

PSC Notes: for February 2014

Posted February 3, 2014

The Executive Board did not meet in December since the meeting date fell on New Year's Eve and one or two or more members had other plans. No business was postponed and a happy new year was fervently hoped for by all.

The January EB meeting had as its primary business a motion to hire a consultant to assist the club with its administrative and financial infrastructure. We are in good shape in nearly all respects and we need to make sure that our working systems will support this going forward. As many of you have commented on and I'm sure more have noticed we have moved out of the time where we could mind our own business and do our own thing with nobody particularly caring. We have 10,000 plus visitors a year, several government agencies with an eye on our business and the firm knowledge that we need to be aware of our responsibilities to our members, guests, communities and regulators, especially in land use and financial reporting. These two areas have been responsible for the shut down of clubs in Washington; since the signals are clear we should be as active as possible to make sure we are ahead of the game. Liz Heath, the consultant that we have hired is a step in that direction. Ms. Heath has a strong background in the area and we are going to benefit greatly from her observations and recommendations.

At the EB meeting in February the board will have a first discussion on the motion to assess members an additional fee. At the membership meeting Feb. 4, there will be a period available for discussion of this proposal. The motion is not detailed yet, nor should it be until further discussion has taken place, so this is a good time to be involved in forming the idea. At this point I have received a few letters and I have heard from others that there is a good bit of talk on the ranges about it, so I look forward to getting some sunlight on the idea. Bring your ideas to the member's meeting and let's see what we've got.

A minute of review on our meetings is worthwhile here. EB meetings are open to members unless the board announces otherwise. In two years this has only happened once on a member disciplinary issue so it is pretty infrequent. The meetings are open and members are encouraged to participate in discussion. It is bone stupid to have good ideas in the back of the room and not allow them to be presented or discussed. The votes are left to the board but more info makes for better decisions.

Member meetings are open to all with voting being restricted to vested members. At these meetings, financials, group reports and area (shotgun range, rifle/pistol range, primitive range) reports are all discussed. If you've got an idea or a glitch, a meeting can give you some info and maybe some perspective.

Our meetings are run according to Robert's Rules, so they are both pretty orderly and sometimes confusing for a first timer. I suggest that you don't sweat the small stuff. The chair or the parliamentarian will help you work the system so the system works for you. The purpose of the Rules is to keep things moving not to shut anyone out. Fair warning, I bought the book so I'm probably ahead of most you on this.

Last and maybe least, the county has set another round of meetings for the Range Ordinance Committee over the next two months. There is no end result on the sound study at any level, although the tone of the conversation has changed to indicate that there is a direction to use this data in the ordinance. PSC remains categorically opposed to this with a firm footing in state law.

If you are so inclined, send me an email on any of the proposed agenda items on the list for 2014 and think about showing up and chipping in.

Doug O'Connor
President