

August 14, 2019
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Present		Member	Present
S. Dominguez	X		E. Rubel	X
F. Hegeler	X		P. Moran	
J. Sale	X		R. Moore	
A. Lapp	X		A. Ramelmeier	X
C. Merryfield	X		B.J. Jaurique	X
N. Mortimer	X		K. Whalen	X
S. Greva	X		V. Cornwell	X
B. Wygant			S. Blew	X
T. Wurm	X			
J. Bock			S. Wintersteen	X

Approval of Minutes

The July minutes were approved (13 – 0 – 1).

President’s Remarks

Simon reported that the Dolphin Club sent a survey to its membership regarding their club’s expansion. The survey included four expansion alternatives. They’ve already received more than 700 responses. Simon also reported that the committee designated to work on expansion issues has yet to get started.

Simon thanked everybody who helped make the Bondi visit such a big success. He said it exceeded all previous celebrations both here and down under. He singled out Emily, Tori and Joe for their hard work.

The Invitational is coming up. Registration is down a little bit. We should encourage people to sign up. Some members who do day before or early morning volunteer tasks could also sign up to swim. Talk it up!

The interclub tri is also coming up (September 14). The minutes will reflect Simon's comments on this subject under item I below.

Lastly Simon reflected on two recent events. In the first, two kayakers left the Cove at 5:00pm on a Friday and were late coming back. Nobody knew where they were headed and began to worry about them. In the second, a rower headed out at 8:00am and didn't return until 5:00pm. Shortly after the Coast Guard was notified, the rower returned. The rower was OK but again people began to worry because they were gone for so long. We can't legislate common sense, but we need to try to instill it ... particular as our Club grows in size.

Members Moment

Dan McLaughlin addressed the Board regarding the security cameras at the Club. Dan reminded the Board that at the 2018 members meeting the issue was controversial and that the members were told that the issue would be taken up again at a future, well publicized, Board meeting. This still has not happened and in the meantime the number of security cameras at the Club have continued to expand. Dan asked for all of the cameras to be turned off until the camera issue is revisited. He noted that the current cameras might be illegal and that in any case violated member's expectation of privacy at the Club. There are many questions associated with the cameras including: where are the images retained and for how long, who may view them and for what purpose, where can they be viewed from (in the Club or over the internet), is a log maintained to record who has viewed them, etc. The Board thanked Dan for reminding us of our commitment on this matter. Simon said that the issue would appear on the September agenda.

Steven Ray Hurwitz reminded the Board of the Club's long history of supporting the arts. He mentioned a previous French connection [help!]. More recently David Burnett spent some time at the Club photographing senior members engaged in their respective sports.

Similarly, Wayne Levin documented a past Steven and Gary Emich swim. The photographers have donated a number of images some of which will be given to the individuals but a few of which Steven has selected for the Club. Steven was asked if it was ok to use any of the images on the Club website and he said he would have to ask the artists.

A. Legal Advise

The Board met in closed session to hear a report from a committee about gaining legal advice for the Club. The Board approved (14 – 0 – 0) to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000 with the exact timing of the expenditure to be determined by the President.

B. Member Complaint

The Board remained in closed session to review a complaint from one member against another member. Simon appointed Niland and Carol to investigate the complaint and report to the Board.

C. Save Aquatic Park Pier Donation

Fran reminded the Board that a couple of studies are required to plan the restoration of aquatic park pier and to secure a congressional appropriation. The first of the studies costs \$300k of which the City has contributed \$100k. They hope that the Park Service will kick in another \$100k and expect to raise the last \$100k from other organizations. At the July Board meeting the Board informally discussed the Club making a \$25,000 contribution. Fran returned with the following resolution to actualize the previous discussion:

Whereas the South End Rowing Club is located at Aquatic Park,

Whereas Aquatic Park is defined by Aquatic Park Pier (aka Muni Pier),

Whereas Aquatic Park pier is in severe disrepair and is at risk of falling into the bay,

Whereas without Aquatic Park Pier, the South End Rowing Club facility would be in jeopardy and the swimming and rowing programs would harmed,

Therefore, the Board of Directors of the South End Rowing Club has decided to make a \$25,000 donation to Save Aquatic Park and Pier to facilitate their efforts to save Aquatic Park Pier.

The Board approved the resolution (14 – 0 – 0). The Board also directed the treasurer (14 – 0 – 0) that the expenditure come from the special fund.

D. Social Media Advisory

There are a number of social media platforms (e.g., FaceBook, Google Groups, Twitter, etc) that Club members informally use but aren't under the control of the Club. These platforms sometimes include information that individuals find offensive but since the platforms aren't under Club control, there is nothing we can do about it.

Don Margolis was asked to draft a disclaimer that we will ask the owners of these various outlets to include. The disclaimer reads:

Members of the South End Rowing Club and other people in the athletic community freely express their personal and political views on this site. These strictly personal expressions do not represent the official views of the South End Rowing Club.

The Board voted (14 – 0 – 0) to request¹ that the owners of the current unofficial social media platforms include the above disclaimer. The agreed to motion was open-ended since the

¹ Since the Club doesn't own or control these platforms, all we can do is request that the owners cooperate with us by including the advisory.

numbers and kinds of social media platforms is expected to evolve over time.

