

WRRRA 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

November 6, 2010

In attendance: 50 – 60 WRRRA members and guests

Board members: Murdell, Scheid, Kozak, Meakin, Shurilla, Ridge, Fahrenholz, Shupe, Kershaw

The meeting started at 11:15 and ended at 1:10 pm.

BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR 3 OPEN POSITIONS

3 OPEN BOARD POSITIONS AND 5 CANDIDATES

- All board openings are for 2-year terms.
- Statements from Mark Silverstein, Jeff Zabor, Cara Sieberth, Zita Varnelis and Janet Clark (for Gary Clark).
- Voting open to all current members who have been a member for at least one year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Mark Shupe presented a summary of financial activity, included in the WRRRA Annual Reports document. Highlights are below.
- Expenses and revenue were below budgeted amounts.
- The club is carrying a positive balance of \$26,375.
- Gross receipts were almost \$120K
- Equipment expenses are currently at \$15,240
- As of the meeting, the club anticipates ending the year with about \$80K in cash.
- The club showed net gains in all programs:
 - SRL – \$31K revenue against \$27K in expense (most of expense was in coaching, coxes)
 - Masters -- \$17.4K revenue against \$15K in expense;
 - FRL, Rec, LTR all showed net gains.
- We had less participation in programs, but also spent less on coaching and equipment.
- CRF assessments are not included in the figures, due to the Active Net programming. WRRRA passes on the full cost of assessment to members. Active Net is set up to pass this through.
- Budget projections are done in January to be voted on in February or March.
- Wakeless launch purchased does not include a motor.
- Novice SRL crews got paid coxswains and part of the masters coaching fees paid for coxswains.
- Question: Do we have all coaching bills in? Randy has not billed for coaching administrative expenses. We paid \$9K for masters coaching on a budget of \$12K.
- Regarding refunds, some SRL folks got refunds. Masters folks not finishing the program did not request refunds. In some cases, program fees were transferred between programs, such as masters' fees being applied to sculling.
- **Comment/question:** We are ending the year with a healthy ending cash balance – has there been any thought of reducing the fees for next year? **Answer:** That needs to be evaluated by the board. Members should voice your opinion to a board member.

PROGRAM REPORTS

SUMMER ROWING LEAGUE

- Thanks to folks running SRL and FRL – Gerry Gubeno, Amy, Sandy, Dixie.
- This year SRL had 250 participants, down about 40 from previous year.
- Coaching for SRL was hugely improved this year – we think this has been a great year for SRL coaching. . Randy as head coach took charge of coaching so that directors did not need to be involved. We want to maintain this coaching structure permanently.
- Certification of young coaches was facilitated. Randy ran a program with the young coaches, though due to timing, FRL does not have college coaches.
- The club sees a need to facilitate study sessions for safety and coaching tests so adults can become qualified coaches.
- Some SRL and FRL rowers voiced dissatisfaction with coaching changes occurring over the season. Justin was happy to have this feedback and took steps to improve the situation. Consistent coaches were arranged after this feedback was delivered.
- We need more adult coaches for SRL and FRL in the spring and fall – when college coaches are unavailable. We want to avoid coaches taking out multiple crews.
- There were two SRL regattas this year. Feedback indicates a greater need for good communication regarding rules. The club will also have to design new SRL course for next year – that’s exciting.
- Will SOM need to be revised for new property? New project over the winter.

RECREATIONAL ROWING

- Rec was a great success. This was a formative season for the program, and it will be continued.
- The program had 20 summer participants and 16 rowing in the fall session, with mostly positive feedback from rowers.
- Rowers remarked that it was great it is to row with people who are more serious about rowing and who can row well. They also appreciated being able to compete at regattas.
- The program netted \$2K profit over expenses.
- Patty Wolford was summer coach and Mark Silverstein coached the fall rowers. Feedback on both was very positive.
- Coaches and rowers reported technical improvement among the rowers. Both coaches remarked that there was a large span of ability among the rowers.
- Coaches Usually took out an 8 and a 4.
- There’s a need to define objectives of program – is it an extension of SRL or should it be more competitive?
- Feedback from rowers will be solicited in the off season.
- Equipment was an issue – no one knew which equipment to use.
- Rec and masters folks combined on one occasion in the fall for a great row, according to Mark. It would be great to continue occasional rows with combined crews in the future.

