

Willamette Rowing Club

Annual Meeting and Elections

January 08, 2022

President, Sarah Copeland, calls the annual meeting of the Willamette Rowing Club (WRC) to order at 9:01 AM.

In attendance are:

Marieta Westermeyer
Jenny Withycombe
Michele Gamburd
Karla Drewson
Jeff Meyerhoff

Bill Byrd III
Fred Stewart
Carlee Beckler
Scott Smith
Adam Withycombe

Jann Byrd
Sarah Copland
Hannah Rudoff
Steve Winnett

On ZOOM:

David Setter

Lindsey Grayzel

Arriving late: John Rudoff, JP Gianotti, and Richard Williams

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have money, but less this year at this time (\$31,000) than last year at this time (\$39,000). Michelle provided copies of both the savings and checking accounts (**see print outs**). There are reasons for this difference. Two of those being: -\$6000. for two doubles, and -\$2000. in debt due to COVID consequences. See the print outs for complete details, and address questions/specifics to Michele Gamburd, Treasurer.

Scott Smith completes a monthly reconciliation of our Quick Books as a “checks and balances”.

Rack fees are going up 15% in 2022, and the Board has agreed to pass the expense on to members rather than try to absorb that expense. Rack fees are our single biggest expense to the Club each month. This translates to an increase in membership dues. With our new members and the dues increased, we will have an approximate increase of \$28,000.

Michele points out that we have not received our volunteer income from Junior Regionals for 2021. Jann Byrd, our PVRA Representative, will make a call to check on the expected date for those funds. **(Jann reported back to Michele that the “checks are in the mail” according to Molly Evjen, PVRA Treasurer)**

We purchase one erg each year in trade for using the erg room. Michele is hoping there will be donations for this expense. She expresses the same thought for/when purchasing new boats (donations).

Expenses: Boat and launch repairs (**see the treasurer's report print outs**).

There is very brief attention to the upcoming Annual Dinner in February in part due to the expense. The dinner this year is planned for Elephants and required a large non-refundable deposit. We will be allowed to move the date (1) one time without expense or loss of the deposit, but we can **NOT** get our deposit returned. The deposit was \$1200.

CAPTAIN'S and COACH'S REPORTS

Bill Byrd, Men's Captain

Jenny Withycombe, Women's Captain

It was a pleasure to captain for WRC this year – after an almost 2 year hiatus we were finally able to race again this Fall and I'm pleased to say we had a very successful season.

WRC ended 2021 with 47 members ranging in age from 23 (AA) to 77 (I). There were 20 women and 27 men rostered. We practiced 220 days in 2021, not including fun runs and bike rides.

Looking back to this Fall we competed in five regattas and placed the highest ever in the Head of the Charles as a WRC crew. We've just started winter training and everyone is working hard and logging their meters.

We started the season with our first regatta in 2 years at Tail of the Lake where we placed in 2 of the 6 races we entered (2nd and 3rd). We then headed to the American Fall Classic where we placed in every event we entered (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, and 4th). Four WRC boats competed in Boston for the Head of the Charles Regatta. Bill took 3rd in the Men's Senior Veteran Singles I/II. The Women's Senior Master's 4+ placed 5th, the highest ever! After a harrowing row the Director's Challenge Mixed 8+ took 4th, also their highest place ever, after being edged out by Riverside and Chinook. For the first time in years, the men sent a crew and placed 10th in the Men's Master's 4+. All in all a fantastic showing for WRC in Boston. October ended with the Portland Fall Classic with us placing 1st, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, and 5th. Finally, we ended the season in sunny California with two 3rds, a 4th, and a 5th place finish at the Head of the Lagoon.

