

SFC Minutes

January 27, 2021

Virtual Zoom Meeting

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Public Comment**
 - a. No public comment
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. *Eli* motioned to approve the agenda
 - *Emily* second; passes unanimously
- IV. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. *Emily* motioned to approve the 11/09/20 minutes
 - *Eli* second; passes unanimously
- V. **Chair Report**
 - a. ***Sammi Metcalf*- Chairperson**
 - Last semester, we had a carryforward of \$45,452.98, but once ten day numbers are in, I will update you guys on that amount. I'm working on efforts to increase presence on campus with a Snapchat takeover, a North Wind interview, and continuing to do skill builders like the last few semesters. I'm primarily focusing on those things right now, and maybe trying to do a few others this semester before I'm gone.
- VI. **Advisor Report**
 - a. ***Kash Dhanapal*- Faculty Advisor**
 - Some good news- I'm the administrator for Spalding Hall, where on-campus students go to quarantine, and those numbers are staying low! Test results have been coming in and we have not seen a giant jump, meaning students are doing what they should. We're hopeful we can stay open and in person!
- VII. **New Business**
 - a. **South Superior Climbing Club**
 - *Micah Carrol (President of South Superior Climbing Club)*: South Superior Climbing Club is a student org that seeks to develop a safe and inclusive environment for those who wish to learn how to rock climb. Our organization is made up of both NMU students and community members from all across the world actually! Our Facebook group, titled South Superior Climbing Club, has an active community of 932 members that are spread all over the world. Many are current NMU students, alumni, Marquette community members, or climbers who just love to visit the Upper Peninsula and love to climb our rocks and ice. Every semester, our organization hosts four events, called Social Climbs, that target students and community members who have never rock climbed. They rock, they literally rock! We get to give people a very fun first climbing experience. However, as an organization, we consistently fail to meet the needs of our club members. Like I said, we're trying to provide a fun first experience, but with little to no rock climbing gear to provide, we fail to really meet the needs of these first time rock climbers. This semester, our team is looking to change that. Today we are requesting \$2,223.66.

- *Christian Latuszek (Vice President of South Superior Climbing Club):* We want to use this money to buy gear, specifically 15 pairs of shoes, 5 crash pads, and 10 harnesses. This gear is going to allow us to host future events and provide access to all. The price is from a quote from Downwind Sports, specifically Bill Thomposon, one of the owners. He actually gave us a 20% discount, which saved us about \$555, which is awesome. We were also trying to think local by contacting the local gear shop. This gear will be kept in a locker in the Center for Student Enrichment, in order to ensure easy access throughout the years and leadership changes. We are a unique club and all of the gear is necessary in order for people to participate fully and start their climbing journey. Shoes are essential when climbing rocks, crash pads will allow for climbing at certain locations, like Wetmore Landing, and harnesses are going to enable new climbers to do roped climbs, like the backside of Marquette Mountain. We're expecting the gear to well exceed a good five years of use, and with the four Social Climbs per semester, that will be over 40 events, and that impact could go well over 100 future climbers and members. This gear provision that the SFC could provide is going to open up avenues for future and current members that may feel unable to access this sport and community.
- *Vaughn Rodriguez (Member of South Superior Climbing Club):* I'm an active member of the South Superior Climbing Club and hope to become a leader within it one day. I just started my climbing career in August of 2020, and since then, I've been able to climb all over the United States. I've had an interest in climbing since I was a freshman, but due to my lack of knowledge and gear access, I was unable to participate. What I've learned is that a lot of students here face that same issue. Shoes, crash pads, and harnesses are all staples in the climbing world, and are fundamental for the beginners and experienced climbers alike. I believe that this equipment would allow a lot more people to get involved in climbing since it would be on hand for them to use whenever they'd like, leaving them to only worry about their safety and having fun!
- *Micah:* It's so great to get to share these beautiful places and this beautiful sport with people and I think Vaughn's testimony really hits that home.
- *D'Mario:* How many NMU students are in your organization?
 - a) *Micah:* We have about 400 emails on our list, so there's a lot of student interest, but not enough resources to engage everyone who's interested. I would estimate about 60-80 students came out to our two events last semester. In a traditional year, there is a lot of involvement.
- *Kash:* How do you plan to keep track of your equipment as your leadership changes?
 - a) *Micah:* We're going to store it in the CSE lockers. We also have the Marquette Climber's Co-Op, a registered housing cooperative. They do limited gear rentals, they too have little equipment. SSCC also utilizes the Outdoor Rec Center, and we all stay in contact to monitor quality and quantity of our gear. We also have an online Facebook community, so it's really easy to get in touch with past leadership.
- *Kash:* How do you seek out students who may not know about climbing in general and how do you plan on using the equipment to gather people?
 - a) *Micah:* Our biggest outreach, I have found, is Instagram stories. We create shareable event graphics that we post and we ask people to post it on their own Instagram stories. We do this because if we, as strangers, were to talk to random people about climbing, we would have to earn their trust, but if they

see their climber friends posting it on their stories, that trust is there. That's been our biggest outreach- going right through our members and to their friend groups. There's never a shortage of people, we just need gear to equip them.

- *Kash*: How do you plan on sanitizing the gear in between uses?
 - a) *Micah*: I worked very closely with Rachel Harris over the summer and fall semester, as well as Mike Bath, who approved all of our events personally. One thing we did provide ourselves was sanitation spray for the shoes, so that is one tactic we are using to keep things clean and keep people safe.
 - b) *Christian*: We also had hand sanitizer for people to use in between climbs!
- *Kobie*: I was curious about what events you guys have in store for this semester?
 - a) *Micah*: We do traditionally host four social climbs, and we plan on continuing with that providing it's safe. We're hoping to do four events in the late spring. Two years ago, we snowshoed to a dry rock and it was an incredible experience for our members. So that's the plan- make it out to some dry rocks even if there is still snow on the ground.
- *Eli*: Where did the current equipment come from?
 - a) *Micah*: It's all sourced from club leaders, so they're in poor condition from overuse. We find what we can and ask for help from existing members if they have extra gear.
- **SFC Deliberation**
- *Sammi*: I do know that the PEIF can't rent out climbing gear externally. Just a point of reference in case anyone was wondering about that option.
- *Kobie*: I think the numbers and the reasoning are pretty fair for what they want to do.
 - a) *Gab*: I agree. I think they are a well-organized and passionate group.
 - b) *Olivia*: I've been to one of their Social Climbs so I can attest that it's a comfortable environment even with so many people. If they were to have new gear for newcomers.
- *Kobie* motioned to approve South Superior Climbing Club's budget request for \$2,223,66 in full
 - a) *Emily* second; passes unanimously

VIII. Old Business

- a. *Sammi*: Emily, do you have any updates from Alpha Psi Omega?
 - *Emily*: The only update I have is that their first event is the second week of February, so I just got their final confirmation of that. They've been very proactive with reaching out to me.

IX. Good of the Order

- a. *Sammi*: Is there anyone that will be graduating or possibly not returning in the fall?
 - *Gab*: I am graduating [yay!]
 - *Olivia*: I will be studying abroad in the fall.
 - [The committee discussed membership moving forward in the coming semester]
- b. *D'Mario*: I'm going to resign.
 - [D'Mario's resignation letter was sent after the meeting]

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.