating for a second tow rope installation/operation; possibility that the old tow rope from Jack's Trail could be repurposed.
  - Developing a Ski Club scholarship program to help ensure access for low-income families.

## **4. Election of New Officers and Directors**

Tonya introduced the candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and Directors. The candidates for President (Peter Lane and Rick Gruber) introduced themselves to all attendees and provided details as to their vision for the future of the Club.

All in attendance were given the opportunity to vote for incoming Officers and Directors.

By a majority vote:

- Peter Lane was elected President of the Grand Traverse Ski Club.
- Elaine Tait was elected Vice President.
- Josh Traeger was elected Secretary.
- Jake Burden, Marc DeCubber, and Nate Elkins were elected as Directors.

## **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52p.

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Submitted by Josh Traeger, Secretary, Grand Traverse Ski Club

Date: July 9, 2025