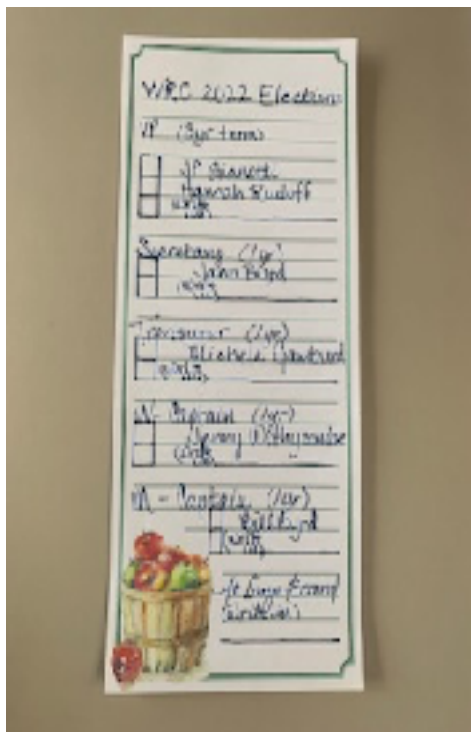
With the water racing season over we launched into erging. We finished the 2021 season with Concept 2's Holiday Erg Challenge. 12 members made the 200,000 m leaderboard with Jann leading at 218,415 m. Another 3 members logged just over 100,000 m.

Although we continue to face uncertainty with COVID and its variants, we are excitedly launching into 2022 with hopes of a full Spring AND Fall racing schedule. Six regattas are in the spring line up starting with Covered Bridge in early April and ending with Master's Nationals in August, which is being held in Oakland.

Whether face to face or over zoom we have held steady and even grown throughout the pandemic. It takes a special dedication to be a rower and an even more special dedication to soldier on at a distance. But through bike rides, singles rowing, book groups, zoom ergs, socially distanced dinners, and outdoor coffee we have made it this far. I look forward to what 2022 will bring!

Adam Withycombe, Coach

ELECTION OF 2022 OFFICERS



Ballots were given to all in attendance who are in “good standing” in the Club (Dues paid).

Candidates for the office of Vice President were offered the opportunity to address the Club.

Hannah Rudoff
JP Gianotti

Members were allowed to vote including those in attendance via ZOOM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations – Jann Byrd.

Brief comments were given on elections and how we garner candidates for office (contact and ask).

Safety – John Rudoff (arrived late)

John wants to offer a refresher on the use of the deliberator in February. He also asked for thoughts on the “14 day quarantine” currently in place. Sarah Copeland, also a doctor, suggests 10 days. The team agreed with the 10 days expectation. Coach Adam confirmed that no practices would occur if the weather and water condition cannot be safely navigated. They will be cancelled thru March, as needed. We are also having an issue with the launch and without it there is NO safety launch, which makes on the water practices unavailable.

Membership – Scott Smith

He is always looking for people who are looking to race.

Social – Julie King

We need a new chairperson for this committee. Steve Wu is currently assisting.

Equipment – Richard Williams

- ❖ Recap of the purchases for the year: Felipe and the Hudson.
- ❖ He asks what the members see as needs and/or repairs.
- ❖ He has acquired a new fin for the BYRDS (ordered 2 years ago).
- ❖ The new COX BOX has arrived too (!), and the old one (silver) was returned for credit.
- ❖ Bill and Jann Byrd successfully lobbied the Oak Community Boat House to maintain a working “foot print” for WRC going forward in the boathouse. Without their interest and care we would have continued to lose rack space every time a member either sold their boat to the Club, or left the Club (regardless of reason). More diligence on the part of WRC members needs to occur to ensure the long life and health of the Club, as well as active oversight/participation in the Oaks Park Community Boathouse (OPCB).
- ❖ We discussed the racks we have that will stay with WRC regardless of rack ownership as long as it houses either a WRC “club” boat, or a “member” boat. Bill has now taken ownership of Jann’s rack and he has moved his “original” single into that space. Please ask to use BEFORE doing so. It’s a 1974 vintage.
- ❖ Scott addresses the Mimosas and it’s use. Replace, get rid of? With all the new members we need to keep it even if it is used only as a “learn to row” boat.
- ❖ Lindsey asks for boat lights. The Club has had them – but they seem to disappear... We’ll get more.
- ❖ Jenny mentioned that Michael repaired the foot stretchers in the Victory, and did an amazingly beautiful job. There is a brief discussion about shoes and the various options including personal ownership. It would be a major capital investment! The Club voted no at this time.

