Ski for Light, Inc.

Executive Committee Minutes

Meeting via Teleconference

December 22, 2021

President McCorcle called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Roll Call:

Tim McCorcle, President;

Julie Coppens, Vice President;

Krista Erickson, Secretary;

Brenda Seeger, Treasurer;

Michael Evelo, Director-at-Large;

Robert Hartt, Director-at-Large;

Marion Elmquist, Immediate Past President.

All Executive Committee members were present.

Tim explained that he called this meeting to relay recent information and have a discussion about the upcoming event with the increased uncertainty due to the Delta and omicron COVID-19 variants. Prior to the meeting, Tim sent the SFL-Event listserv an updated SFL COVID mitigation plan (see text of Tim’s e-mail beginning on Page 4 of these minutes). Tim spoke with Grand County Public Health yesterday and they indicated that SFL’s plan is solid only suggesting adding that we encourage people to get the COVID vaccine booster which has already been added to SFL’s COVID mitigation plan. Cases in Grand County are trending downward but an increase is expected. Grand County Health Department will be contacted if any positive COVID tests occur at SFL’s event.

A brief but nonconclusive discussion ensued about whether or not a COVID booster vaccine Should be required.

Mike Evelo, 2022 Event Chair, explained that he has talked with Dr. Carl and Dr. Don, both volunteers with SFL. Both doctors agree that SFL’s COVID mitigation plan is solid, we should encourage everyone to get a COVID vaccine booster prior to the event and that requiring a negative COVID test prior to arrival would not be very beneficial with all the travel necessary to get to the event.

The revised COVID Plan now contains assurance that an SFL leader will remain on-site at Snow Mountain Ranch until the last person leaves SMR. Both Tim and Mike are willing to stay as long as necessary. SFL will have access to several dozen rapid COVID tests if needed. If contact tracing is needed, SFL will work with Grand County Public Health Department and Snow Mountain Ranch taking guidance from the Grand County Public Health Department.

Concerns were raised about safety during evening programs such as dances and other social aspects of the event. Offering a virtual option on-site may be a possibility for people who don’t feel safe interacting with such a large group. Alternate evening program ideas were briefly discussed. Concerns were also raised about animals possibly getting or transmitting COVID. SFL will work with any guide dog handlers who become sick or are quarantined/isolated and need help caring for their dogs on a case/case basis.

A plan will be implemented to be sure that anyone arriving by a means other than the SFL chartered buses from the Denver International Airport will undergo the same health screening before obtaining their room key(s) at Snow Mountain Ranch. Prior to the start of the SFL event on Sunday, January 30th, we may be intermingling with other Snow Mountain Ranch guests. Snow Mountain Ranch encourages but does not require COVID vaccination for guests. This needs to be communicated to SFL participants so everyone will be aware of this situation/potential risk. At present, about 230 people are registered for SFL’s event with around 220 of them planning to stay at Snow Mountain Ranch.

 A discussion then ensued about the need for a more inclusive conversation with more people – we need to ask people who are registered what their thoughts and concerns are. Tim explained that he intends to call a special Board meeting for early January to discuss this. In addition, we could also hold a virtual session for any registered participants to ask questions or raise concerns. There is a virtual session already scheduled for January 17th but this may not be early enough. We will need a way for people to submit questions prior to the virtual session. Alternatively, Tim and Mike have made their contact information available so people can contact them. Tim asked Julie to research a forum that would work for this purpose

Both holding or canceling the event could have significant reputational affects which need to be considered. If we end up having to cancel, we need to give people enough time to change their plans such as travel arrangements and time off requests from work. Cancelation would also result in penalties from multiple contracts already signed for the event.

Marion and Julie offered to help with communication and questions about COVID.

A special Board meeting to discuss the situation and address concerns will be needed. This Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 6th. Tim will send an announcement out to the Board.

Krista briefly stepped away from the meeting at this point and the meeting had adjourned when she returned to the call at 9:21 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

[sfl-event] Ski for Light International Event update

               Season's greetings,

Thank you to all our Ski for Light 2022 Event invitees and those patient applicants still on the waiting list for standing by as we continue to grapple with an ever-changing COVID-19 situation. Many of you have reached out with questions and concerns, especially in recent days.

I want to share with you the current version of the COVID Mitigation Plan developed by our Event Committee, in consultation with our hosts at Snow Mountain Ranch, along with Dr. Carle Heine and other medical professionals in our SFL community, drawing on the latest guidelines from the CDC, the Colorado Department of Health and the Environment, and the Grand County Public Health Department. I spoke today to a Grand County Public Health Department official, asking about current conditions in Grand County and the specifics of this mitigation plan. He recommended no changes at this point, was pleased to learn that we are requiring proof of vaccination from invited participants and volunteers and spoke favorably of Snow Mountain Ranch and their processes for hosting group gatherings that are as safe as possible for both guests and staff. One of these measures is universal pre-screening of event attendees, to identify and isolate possible transmission risks before we assemble; you will see more about that in the plan outlined below, and I have attached the screening questionnaire itself.

