

## **Minutes of March 6, 2024 Meeting**

### **Of Board of Directors, Spokane Fly Fishers Club**

**Call to Order:** Vice-President Kevin Brannon, in the absence of President Craig Adams, called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

**Attendance/Roll Call/Quorum:** In attendance were board members Vice President Kevin Brannon, Treasurer Brian Soth, Secretary Larry Ray, Sgt. At Arms David Marshall, and At-Large Directors Chris Bryant, Brian Desautels, and Bill Millsbaugh. President Craig Adams and Past-President Chet Allison were absent and excused from attendance. Sargeant-at-Arms David Marshall noted that a quorum had been obtained. Membership Chair Brad Collins and Outings Chair Robin Gavelin also attended the meeting.

**Review and Approval of Agenda.** Upon review, the Agenda for the March 6, 2024 meeting was approved unanimously approved.

**Review and Approval of February 7, 2024 Board Meeting minutes:** After review, discussion, and minor revisions and upon motion by Brian Soth, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as revised.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Brian Soth presented the financial report, current through February 2024. The club suffered a slight loss over the month of February (-\$194.27), due primarily to the necessary purchase of rods, reels, and lines for the Fly Fishing School. Brian then reported total current assets of \$34,328.18 as of February 29, 2024. Income from the club's education efforts (fly tying classes and the Fly Fishing School) through March 4, 2024, now totals \$5,943.64. This was a pleasant revelation, given concerns expressed at previous meetings regarding low enrollments. Enrollments rebounded nicely during the late lead-up to the classes/school. Presale of tickets for the upcoming March raffle totaled \$1,835 which, when coupled with Fly Auction receipts, led to a total Events income of \$4,325.00 to date. When combined with other income sources (Interest, minor gear sales, and donations), the club has realized total gross income of \$14,100.72. Expenses, meanwhile, have totaled \$13,131.61. Included in this total are fixed rental costs for the church meeting hall (\$1,400.00) and the storage facility (\$1,238.75). Other expenses generated by Programs and Events include \$2,572.00 for speakers, \$605.25 to produce the Fly Auction, and \$265.92 for the Holiday party. Thus, Net Income through March 4, 2024, totals \$968.91. As a result, with receipts from the upcoming raffle still to be realized, it is felt that the club's financial standing is healthier than it appeared earlier in the year. Further encouragement is seen in the positive response to the early sale of raffle tickets.

Secretary Larry Ray moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. (See attached Reports.)

**Budget Report.** Treasurer Brian Soth provided a detailed budget report. The club's FY 2024 Budget anticipated income totals of \$7,000.00 from Education, \$7,150.00 from events, and \$4,425.00 from membership dues. To date, we have received \$5,943.64 from our education efforts, \$4,325.00 from events, and \$3,403.88 from memberships. Total income is thus \$4,584.52 behind anticipated income for the entire year, with the raffle still to come. (See attached Profit & Loss vs. Actual Report)

**Conservation.** This Committee Chair is still vacant. However, Brian Desautels has overseen conservation activity, along with Kevin Brannon. Brian noted that a group of club members, including Roger Bertsch, Kevin Brannon, Brian Soth, and Gary Staggs, has been interacting with other conservation groups in the area such as River Keepers, Trout Unlimited, and Women on the Fly. All seem welcoming and provide opportunities for further club conservation teaming activity. Brian noted the need for a club banner to display with other groups' banners at joint field activities. Such a banner could also be beneficial when posted at outings. Brian will discuss this with the Outings Chair.

**Education Committee Report.** Chair Chris Bryant reported that Chip O'Brien would be conducting streamside seminars for small groups on the Spokane River. These would include instruction on entomology and learning to read the water. The emphasis on such seminars would be on education, with fishing secondary (even though they would occur on the river). Robin Gavelin noted that a small-class size limit might disappoint some who could be left out of these seminars if demand is high enough. Meanwhile, there has still been no response to the solicitation of interest in serving as a mentor, printed in the Barbless Flyer.

**Library Report.** Larry Ray reported that there is nothing new regarding the library.

**Membership and Events Committee Reports.** Chair Brad Collins reported that he can now edit the website, without having to go through Zipline to do so. We now have 242 members, including lifetime members. Brad also reiterated his intent to circulate through meetings and introduce himself to individual members, especially reaching out to those who are new. He has also instituted some fly tying gatherings at The Lumberbeard Brewery, as fly tying was one of the activities receiving a favorable response on the survey.

**Outings Committee Report:** Robin stated his attempt to coordinate outings sign-up with Brad Collins. Robin will "cut-and-paste" from the outings archives for material for outings announcements in the Barbless and will also forward those announcements to Brad Collins to post to the website. Robin also mentioned the need to purchase first-aid kits for the outings and proposed that the club allow him to purchase 2 such kits. He has priced them in the \$35.00 to \$50.00 range. The club also needs to update its signage to be displayed at outings and other events. Dave Marshall explained that one large, suitable banner/sign should cost \$125.00 to \$150.00. (See, also, discussion above under Conservation.) Robin also asked that the waiver forms for minors and non-members be made readily available on the website and Brad Collins said he would make them accessible.

Robin stated that the host duties listing will NOT include a barbecue – no barbecue is required of outings hosts.

Robin noted that the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene outing would soon be upon us. It is the first outing after the conclusion of the Fly School and the focus of this outing should be education. It is also necessary to limit attendance at this outing, or at least to limit camping on the site, which is on Gale Allen's property.

A lively discussion ensued over the One Fly Outing. Due to requirements of state law, the club will no longer offer prizes or provide anything at this outing, which is NOT officially a club contest and is not to be treated as such by the club.

