

Willamette Rowing Club Board Meeting Minutes

9/9/2018

Board members In attendance:

Richard Williams, president

Phoebe Shen, past president

Katie Wojda, vice president

Scott Smith, treasurer

Sarah Copeland, secretary

At large members: Hannah Rudoff, David Setter, Donn Venema, Jana Schweitzer, Beth Slikas

Also present: Bill Byrd, Marieta Westermeyer, Michele Gamburd, Sara Wright, Adam Withycombe

Committee Reports

1. Treasurer:

Michele G is working with Scott as she prepares to transition into the role of treasurer.

Membership has declined from 48 to 37 members with commensurate decrease in revenue from dues. We need to pay attention to numbers and recruitment (will be discussed later).

We have decreased coaching costs. However, rack rates will be increasing in the new year and we have several little-used boats for which we pay rack fees. Need to decide whether to keep boats (Serendipity, Mimosa) which are rarely used. An alternative would be to store these boats remotely (Marieta's house?) and bring them back if needed. Note that rack space is scarce and we may not be able to "repatriate" these boats easily.

Overall, expenses are exceeding revenue by about \$4K for the year. Anticipated year-end balance \$23K. We are financially OK for now, but this trend cannot be sustained indefinitely.

2. Entertainment:

Regionals potluck has been successful – consider adding local clubs to this event in 2019

Thorns semi-finals game coming up Friday, buy tickets if interested

BH Bash: low participation this year. Consider planning further in advance. Alternative all-BH activities could include a row and/or potluck Friday after Thanksgiving, holiday event for entire BH, make spring cleaning an all-BH event with ORU, L&C. David to discuss with Sam Taylor.

HOTY: Discussed including more rowers (Station L has expressed interest). Would foster PDX rowing community spirit.

Bill to discuss # of boats / BH capacity with PBC

Jana to check into restaurants which could accommodate a larger number

Chili cook-off: to be held at Marieta's, date and details to be discussed by Katie and Marieta

3. Equipment:

New boats: Kathleen's 1x in use after repairs, Isabella in use, Deux Chevaux purchased from Joe R

Oars were repainted by David, need to plan repainting sculling oars next

New veneer handles were added to "women's" sweep oars, some like them and some don't. Considering replacing handles on men's sweeps depending on cost - **Richard to determine** cost. Consider whether replacing the handles on the "larger" men's sweeps might make them easier for all to use.

New BH doors are great and loved by all!

Tracks/wheels were replaced on Byrds and Deux Chevaux. Cost is \$12 per wheel and tracks cost as well. Discussed boat maintenance and launching procedures; agreement reached that prior to launch we should place boats in slings, adjust feet and WIPE TRACKS (need rags at BH) to extend their life.

New locking cabinet in storage area at the back of our bay.

White board to be replaced at front of bay; note all breakage for Richard and David to review.

Discussion about selling boats tabled as rack fees are paid through December. Plan to row Serendipity and make a decision by October.

4. Coaching:

Seat racing should become routine, and be planned in advance to avoid frustration.

Adam agrees that we need to row small boats to be successful at racing them, but practices are more efficient and safer with fewer and larger boats as we have 1 coach/1 launch most days.

5. Club growth/recruitment:

Discussed website, increased social media presence (Katie, Hannah have interest). if you have photos place them in the media tab on TeamSnap and they will put them onto the website/Instagram account. Michele may be able to update the website in Wordpress, put our practice videos up, etc. **Michele to d/w Katie**. Social Media Committee to **discuss offline** (Katie, Hannah, David, Michele).

Word of mouth - talk to people about rowing when you meet them. Considered having a table at public locations (farmers market, etc).

Discussed retention and why people have left. Various reasons including moves, less desire to race, view of WRC as only for those who are striving to be most competitive, desire for set lineups at every practice which can't be reasonably expected in masters rowing. This raises the question of whether we would benefit from having a place for people who are experienced rowers but who do not desire to race, either temporarily or permanently. This would likely require some restructuring of club mission/goals as well as additional coaching, but could help the club to grow.

Talked about terminology in club's mission statement to make us more welcoming. Currently we emphasize "competitive" which may leave some people feeling that there is not a place to train and build skills without competing or being in top boats. Discussed emphasizing "athleticism", "fitness", "skills", "fun", etc.

Discussed the possibility of a volunteer hours requirement, possibly helping ORU's LTR group in fulfillment of some hours.

6. House Rules:

Michele G.

- explained that the 15% markup on regatta fees which is invoiced to members goes towards our equipment fund or to overages (i.e. guest racers - we usually don't charge as they are helping us to enter boats), but that this isn't clear in house rules.
- Also noted that guest rowers haven't consistently been required to sign liability waivers, and this should be mandatory.
- **Motion to add fees clarification and waiver requirement to house rules:
Moved: Richard, Seconded: Jana. Passed unanimously.**

Some discussion of requesting donation from guest rowers. Agreed that for one or two guest rows no requirement to pay, but if asked a donation could be "suggested". For more regular rowers, an associate membership would be appropriate.

7. Clothing order:

Discussed \$10 art charge which applies annually to each member when an order is placed. This covers the cost to the club for set-up of screen printing, embroidery, etc. This cost can be significant. This cost is why some items are available only in Fall or Spring (to spread large charges over time).

It was suggested that the club might cover this expense.

Discussion on how to manage this moved **offline** (Scott, Michele, Katie)

8. Future of Portland BH:

No clear plan for where clubs will be housed after lease expires

We have very limited space in our BH (1 8+, 2 1x).

9. Fall Racing:

Hot Dog: 9/30

TotL 10/7; 10 people signed up. Noted that this conflicts with Row for the Cure, date was just announced (Van Lake). Sara W to ask club for preference for racing

American Lake 10/14; 13 signed up

HOCR 10/21-22

Portland Fall Classic 10/28; 19 signed up

HotL 11/4; 14 signed up

Would be good to have a meeting prior to race for everyone who is signed up to attend to clarify

10. Avalon Camp:

Avalon RC has expressed interest in hosting a sweep camp in PDX the MLK weekend (Jan 19-21, dates not yet certain), and are wondering if this can run be out of OPC BH. They are requesting boats, cox boxes and use of ergs/video review for this camp. This will need to be discussed with Oaks Park management (in the past they have charged a dock fee) and ORU (times on dock, use of ergs).

Marieta is acting as liaison and will request a proposal from Avalon. David will discuss the proposal with OPCBH and ORU to see if there can be agreement that WRC host.