

# Willamette Rowing Club

Board Meeting, 2/14/16, 9:30a.m.

Present:

Board members: John Rudoff, Phoebe Shen, Steve Wu, Deb Allison, Abby Haight, Richard Williams, Jana Schweitzer, Michele Gamburd

General members: Captains Bill Byrd and Jenny Withycombe, Coach Loiaza, Sarah Gray, Sam Gray, Luis Ruedas, Katie Wojda, Chris Wojda, Marieta Wynn, Neal Johnson

Note: follow up needed and updates in **Red**, Questions in **Blue**.

1. **Review and approval of minutes** from Dec 20 board meeting and Jan 9 Annual meeting. Minutes were approved.
2. **Treasurer's report:** Membership is currently at 49, financial status of the club is stable. Scott was able to negotiate the price of the Pocock 8+ that we've ordered down to \$20,800 and put down a deposit of \$10,800. It appears that a simple fundraising process of asking members what they can donate will be effective, eliminating the need for an event such as the silent auction. So far only 17 members have donated or pledged money towards the boat; **Scott will be contacting remaining members personally to discuss the possibility of a contribution toward the balance.**

A question was posed regarding the naming of the boat. **Will a donation of a certain amount lead to naming rights? Should a donation buy a chance to be in a drawing for naming rights?**

3. **Equipment report:** As noted above, we are purchasing a 2009 Pocock 8+ that will be good for both men and women in the mid weight range. This is intended to replace the Mimosa.

Sam reported that the wakeless launch is in good shape after its recent maintenance, but the engine in the sled launch is not. The engine is very old and can be repaired for \$800, or repaired to a higher level for \$2000, but will still need to be replaced. A newer used engine can be purchased for \$2600 and should be reliable without excessive maintenance. Comparatively, a brand new engine would be \$5100. The purchase of a replacement engine was unforeseen and therefore not in the budget for this year. A vote resulted in the decision to buy a new used engine for \$2600.

Other equipment notes:

The trailer needs some work. Bill is looking into the specifics. Richard has 4 new sets of shoes for the boats; please let him know which seats they should be in. The old set of wooden-handled oars is uncomfortable for rowers with small hands, and are not in good shape - can we get a new set with synthetic handles? Agreed that the oars should be replaced, but that isn't in the budget right now. Is there a possibility of getting Powerline, the new piece of technology which measures the power of each individual rower in a boat? These would provide valuable information in seat racing. These are very expensive; RCRC currently has some and we can borrow theirs to check them out sometime.

It may be a good idea to start a “wish list” of equipment wants and needs, so as money becomes available for purchases, we can refer to the list and prioritize. We can start this as a file on Team Snap.

Equipment maintenance: Do we check the pitch on our riggers? Richard estimates the last time it was done was about two years ago. Vespolis take a long time to adjust, and Pococks are so sensitive the pitch can be thrown off every time you bang into something. Boat cleaning: We will need to clean the boats that go to San Diego as soon as they return. Other boats can be cleaned during a work party day in April.

- 4. Training report:** Sam asked for feedback about the training program, which is designed to be gearing us up for sprint season starting now. The most recent plan takes us to March, and then a new one will be coming out. He is accepting questions and comments before developing the next one, as well as workout suggestions. He is trying to match the training plan with the information from the lactate testing; individual athletes have individual opinions about whether the testing was accurate or helpful. A re-test will be available soon.

Jenny is looking into renting a space in the Sellwood Community Center on Monday evenings for a stretching and strengthening workout option for those who are interested. The cost is very low and would be covered by those participating (e.g. contribute \$2 when you show up).

Eleven members of the women’s team showed up Feb 13 for a 1k erg test. It was done in two sections so that half of the team was available to cheer on the other half who were erging. There will be periodic erg test opportunities so the women can track their progress.

- 5. Coaching Committee search update:** Ads continue to be posted on Row2K, letters have been sent to universities, but we have not had a response that meets our needs. **Phoebe and Bill will send out additional letters.** Phoebe is finishing up the job description.

Coach has spoken to Evelyn H. and Lindsay McGrath. Evelyn is very busy and would only be available twice a month. Lindsay could also be available twice a month, and would be offering her coaching services on a voluntary basis as her way of giving back to the rowing community. We will proceed with testing them out based on their schedule availability soon. Coach Steve also mentioned that he will be taking some extended vacations during the season, so it will be good to have additional coaching staff in place.

Adam Withycombe may be interested in being an assistant coach. There was general discussion about the challenges of a being a cox on some days and assistant coach on others. Adam has not applied for the position at this time, so the topic will only be revisited if he does.

- 6. Entertainment Committee:** Jana has her hands full with her OPCBH duties, and would like to hand off the chairperson role and see if there is any interest in being on the committee from others. The E.C. provided six social events last year, all with good response. Deb will send out solicitation for new membership, ideas, and hosts

and Jana will select the new chairperson. I sent out the email and have so far received responses from five people who want to be members and one who wants to be chair. Leaving it open until Feb 29.

**7. Uniform/Clothing info:** Jann would like to pass on this duty to someone else. Deb will take it and will get some info out by next weekend to the team.

**8. OPCBH updates:** There will be a work party in May to replace the black portion of the dock.

Sam has posted the workout schedules for boathouse/dock users. We will need to make sure we are off the water on time (between 8:45 and 9:00) so that Lewis and Clark can launch.

ORU is supposed to be maintaining the ergs, but it doesn't seem to be getting done. Also, there were no new ergs purchased this year. What is the plan? Jana will follow up with Plamen.

Plamen made a proposal to do elite private coaching with 18-23 yr. old youth. The WRC board stated that those youth would need to be full ORU members so as not to conflict with other programs.

Phoebe will be sending out a text to all current WRC members that will contain all the new combinations to the various locks at the boathouse. Please save them. Also, a reminder that we are to leave a pair of slings out and lock the boathouse while we are on the water.

**9. Captain's report:** Jenny reported that the women's team has 8 people selected for SDCC, but the lineup is not yet set. We have an entry in for the Club race, have not yet decided about an alphabet entry.

Bill reported that they still have one decision left for the men's SDCC boat.

There is also a decision to make about boats. We can rent boats in San Diego for about \$400 each, or we can trailer our boats with Sammamish for about the same price. We can trailer our boats with OSU for \$150 each. HOWEVER, Bill will be on vacation following SDCC, and therefore will not be available to drive the boats from Corvallis to Portland. This may affect plans for Covered Bridge participation two weeks later unless someone else is able to drive the boats from Corvallis to Portland.

There is currently low sign-up for Covered Bridge. Phoebe will send out a reminder. Other regattas to consider are Cascadia at Burnaby Lake July 16-17, and three choices on the weekend of July 23-24: Canadian Masters in Saskatchewan, Southwest Regionals in Oakland on Merritt Lake, and Station L will be hosting a Row for the Cure on Vancouver Lake. Phoebe will be sending out a poll to the team to focus our efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