**Programs Committee Report.** VP Kevin Brannon reported that the schedule of speakers is completed for the year. Club elections are scheduled for the April 2024 meeting, after which the plan is to break the attendees into smaller groups of four to six persons who will rotate among several tables during the program. Each table will have a “captain” – a member who will offer basic information and tips and tricks for fishing waters of local interest. They can also answer questions from individuals in the groups as time permits.

**Publications Committee Report.** Brad Collins noted that there were now over 30 Facebook members. There is a “Get Involved Page” that can be accessed by non-members. The waiver form for non-members could also be posted there. Brad Collins agreed to do this. Kevin reiterated the submission deadline of the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for Barbless Flyer submissions.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Inventory and Clean-up of the Rented Storage Unit & Storage of Material Received from LeRoy Hyatt.** It was noted that all the LeRoy Hyatt donated materials were now safely stowed in the rental facility. They are accessible, if needed. Accordingly, this item can be removed from future agendas.

**Convening of Awards Committee.** Moved to New Business (see below).

**Nominating Committee for Elections of Officers and Directors.** President Craig Adams has asked Past President Mike Berube to chair this committee and Mike has agreed to do so. Three more members are needed to fill out this committee. Craig Adams has stated his intention not to run for a second term as President.

**Raffle.** Kevin Brannon presented the materials and guidelines he has prepared for the March Raffle. Item labels, as well as job titles and name tags, have been prepared and appear quite professional. Kevin also provided an outline of the actual raffle procedures with job descriptions for each participant. It was agreed that the raffle is very well organized and confidence was expressed that the Raffle was going to come off very well. Kevin will also supervise the preparations on the actual day of the raffle. He asked those who will assist to meet at the church at 3:30 p.m., with those volunteering to haul items from the storage facility with their pickups to be at the facility at 3:00. David Marshall, Bill Millspaugh, and Larry Ray agreed to meet Kevin at the storage facility with their trucks.

**Approval of Purchase of Fly Rod/Reel/Line Combinations for Use by the Fly Fishing School.** These purchases have been made.

**Refund of Sales Tax Paid to Inland Northwest Wildlife Council on Room Rental.** Brian Soth reported that he had approached the INWWC regarding the inappropriate charge of the sales tax and he is awaiting a response.

**Sale or Disposal of LeRoy Hyatt Donated Fly Tying Materials from Storage Unit.** Larry Ray made a brief proposal to the Board regarding sale or other possible means of disposing of these materials while allowing club members access to them. The Board asked Larry to make a written proposal at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Accounting Controls – Brian Soth.** After a brief presentation regarding definitions and accepted procedures for such controls, Brian asked that sufficient time be allocated at the April

Board Meeting, or perhaps a special Board meeting, to discuss the establishment of better controls over the club's accounting and financial procedures.

**Emergency Waiver of Bylaws Article VI, K., 2.** Kevin Brannon asked the Board to approve a delay in the procedures described in this section, as we have fallen behind in the creation of the Nominating Committee due to unforeseen circumstances. Kevin's proposed that we ask the membership, at the March general meeting, prior to the raffle, to (1) temporarily waive the requirement that the slate of candidates be announced at the March membership meeting and (2) authorize the announcement of the slate of candidates to be done electronically by April 1, 2024. David Marshall moved that Kevin's proposal be approved and the Board approved it unanimously. Accordingly, Kevin will present the temporary waiver proposal and deferred announcement date at the meeting, prior to the raffle. (See attached Proposed Motion for Membership Approval...)

**Modification of Standing Rule IV to allow temporary modification of the makeup of the Awards Nominating Committee.** Given time constraints and recent unforeseen circumstances, it is deemed necessary to shorten the normal procedures for convening the Awards Nominating Committee. Accordingly, Kevin Brannon proposed that this committee, for 2024, be limited to the Chair Person, three former awardees from among previous board members (with emphasis on most recent awardees) plus one member-at-large from the general membership. Kevin moved to approve this temporary Standing Rule modification and the Board approved the motion unanimously. (See attached Proposed Amendments...)

**Motion to Delete the 'Overviews' of the Bylaws and Standing Rules from the SFF Website.** Kevin Brannon made this proposal on the grounds that the "overviews," as published, are incomplete, therefore inaccurate and potentially misleading. Kevin further recommended that the full text of both documents be substituted for the overviews in the PDF versions of these. Larry Ray moved that Kevin's proposal be adopted and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Dues Increase.** A lively discussion of this topic ensued, during which nobody could recall the last time the club enacted a dues increase. Kevin Brannon recommended an increase to \$40.00 for an individual and \$55.00 for a family, to be voted upon by the membership at the March 2024 membership meeting, prior to the raffle. It is felt that, given rising costs in general, as well as the lag in receipts from earlier fund raisers, it was time for dues increase. There was discussion regarding how to handle dues that had already been paid at the current rate. It was agreed that the new rate should not be applied until September of the 2024-2025 membership year. Larry Ray moved that Kevin's proposed increase be adopted and Dave Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed with a single dissenting vote by Brian Soth.

**End of Year Dinner Instead of Picnic.** Larry Ray introduced the possibility of having a dinner in May to conclude the year, instead of the current yearly picnic. He noted this has been done by the club in the past, with buffet-style dinners held at such venues as Northern Quest Casino. Or, perhaps, the club could sponsor alternating dinners and picnics, every other year. The Board asked Larry to obtain some estimates regarding space and service of such a meal and to include them in a proposal to the Board.

**Adjournment.** Bill Millsbaugh moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. **What time?**

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Submitted: Lawrence G. Ray

Date

Approved: Craig Adams

Date