

October 20, 2015 Board Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm at the Gowana School Library. There was no open session as no members were present.

Members present, Ellen Sherry, Jason Schoen, Nancy Paulsen, Mary Hanratty, Joe Castaldo, Rob Partlow, Marc Price, Laura McClendon, Kim Ferraioli, and Scott McDonald. Also present: Dave Clayman.

1. Review of results from Head of Charles and entry process was discussed. The top half from each race get an automatic invitation back for following year. Boys 4 got this last year and again qualified for this invitation after this year's race. Coaches put in bids every August which costs \$250/bid for boat entries if accepted in addition to the race costs.
2. Coaches Report given by Coach Dave & Coach Scott of Modified season.
 - The Winter program is set for Koda gym and Tanks trip for February is being planned.
 - The Steinmetz Series scrimmages have been going very well on a weekly basis. The kids are learning how to row but also how to race. The new rowers especially are showing great progress.
 - Mod Champs will have double & quad races for both girls & boys teams.
 - Looking for Freshman & Varsity volunteers to help get boats off trailer etc in morning.
 - Dave sold shoe plates and check proceeds should be coming soon. This is good way to earn money for team for equipment parts to be purchased.
 - SGS board meeting was last week and decisions will be made soon on what equipment will be coming to Shen & other teams, he could not expand on any discussions made.
3. Mary Hanratty gave two updates:
 - Rowathon update - We were looking to see if this choice of fundraiser could be repeated after the 2014 success of 300 donations bringing in 14,020. 78 families participated in 2014 and no buyout was offered. For this year so far we have 203 donations for 8,370 and 72 families participated. Donations are still coming in, it was noted in 2014 we had two large donations of 1,000 & 1,500 which we have not seen this year. We had the printing and mailing of letters donated so only cost was of coaches and gas for launches. Overall it has proved to be a profitable fundraiser.
 - SafeSport update – The first and only complaint so far this season was sent in and involved a parent harassing a rower. The rower and parent did not want to other parent notified but rather asked the committee to repost the policies on web and send a reminder to all of the membership. The event is documented in case a second offense occurs to be followed up on. The specifics cannot be shared for confidentiality.
4. Nancy Paulsen notified us that anonymous letters were put in the lock box at the boathouse. From previous board meetings it was determined anything anonymous cannot be considered serious and has no merit for follow up. These were shredded. Nancy discussed adding Vet rowing program as outlined in US rowing last month and will look into this future for further discussion. It would complement the masters program.
5. Rob Partlow gave updates on Regatta planning:
 - Charles rooms went well and feedback was very positive. Lesson learned was to not release the hotel information until line ups are given as individuals took some of the rooms from block and did not end up going which blocked parents that were going from getting a room.
 - Rob discussed he'd like to get a survey on rooms for MA & NH and processes. One idea since Charles is so expensive is to mirror what Burnt Hills does of rent vans/bus with chaperones and combined kids in rooms for less expensive option.

- Although going to Boston to practice on Charles is greatly necessary for coxswains and first time rowers to this race. Another idea of going in early fall or summer as a “away trip” for all kids to be able to row on the course before the actual race arrives. This will need to be flushed out on details but viewed by all as a fun idea to offer to entire club.
6. Joe Castaldo gave update on Mod Champs – Shen was asked to host the lunch again for Mod champs. We have list of volunteers, looking to have freshman & varsity parents pitch in to assist. Serving Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, chips and apple. We will purchase all food & paper products & serve food, any leftover items can be kept by us. We will be reimbursed by the Mod Organization for our expenses from the entry fees.
 7. Ellen Sherry updated everyone on our financials. We are up to date on all insurance and bills. We have upcoming bus payment, October payroll and Jan insurance bills to come but we are maintaining a 21k net balance cushion for the club from last year. This is used to pay coaches over winter before spring tuitions are collected again. Discussion of need to purchase a new 8 boat for girls varsity was discussed and all agree this is the next priority. It was mentioned that Saratoga posted they are looking to sell 2 of their 8 boats and we’ll have Sean or Mike investigate.
 8. Laura McClendon gave update on fundraisers:
 - Golf fundraisers. We had 18 families participate in the golf tournament similar to last year’s number and we made 3,000 profit. We had many corporate sponsors for golf tournament and all requirements were met for the different levels.
 - Fall Pie fundraiser had similar number of 18 families participate with 1,645 profit. Nancy to work on buyouts and add to fall final bills.
 - The Zumbathon in November is set for 11/20 7pm at the Acadia/Karigon gym. Cost of tickets is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. The board agreed to have the proceeds of this go towards buying an 8 boat for varsity team. We also discussed adding a Moe’s or Chipotle food fundraiser towards the boat fund. Putting together on flyer for a Nov ember focus makes sense and will hopefully get everyone behind this goal.
 - The spring fundraiser of the flower sale needs to be decided to tell R&K. Master rower agreed to take on the committee chair and will work with Peggy to get up to speed on what’s involved.
 9. Marc Price would like to set up a marketing committee to work on corporate sponsors and building on the sponsorship program. The board all voted in approval of this and Marc will chair this and begin to organize interested volunteers.
 10. Kim Ferraioli reported the fall season had 113 total members. 16 of these were new in summer program and stayed all season into the fall which was a positive retention number. She also confirmed the winter programs are set. The healthplex winter program will be combined with the spring program fee for Freshman & Varsity. The winter program will be 5 days 11/30-4/1 for healthplex to include busing every day from HS. There is a cost of living increase of \$15 across the board. Mod winter program will start in January. Price sheets are being finalized and to be distributed to board for approval by end of the week. We discussed pursuing the healthplex open house offer for Nov to membership. Ellen/Kim will follow up with Sean about setting this up.
 11. Ellen formally announced to the board that she will be stepping down as President after the December meeting but will remain on board until end of term until June. This gives time to assist the new president with responsibilities. Laura McClendon and Rob Partlow said they have interest in the position. Clarification on bylaws and terms will need to be confirmed as to rules surrounding this appointment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.