This item raised the question of what are the official organs of the Club. SportsEngine and MailChimp were mentioned but others said that even these outlets aren't under the control of the Club. The Communications committee was asked to sort this out.

E. Six month moratorium on Club swims for new members

Niland suggested that new members be required to wait six months before being allowed to participate in Club swims. This would give them time to acclimate to swimming in the bay, learn about the Club's culture and find a way to volunteer.

There was a discussion about how such a policy would be implemented. Who tracks the members start date? Who tracks if they actually volunteered (as opposed to signing up to volunteer)?

Van voiced his opposition to this policy because it isn't consistent with his desire to provide equitable access to all swims to all members. Under his watch, he has tried to promote fairness and transparency in all swims.

It was pointed out that in 2019, the Club continues to grow at the rate of 30 members/month (most are swimmers) and that we need a way to orient new members. That this problem is part of the larger capacity question that Board has been nibbling around all year.

In the end, Van, Niland, Andy and Suzanne agreed to meet offline and come back to the Board at a future meeting when they've come to agreement.

F. Rowing Acquisitions

Eli told the Board that he, the Boat House Captain and the rowing community were now aligned on the purchase/repair of three boats.

The rowing community has raised the needed matching funds (some of it from the crab feed and some freshly raised) which when combined with the rowing budget approved earlier in the year should pay for the boats.

- Instead of the non-wooden Viking class boat included in their original budget, they have now decided to purchase a Red Swift double.
- They've found a qualified Boatwright to repair the Lawley which has been unusable for years. Estimated cost of the repair is \$7,500.
- Purchase the single LiteBoat which has been on loan for more than a year for \$4,500.

They were asked about storage space for the boats and they assured the Board they had a plan. Eli also pointed out that the Dolphins have comparable boats to the Swift and LiteBoat so they will be able to race against one another.

The Board approved the purchases (14 – 0 – 0).

G. By Law Update

Josh pointed out that the draft by laws have changed very little since last month. They are almost done! Josh asked for all Board members to give him their final feedback by the end of August.

The Board also received draft procedures for: membership, facility use, communications, election and gym procedures. The committee is still polishing these procedures and there will be more to come (e.g., finance).

Josh pointed out that new by laws give the Board a new tool for dealing with disciplinary issues: suspension. Also the expulsion procedures have been reworked to make them less ambiguous and to resolve practical problems in the current by laws.

H. Men's Lockers

Niland presented a proposal to replace the old red metal lockers on the landing with smaller "employee" lockers. These lockers would be appropriate for somebody wanting a secure place to store their valuables while at the Club. He believes 60 – 75 lockers can be installed in this space. The new lockers would be made available to the approximately 170 men and women on the locker waiting lists. Members could rent one of these new lockers for (say) \$50/year while remaining on the waiting list for a locker in the locker room.

It was requested that these lockers include new signage reminding people that this locker location isn't a changing area.

The Board asked Niland to measure the area and come back with a specific purchase proposal. Niland was also requested to develop a plan to for allocating these new lockers between men and women on the waiting lists.

I. Interclub Tri

The Tri will soon be upon us (September 14). Simon has asked each of the three sport commissioners to take the lead in rallying their folks to participate in the Tri. The commissioners will be supported by Andrew Burrell, Ryan Nelson, Sarah Glazer and Simon. We also agreed that we needed to identify a strong person to represent the Club during the counting of points. Brenda Austin was volunteered for the role.

Simon agreed to send a message to all members reminding them how much fun it is to participate in the Tri and how sweet it would be to win this year in light of the acrimony over the DC expansion!

Eli has negotiated rule changes in rowing. Basically points will now be split 50-50 between men and women and there will be points for the first 55+ year old across the line in each event. To get these

concessions, Eli had to agree to allocate more points to the barge race. Dan McLaughlin promised a strong showing from our barges (plural)!

Simon and Diane Walton have yet to meet to finalize the rules.

J. Treasurer's Report

\$100k was transferred to the special fund. Susan will attend a pre-hearing with the City on unsecured property taxes. She's still working on completing the inventory so she will have to share a work in progress. We haven't received our property tax bill yet.

Susan Scott condition is very serious. We really need to hire a bookkeeper to replace Susan.

The Dolphins received 501 (c)(3) status. Susan will meet with the lawyer who helped them get that status and will report back.

K. Entertainment

Betty-Jean asked for permission to spend \$1699 plus tax to purchase new folding tables that are used for events hosted in the boathouse. The Board approved the request (14 – 0 – 0).

Betty-Jean also noted the proliferation of lost and found boxes around the Club. She was told to feel free to eliminate any lost and found that's not in one of the locker rooms.

L. Membership Report

Andy said he wanted to meet with each of the commissioners to develop a plan to onboard new members including connecting new members with existing members.

As mentioned above, we continue to grow by about 30 members/month and historic (roughly) 2/3 – 1/3 male – female split continues to hold.

We need to begin a search for a new women's locker room captain.