- ❖ Did you know that Mike is a shoemaker? He spent 30+ years with Nike! Recently the beautiful, light, racing shoes **Allison Felix wore to win her Gold Medal at the recent Olympics were made by MIKE! How cool is that?! Wowza!**

- ❖ The launch is in serious need of repair work. Richard is working on it!

SAM TAYLOR

Sam asked to address the Club regarding the “new dock”. This is a project undertaken by OPCB and they have been working on it for 2 years now and have spent nearly \$45k. One means of income for this purchase is the cost of our racks. He informed us that a “fund raiser” is being

launched to complete the project. Clubs involved: WRC, Lewis and Clark (L&C), PKT (paddlers) and ORU (Oregon Rowing Unlimited). The grey dock we use (or a similar one) was put in place in 1988, without permits. The new dock, which will be located just down stream from the current dock, will remain beach bound. It will be 8 feet wide and 150 feet long. It will be anchored to the beach and will be easily accessible from the beach via the path that runs parallel to the fence, and from the beach itself. They are currently working through the permitting process and hope to complete that in early 2022. They are also working to finalize the design. To date they have 30K in donations, 67k in seed money. Sam is hoping that L & C will chip in 40K. That remains to be seen. This project falls under the 501C3 non-profit category.

The total cost is expected to be around \$250k. IF they have all the funds listed above, including L&C, which would mean another \$115k-ish is needed to complete the dock. Without the 40K from L&C the amount still needed would increase to 150k to complete. Sam explained they are looking at 100k in grants and are then going to ask all boathouse members to contribute a total of \$50k. What about Oaks Park? If they expect to use the dock, what is their share of the expense? No answer given.

There was an opportunity to ask questions.

- We wanted to know why the dock would be on the beach again – we have continuing issues with people using it and damaging it. **SAM:** it would be too expensive coming off the top of the hill, and not feasible given the water space we have to work with (can't go out too far).
- Who benefits? **SAM:** All the members of the 4 groups currently at the boathouse as well as Oaks Park. They expect the dock to be available to misc paddle boarders, swimmers canoes, etc.
- Is there a plan to increase the number of groups located at Oaks Park now? As in, are there more rowing clubs/etc coming? **SAM:** NO. There will be other groups who will have access to the dock, but no more clubs/groups will be coming or having a permanent home here. There is no room.

CLUB SURVEY

Sarah Copeland presented summary information regarding the surveys team members were asked to reply to. There were three (3) questions to address the rower themselves, the coach, and the Club. Those questions addressed what should we **begin** doing, what should we **continue** doing and what should we **stop** doing.

Continue: getting new members, welcoming, ZOOM erg sessions, team building, return to row, cross train.

Begin: stretching, regular donations for equipment, share life experiences to better understand team mates, support each other, attendance at required video review sessions (common response), emphasize safety during practices, individual accountability if wanting to race with the team, commitment to be fit and race ready, rotate positions in the boat (a chance to row in all seats), plan regatta season/races as a team, clear job descriptions, clear feedback, build line-ups in advance and practice them.

Stop: expecting to row in regattas if you haven't put in the time and work to be ready, taking out small boats in bad weather, resisting feedback from the coach, coaching team mates in the boat at practice.

There was a short discussion on training in general lead by Adam, Richard and Bill. In addition to rowing on Saturdays and Sundays "Weekend Warriors", it is vital to lift weights, practice technique (even when on the ergs), and work on "body awareness" regardless of your workout.

2022

WILLAMETTE ROWING CLUB ELECTED OFFICERS

Fred Stewart – President
Hannah Rudoff – Vice President
Jann Byrd – Secretary
Michele Gamburd – Treasurer
Sarah Copeland – Past President

Sarah adjourned the meeting and transferred the gavel to incoming President, Fred Stewart, at 11:04AM.