

WRC quarterly board meeting

May 14, 2017

Present: Phoebe Shen, Richard Williams, Scott Smith, Deborah Allison, Michele Gamburd, David Setter, Katie Wojda, Jenny Withycombe, Sara Wright, Bill Byrd, Steve M. Loiaza, Steve A. Loiaza, Sam Gray, Sarah Gray, Sarah Copeland, Chris Wojda, Marieta Westermeyer, Jana Schweitzer, Ian Kelly

Committee reports:

Finance. Membership is down about 20% from last year, therefore despite the 10% increase in dues, we are not meeting our projected revenue. Two of the variables in our budget that we can control are the amount that we spend on coaching and equipment.

We planned an increase in the coaching budget for this year, but as the revenue is down, we'll need to adjust that. In order to use our coaching budget effectively, it would be helpful to know how many people are actually showing up for practice. Proposal to lock Team Snap by 4pm in order to make a coaching decision based on the numbers. Thursday practice: coaching only if 11 or more members planning on attendance; Weekends: two coaches only if 16 or more members planning on attendance. Target is to cut coaching budget by 25%(\$2500). Added benefit of wasting less time before getting on the water waiting for people to show up, and not wasting the time of the people who are carefully making lineups.

With membership down, there is not an immediate need for more boats. We may be able to cut the current equipment budget by 50%(5000) by making repairs to current equipment and only purchasing lower ticket items. Further discussion with the Equipment committee in next section.

Equipment. Current needs identified by the equipment committee:

We should replace 1 set of sweep oars and make repairs on the older sculling oars as needed.

It would be a good to replace the Wood with another boat that can accommodate large men.

Club doubles. We currently have the Milly and we use the Deux Cheveaux a lot. Joe is interested in selling the Deux Cheveaux to the club, and the board voted to purchase it once a fair price is agreed upon. Bill suggested that we also move the Serendipity down to a rack space that is more accessible so that we can use that as well.

Launches - we should be aware that the sled launch will be unavailable the weekend of Jr.Regionals and probably the following week.

ORU erg room agreement. Plamen came to the meeting in order to work out specific details on our erg room agreement so that we know that everyone has the same understanding. The details of that agreement can be found in a separate document on Team Snap, and includes Willamette providing one new erg per year

or an approved substitute in exchange for use of the erg room. Plamen's motivation for getting a written document was to continue our harmonious relationship in the boathouse and make sure everyone's need can be met. The general terms that are important to remember are that WRC's official erg practice time is Tues and Thurs 5:30 – 6:30am from September to April. If a WRC member want to erg during ORU masters practice time on MWF, you must ask the coach ahead of time (not that day). ORU juniors have practice 3:30 to 6:30pm, and that time is off limits to everyone else.

Training and competition. A new training plan is coming out. Sam would like to emphasize that the designated length of rest times in the high intensity workouts are important. If you change the rest time, you are losing some of the effectiveness.

If you have preferred workouts, please send them to Sam.

Regarding competition: it would be nice to have post regatta summaries provided and shared by the team captains.

Membership. Concerning our associate memberships, should there be residency requirements? Rather than residency requirements, let's focus on the number of practices and regatta participation. If it seems an associate member is overstepping their limits, Scott or Phoebe will approach them.

Racing with dual memberships: If WRC is your primary club, you are expected to be available to WRC first in regattas. The captains acknowledge that this can be difficult in races such as Opening Day and Head of the Charles, where we don't find out what our entries will be until close to the regatta, but WRC still gets top priority.

The membership application on the website needs repair. Sarah will look into it.

As part of new member orientation, it might be helpful to have an info sheet in order to make sure we cover everything and the new member can have a reference. This would be in addition to reviewing house rules and having a buddy. The membership committee will discuss whether to add this to the orientation process.

Entertainment. There is a documentary about women's rowing currently available to rent for fundraising events. Should we consider hosting, possibly with another club? Discussion ended with a decision that it may be too challenging for a club our size.

The annual dinner was a success, providing good quality food options for an affordable price.

There will be a potluck on the Saturday evening of Masters Regionals. A signup genius will be sent out – be on the lookout.

OPCBH. The OPCBH board will be forming a Capital Improvement Committee to prioritize needs. If you are interested in participating on that committee, let Dave know.

The wooden rolling stairs will be replaced with new metal ones which should be easier to maneuver.

The cubes that our dock is made of are no longer being manufactured. The committee is looking into options for replacement/enlargement.

There will be another "Boat House Bash" this year, as a community building social event. WRC entertainment committee can coordinate with OPCBH.

There is going to be a Next Adventure demo event at Oaks Park in June. They will be using our dock, but are aware that our practice takes priority. Planned use is after 9a.m.

Captains Report. Jenny is soliciting masters rowers to assist with a PPS project that encourages diversity in rowing. Details soon!

Branding. As you know, our branding committee has been seeking our feedback and working hard on developing a brand for our club. After the first two surveys they sent out and some additional research, they put together a presentation with results. As they are still in the process of working on this, I will provide a general summary. The results of the surveys returned indicated that our members feel that rowing fast and being competitive is our priority. Based on this information, we can consider how we might develop our marketing strategy and if we need to make any changes to our membership guidelines. Once again, this is in the early stages and more feedback surveys are planned, so an open mind will be helpful at this time.

More news about this project and strategy coming in the future. Meanwhile, filling out and returning the surveys is your opportunity to have your opinion counted.

Captain and coach expectations. Our captains put a lot of time and energy into their role. In addition to doing lineups, they field a lot of comments, questions, and critique. Jenny has done some preliminary research to delineate what are appropriate expectations for captain and coach roles. The board agreed that it would be helpful to have specific "job descriptions" or expectations so that we are clear about who is responsible for what.

Phoebe and Jenny will work on developing responsibilities, expectations, and structure for athletes, captains, coaches, and the board, including what the proper chain of command will look like. This should provide a clearer picture of how we can interact and be a team more effectively.

Meeting adjourned 12:15.