MASTERS

- The Masters programs held strong winter workouts with increased erg and fitness testing during the season.
- The crews medaled in all regattas, with 71 medals this year, compared to 72 in 2009.
- The Women’s 50+ crew performed well at the Head of the Charles regatta and secured their bid for next year.
- There is a strong women’s 4 at Head of the Hooch.
- Head coach Randy Trefethern recently resigned.

- In the off season a Mission statement for the Masters program will be created, incorporating survey and other feedback.
- Masters rowers would like to be included in the evaluation of potential coaching candidates for next season.
- It was great to have dedicated coxswains for masters so that the rowers did not have to cox.

SCULLING

- This year's sculling committee included Jim Mack, Sharon Romilly, Sheila Nowacki, Brad Whitehead, Diane Schubeck and Lori Scheid
- The committee's function was to review independent sculling candidates.
- Sculling has grown exponentially in recent years. We have acquired more scull shells this year, but more sculling equipment is needed – there's a great demand for it
- Equipment availability and storage will continue to be an issue. Space for singles is limited – there's a waiting list for space at Rivergate. Anyone considering buying a boat should check on rack availability first.
- The program did not have coaching budget (and coxing costs were \$0). However, Craig Gates, Justin Kershaw, Russ Eckles, and Tim Marcovy coached.
- The club will work on a more organized sculling program for next year. T Marcovy is happy to make recommendations to board. Board needs to work on providing the means for more sculling for novices with the equipment we have. There is a huge interest in sculling. We need to address equipment and coaching issues.
 - Wakeless launch can go out with a number of sculls.
 - Learn to scull days would be great -- there's a demand.
- A policy for use of sculling equipment by masters also needs to be addressed by board.
- This year we needed greater clarity of information and communication on sculling coaching and fees. Comments/clarifications in this area included:
 - Payments were made for sculling, but value was not delivered.
 - Members wanting sculling coaching did not know how to arrange for equipment or coaching.
 - There were about 4 Thursday night sculling sessions/classes associated with the masters program with Russ as coach. The details of these sessions were not made available to people outside the masters program. There were questions and confusion as to equipment, use, and availability of sculling sessions to members outside masters program.
 - There were also paid sculling sessions occurring on Thursday nights and other times.
 - Sculling coaching bills were submitted and paid. These costs should have come out of the masters' program budget.
- Sculling equipment fared much better this season, probably due to the policy change -- When rowing a club boat, sculler is responsible for replacing a lost skeg before taking another out. As a result, we saw a dramatic reduction of debris in the river this year. In 2009 – 24 skegs were lost. This year only 2.
- The Safety Operations Manual has had a rule about going below Center Street – when river traffic was heavier. Pleasure boat usage has decreased. The Safety Committee has recommended a change in the rule – for the ban to be lifted for scullers – to give them a stretch of water not chopped up by launches.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY 2005 THROUGH 2010

- Membership reports as presented by Emily Shurilla are included in Annual Reports document.
- In the report. The cost column does not include the CRF fee for 2010. 2009 fees have the CRF fees included.
- There was a question about CRF and WRRR fee collection and whether CRF can approach members about payment. Fee collection is a collaboration between WRRR membership chair and CRF people.

WRRRA member – WRRRA approach our own members. CRF should ask WRRRA to approach members with payment issues.

- SRL membership declined from 2005 to present. This is of interest – we need to examine and discuss this trend. We want to retain SRL rowers.

EQUIPMENT

UPDATED EQUIPMENT SUMMARY

- See the Annual Reports document for this year's Equipment Summary.
- This year we purchased singles and also a wakeless launch.
- The club does not have possession of the wakeless launch yet. Transport was arranged 3 or 4 times, but fell through each time. We need by spring. It is in Connecticut at Wintech. It is a small wakeless launch, intended for use by head coach.
- Eventually the club should own several wakeless launches for efficiency's sake. We have had launch rental costs this year, and have a desperate need for launches.
- Equipment damages this year were reduced.
- Areas of need for equipment will continue be examined by board.
- Future boat purchases to be reassessed when rack space is figured.
- The club thanks all the folks who maintained equipment this year.