The pandemic picture is going to keep shifting, though, and we will have to adjust -- up to and throughout the event week. Here is how you can help:

• Carefully review the COVID Mitigation Plan below. Be aware that a more contagious variant might lead to more stringent measures come January, more of us having to test and isolate at the event, greater risk of travel disruptions for those flying in and out of Denver... Take all this into consideration, along with your personal and family medical risk factors relating to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and if you decide you cannot attend, please let your Applications Coordinator know as soon as you can.

• If you are eligible for a booster shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, please get one sooner rather than later. This was emphasized when I talked to the Grand County Public Health Department representative today.

• Do what you can to minimize your COVID exposure risk in the two weeks preceding our event.

Again, thanks for your patience and thoughtful input as we navigate this uncertainty and do everything we can to protect the well-being of our SFL family. I wish we could welcome everyone to this event, after being so long apart--but the reality is, those who choose to attend this year will be taking on some degree of health risk beyond what we are used to. We are going to experience differences in how we arrive, how we eat, how we interact... and while none of these mitigation measures will make the event 100 percent safe for everyone, I believe we can host a responsible, joyful week of skiing for many at Snow Mountain Ranch.

Regards,

Tim

Tim McCorcle

President, Ski for Light, inc.

(206) 522-5850 (Home)

(206) 276-6240 (Cell)

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Ski for Light, Inc.

2022 International Week

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

Vaccination

Ski for Light (SFL) is requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination from all invited participants, evening entertainers, and volunteers at the 2022 Ski for Light International Week. Accepted vaccines are those that have been authorized or approved by the Federal Drug Administration for use in the United States or, for international participants, vaccines that the State Department will accept as a condition of entry into the United States.

SFL strongly encourages participants to get a COVID-19 Vaccination booster shot and a seasonal flu vaccine shot prior to attending the 2022 International event.

Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) reports that 100% of their year-round staff is vaccinated. SMR requires seasonal staff who live on-site or who work directly with children to be vaccinated. Seasonal staff not subject to the vaccine requirement who choose not to be vaccinated receive weekly antigen tests.

SFL will work closely with SMR to minimize interactions between event participants and unvaccinated SMR seasonal staff.

Masking

SMR requires all guests to mask when in the Schlessman Commons Dining Room when not seated at a table.

SFL will require participants to wear masks when traveling in SFL-provided event transportation and in all public indoor settings, including lodge common areas and in the Nordic Center, when not actively eating or drinking.

SFL will provide masks to participants in their registration swag bags, and will have supplies on hand for distribution during indoor group gatherings such as Special Interest Sessions and evening programs. Attendees are encouraged to bring a supply of good-quality masks for their own use (KN95-type medical masks recommended; neck gaiters or bandanas are not protective).

Screening

In accordance with SMR policy, Ski for Light will pre-screen each event participant. The screening will consist of a series of questions to determine if a participant has been exposed to COVID or has symptoms of COVID. The screening will also include a temperature check.

SFL will send the screening questions to participants prior to the event week and will encourage participants to self-screen before embarking on their travel to the event, and daily while at the event.

Participants taking the SFL charter coach from Denver International Airport to Snow Mountain Ranch will be screened at the airport prior to boarding the coach. Participants arriving at SMR by other means will be screened at registration.

If a participant does not pass the screening test at the Denver airport, SFL will transport them to Snow Mountain Ranch in a separate vehicle driven by a volunteer.

Testing and Isolating

In the event a participant does not pass the screening test, he or she will be isolated from the group and Snow Mountain Ranch will be notified.

The SMR response team will administer a COVID antigen test to the SFL participant. SFL will also have a supply of antigen tests on hand and will administer a test when necessary.

The SFL participant must have two negative test results before they can rejoin the group.

If an SFL participant tests positive for COVID-19, SFL will immediately contact the Grand County Public Health Department and will follow their guidance with respect to medical care for the participant and contact tracing within the Ski for Light group.

SFL will coordinate with SMR to ensure that the event participant receives regular meals should the participant be required to remain isolated.

Should any attendees be required to remain in isolation at SMR beyond Feb. 6, at least one member of the SFL leadership team will remain on site to assist those individuals until everyone is cleared for travel home.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner will be in the Schlessman Commons Dining Room, where wearing a mask is required when someone is not seated at a table. Lunch will be in the Nordic Center, where masks will also be required unless one is seated at a table.

SFL is working with SMR food service staff to reduce the amount of time SFL participants wait in the lunch line and has also increased the lunch period by 30 minutes on Monday, January 31 – Saturday, February 5.

SMR has the capability of boxing up meals at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. SFL is working with SMR food staff to implement a system to fulfill participants’ requests for boxed meals while keeping prep time reasonable and minimizing food waste.

Housekeeping

SMR will provide housekeeping service to participants’ rooms once every three days throughout the event.

SMR will station carts in the lodge lobbies stocked with clean towels, toilet tissue and cleaning supplies

SMR ConferenceHealthScreeningFillable.pdf