**October 16, 2018**

**South End Rowing Club**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Roll call:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Present** |  | **Member** | **Present** |
| S. Dominguez | X |  | J. Kogel | X |
| F. Hegeler | X |  | P. Moran |  |
| J. Sale | X |  | R. Moore | X |
| A. Lapp | X |  | K. Bailey | X |
| C. Merryfield | X |  | O. Gajda | X |
| N. Mortimer | X |  | S. Glazer | X |
| P. Cunneen | X |  | K. Prebil |  |
| B. Wygant |  |  | S. Blew | X |
| C. Lo | X |  |  |  |
| J. Bock |  |  | S. Wintersteen | X |

**Approval of August Minutes**

Motion to approve: Board approved without revision (12 – 0 – 2).

**President’s Remarks**

Hang in there, the end of the year is almost here.

If you won’t be back in 2019, please help find your replacement on the Board.

**Members Moment**

SERC member Bob Tandler

Bob thanked all volunteers for their service to the Club. He pointed out that the spirit of volunteerism can manifest in either the donation of time or money. Bob had two specific suggestions for the Board to consider:

First, an annual fundraising campaign, for those who care to give, that would fund our reserves or perhaps an endowment.

Second, a family-oriented, volunteer appreciation day.

Bob said he would be willing to support these efforts if the Board decides it wants to pursue either or both of them.

1. **AI Debrief**

All hail Laura Hovden! Smooth invitational. No drama.

700 paid swimmers up from approx. 500 in 2017.

Need new system for counting swimmers (getting on the boat and at the finish line).

They sold 127 spectator and 61 breakfast tickets.

Laura suggested raising the price of spectator tickets to $50 based on the demand. A motion to this effect was passed by the Board (12 – 2 – 0).

She estimated that we will net $68k from the event. Susan promises a final accounting next month.

Mark your calendars: AI 2019 will be September 7th.

1. **Bylaw Update**

Susan provided a handout with draft bylaw changes. Some of the changes are not substantive (e.g., correction of typos), others were clarifications of ambiguous language (e.g., who is responsible for the dock) and others were to change the document to reflect actual practices at the Club (e.g., check signing policy).

Susan felt that the changes needed more time and couldn’t reasonably be considered at the 2018 General Meeting.

There was general discussion about how the bylaws might be changed in the future (e.g., stripped of operational details) and how they might be supplemented with other, more easily modified, operational documents (e.g., job descriptions).

We agreed to continue the discussion at the next Board meeting.

1. **Vessel Traffic Services Report**

Jenn Lawson led the Board through the VTS report (attached to the October 2018 agenda) authored by she and Josh.

The report concludes with a list of action items.

The Board agreed that each action item will be reviewed at the November meeting. Simon, Oliver and Kelley should be prepared to lead this discussion with support from Josh. Jenn and Josh are available between now and then for discussion.

1. **Annual Member Awards**

Everyone should send their nominations for member of the year and volunteer of the year to Simon and Josh by close of business October 19th.

Somebody needs to find out the deadline for having the various other volunteer appreciation awards produced.

Absent information to the contrary, all of the selections need to be sent to Simon, Jane and Josh no later than November 9th (however sooner is better).

1. **Holiday Party**

Jane reported that the holiday party will be on December 1st. The theme is Snowy Starry Night. Come dressed in an elegant white outfit … or just come.

Speakers will be limited to two minutes! No exceptions.

1. **Dock Investigation**

Niland reported that he conducted an investigation of Tom Abbotts original complaint plus its addendum. He produced a report (which is included as an attachment to the draft version of these minutes).

Niland reported that he looked at three topics: safety, communication and bylaw violations. The investigation was conducted over 30 days and included rowers (wooden and shell), RIB pilots, our insurance agent, the people who built the dock, etc.

Niland reported that since the change in the dock configuration, there have been no issues launching or retrieving any of Club’s equipment. There have also been no “age related” issues (e.g., lifting problems).

Niland reported that current configuration will be retained with small changes:

* The addition of a teak roller at the front of the dock
* Painting the removal block yellow
* Posting written launch procedures in the Club

Niland reported that communication could have been better during the planning and execution of the dock changes but found no malice.

Niland reported that he found no violation of the bylaws.

Simon will apprise Tom Abbott on the outcome of the investigation. Simon will also close the loop with Parks and Recreation.

On a related matter, Simon reported that he has sent Tom Abbott a letter regarding his behavior during and immediately following the September Board meeting. Simon described the letter as a warning and that subsequent misbehavior will result in loss of membership.

1. **Communications Update**

Sarah reported that she is working on setting up MailChimp templates for Club communications. This was used for the most recent election update to the membership.

1. **Cohost 24-hour Swim**

This item was not considered because Suzie Dods didn’t attend the meeting.

1. **Treasurers Report**

Susan reported that after sending them documentation, she had received a commitment from the Parks Alliance to get $15k (less 5%) that they owe us.

She met with the Dolphin’s treasurer and they are increasing their dues. She reported that our dues have remained unchanged since 2014 and that we have a new $44k tax bill that may or may not be recurring. She suggested that we consider raising our dues. This prompted a discussion of justification for the increase and impacting affordability for some existing members.

There was also a brief discussion about possibly increasing the initiation fee (currently $100 plus $5 key deposit) as a way of allowing new members to share in the cost of the recent capital improvements (we’re still paying off the loans).

It was pointed out that any change in dues or initiation must be put before the membership, so if we want to make any change in 2019, time is running short.

Susan estimated that the Club might have $25k for capital projects in 2019 and asked that requests be sent to her by October 31st.

1. **Membership Report**

Kathy reported 1470 total SERC members. 41 new members (8 women).

95% of the membership is local. 33% women and 66% men.

1. **Calendar Review**

Jane detailed upcoming events and entertainment.

**2018 World Costal Rowing Championship (not on agenda)**

At the conclusion of the meeting, Oliver provided a report from the recently held World Championship held in British Columbia. This was the first time this event had been held in North America and the Club was well represented.

The highlight of the event were the B-Finals where Michele Choy and Megan Doepker finished first and second.

Oliver suggested that if the Club had a few FISA approved boats, we could host rowing events of this type in the Bay.