



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date: January 13, 2026
Time: 6:00p
Location: Loco Boys Brewing Company

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Peter Lane at 6:01 p.m.

Directors Present: Elaine Tait, Peter Lane, Josh Traeger, Jake Burden, Rick Gruber, Molly Stanifer, Kim Marian, Steve Damman, Nate Elkins

Ex Officio Non-Voting Participants: Tonya Lewandowski (Executive Director)

Virtual Participants: Marc DeCubber (Director), Craig Davidson (Program Director)

Directors Absent: Bryan Travis

2. Officer Reports

- **President – Peter Lane**
 - Reported continued focus on supporting programming on the hill.
 - Attended the Traverse City City Commission meeting on January 5, 2026, where he spoke on the importance of opening Hickory Hills.
 - Ongoing engagement with donors; discussion included recent \$25,000+ gift.
 - Noted an upcoming meeting with the City Manager.
 - Thanked Board members, coaches, and volunteers for efforts that enabled athletes to get back on snow the prior week, expressing appreciation for the coaching staff's work.
- **Vice President – Elaine Tait**
 - Provided an update on strategic planning efforts.
 - A cleaned-up strategic planning template is expected to be completed later this month for May Annual Retreat.
 - The document is intended to serve as a shared planning and development tool for the Board.
 - Reported that GTSC Drive folders have been reorganized; Board discussion followed regarding usability and access.

- **Secretary – Josh Traeger**
 - Reiterated requirement that officer and committee reports be submitted on time.
 - Discussed future Board meeting locations, with potential options including Sleders' and Precision Plumbing.
- **Treasurer – Molly Stanifer**
 - Reported that the Club's financial position remains strong.
 - Donations continue to be received, including contributions through the Fidelity account in accordance with the recently adopted Investment Policy Statement.
 - Noted receipt of several small local grants.
- **Executive Director – Tonya Lewandowski**
 - Reviewed programming needs and associated time commitments.
 - Provided an update on the Hall of Fame event, noting that it will take place during the ski season and planning is ongoing.
 - Reported that High School Ski Team Scholarship letters have been received and funds distributed.
 - Noted that first Sunday race is scheduled for the upcoming Sunday.

3. Committee Reports

- **Programming Committee**
 - Nate Elkins summarized current program status simply -- "We're doing it."
 - Tonya relayed that Bryan Travis had requested the Board revisit the issue of compensation for the Head Timer role.
 - The Board expressed continued belief that we are a volunteer-run Club requiring the support of volunteers in our community; timer positions have long been volunteer driven.
 - The Board approved the current plan to have the Head Timer be filled by a volunteer, in a non-paid capacity.
 - Elaine Tait suggested that the Board develop a clear policy or document, potentially at the Annual Meeting, defining which roles are paid positions versus volunteer positions.
 - Board discussion followed.
 - The Board agreed that creation of that policy should occur in the near future.

- **Fundraising Committee**
 - The Committee reviewed fundraising processes and overall fundraising rhythm.
 - **Motion:** Nate Elkins moved to fund HKM Consulting to continue work with Board on large-scale fundraising efforts, for the purpose of growing our donor population and cultivating new donor opportunities. HKM's initial engagement is estimated at \$500.00, with optional add-on's to be considered by the Board individually or during budgetary planning.
 - Second: Molly Stanifer
 - **Result: Approved unanimously.**
- **Executive Committee**
 - Discussion held regarding whether the strategic planning process should be housed under a newly-formed Strategic Planning Committee; no motion occurred.
 - Executive Committee will work to align Strategic Plan to future goals for Annual Retreat planning.
- **Finance Committee**
 - Reported that the Club is now utilizing a credit card for expenditures.
 - Discussion followed regarding refund policy and approval processes.
- **Community Relations Committee**
 - Discussed the need to identify dates for an awards party; the Committee will coordinate with the Executive Director.
 - Possible timing discussed, including Tuesday following Wellborn event.
 - Identified the need for a master calendar with set dates for community events (e.g. "the second Tuesday of March").

4. Ad Hoc Committee

Proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Rebranding Committee to develop a new brand identity for GTSC.

- Proposed members: Kim Marian, Elaine Tait, Jake Burden, Nate Elkins, Marc DeCubber.
- Motion: Kim Marian
- Second: Peter Lane
- Discussion:
 - Josh Traeger suggested the committee expand beyond Directors, as permitted by By Laws.
 - Rick Gruber supported broader community involvement in the Club but expressed opposition to setting a fixed committee size.
 - Elaine Tait favored a smaller, highly invested group, supplemented by outside perspectives through market research.
 - Kim Marian noted that the process will begin with surveys of key populations.
- **Result: Approved unanimously.**

5. Executive Session

Rick Gruber moved to enter Executive Session to discuss communications with the City regarding Hickory Hills; no opposition.

- The Board entered Executive Session and subsequently returned to open session.

6. Adjournment

- Motion: Kim Marian moved to adjourn.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Submitted by Josh Traeger, Secretary, Grand Traverse Ski Club
Date: January 17, 2026