CORPORATE ROWING

SUMMARY

- This year we had about 3 groups participating in one-day corporate rowing events – GE promoting internal health program, entrepreneur group.
- We made pricing reasonable – one group was \$50 a seat.
- Use of octuple (borrowed from St I) seems optimum, as it is easier to set than a sweep boat.
- Entrepreneurs had good experience, with catered food/drinks.
- Russ will work with Board on this expanding this programming.
- Corporate rowing is an untapped source of income and it needs to be marketed.

COMMUNICATION

GETTING THE WORD OUT IN 2010

- This is a momentous time for WRRRA – we need to get nonrowers involved in our sport, organization, if we are to grow.
- PR position is a new position for the board, and Ridge was given leeway in this position
- After website went down, he developed Facebook as billboard for WRRRA
- Growth is key. We put together a lot of assets that can be passed on, etc. videos, photos, etc. We do not want to preach to the choir. Need to get apostles to join up in the marketing efforts.
- Facebook is WRRRA's page, not just Ridges. If you have something to post, please do, and also join in with Tim McKenna on Twitter.
- Web savvy members have observed that we are one of the best rowing sites on Facebook.

NEW WEBSITE UNVEILED

- The WRRRA web site crashed in May. Jeff Scheid has headed up an effort to construct a new site and migrate content to it.
- Budget – we paid developer at Optiem \$1500 to create in Word Press. Lori Scheid was paid \$800 to design it, and Jon Cox designed the new logo.
- The new WRRRA site – www.westernreserverowing.org -- still under construction – was presented.

- The site will not feature login functionality as in past website. Doodle and Active Net should be used for signups and schedules.
- Areas include: Photo gallery, programs, news, announcements.
- We want to communicate fun of SRL, show the beauty of the sport of rowing.
- Developer will train members of club to add and maintain content. Board will determine who has access and who will update.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

SUMMARY

- Survey results were presented as a summary: 70% of people happy. 30% were not.
- Graphs from results are included in the powerpoint slides attached to these minutes.

CRF UPDATE

BOB VALERIAN

- A terrific serendipity – This annual WRRRA meeting is the club's first day at Rivergate Park.
- Thanks to every member of WRRRA. Rivergate would not have happened without generosity of WRRRA – financial contributions from members of over \$600,000. The fact that members donated so generously themselves helped get money from other organizations.
- Thanks to all involved in securing the funding, especially Bill Braun and Kevin Roberts. Thanks also to Tim McKenna, who has lead the transition. He has devoted amazing amount of time and effort for logistics of moving.
- CRF sponsored a number of successful events this year -- Best hammer ergatta ever. Best bow ball. And a great HOTC.
- In the year to come: we need to cultivate coaches to grow the programs. Coaching committee is a standing committee of CRF board. There will be coaching development seminars. Encourage adults to become coaches.
- There will be an ongoing review of the SOM (Safety Operations Manual). We need to continue sterling safety record. The oft-referred-to below the bridge rule has not yet been passed.
- CRF welcomes new programs in the coming year– Notre Dame, with Russ Eckles as head coach. ND has committed to varsity D2 program. Lake Erie College is also organizing crew, but not sure when. Gilmour has also expressed interest.
- The CRF annual meeting is January 8. WRRRA members are encouraged to attend.

ELECTION RESULTS

3 NEW BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED

- Jeff Zabor, Gary Clark, Mark Silverstein are joining the board for 2-year terms.
- We say a fond farewell to Emily Shurilla, Jeff Renston, and Jeff Scheid.
- Congrats to all the new board members.

OUTGOING REMARKS

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS

- **Jeff Scheid:** There are many challenges ahead, and he is available to help
- **Erik Murdell:**
 - Thanks to everyone for volunteering in any capacity.
 - Thanks to Karin Trimble for coordinating volunteers.
 - The Membership Chair position is still open.
 - Erik will continue to work with board in reorganizing and restructuring.