

December 4, 2019
South End Rowing Club
Membership Meeting Minutes

Roll call:

Approximately 90 members attended the meeting.

President's Remarks

Simon welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending. He then gloated (to great applause) that the plaque was back at the South End where it belongs ... and it's here to stay!

Simon gave a brief overview of the Save Aquatic Park Pier project. Fran added more detail and singled out Aaron Peskin, Catherine Stefani, Peter Ross, Dominica Donovan, and Maureen Keefe for their efforts on the project. Fran mentioned that a meeting would be held in the new year explaining the project. Simon closed this topic by reminding everybody that without Muni Pier, we're in trouble.

Simon said the new lease is ready to be signed. The last remaining item is to update the non-discrimination language in our by laws (revised by laws were approved later in the evening). Simon singled out Peter Ross, Miriam Hiser and Bill Wygant for their tireless, mostly behind the scenes, work on this issue.

Simon then applauded Bob Barde and Pat Cunneen for the beautiful and detailed book capturing the history of the South End. Bob mentioned the book is available from the Club office and online. It will also be on sale at the holiday party. Bob said that once his expenses have been recouped, profits from the sale of the book will be donated to the Club. Lastly, Bob reminded all present that we now have something that the club next door doesn't have.

Simon then pointed out that the DC expansion plan that would have so impacted our Club was stopped by our "sea of red". For the moment, the DC handball court also seems to have been spared, but we will need to continue to monitor the situation. Long term, if we

want to preserve that court, we need to find a way to ignite interest in handball amongst the DC membership.

Simon then went on to explain that our membership grew from 1,200 to more than 1,700 in 2019! Simon broke down the membership by sport:

Swim 1320

Rowing 600

Running 440

Handball 220

600 of our members are female and the other 1,100 are suspect.

Simon called out thanked departing 2019 Board members: Jim Bock, Niland Mortimer, Alan Lapp, Carol Merryfield, Eli Rubel and Paula Moran. He then singled out Jim Bock (the Club house is in the best shape ever) and Susan Blew (she's here at 4:00am working in the office and has put the Club on a strong financial footing).

Finally he gave all in attendance a financial overview. We purchased two new boats and completed a major repair on another; purchased a new inflatable, bought new running vests, repainted a handball court, will shortly replace the ovens in the cook shack while still managing to rebuild the Special Fund. As of November 30:

Special Fund: \$312,305.96

Checking Account: \$95,481.18

Savings Account: \$688.97

Gallagher Fund: \$10,774.13

Money held by Parks: approximately \$24,000

We paid down our 10-year member loans, leaving a balance of \$370,000.

Members Moment

No member wished speak.

A. Sport Commissioner Reports

Eli (Rowing): The Lawley was repaired and Tom kept the boathouse buoyant. Two new boats were purchased which provide a broader spectrum of rowing possibilities. The crab feed raised \$8k and the rowers plan to make it an annual event. Jerry will be the 2020 rowing commissioner.

Van (Swimming): Van expressed his humility and how grateful he was to be our swim commissioner. Swimmers did a lot this year and helped bring home the plaque. 2019 had 24 swims with 2 swims remaining. Too many swimmers accomplished personal feats to mention. The Bondi visit was a big success. Friday night relays were introduced and people had a lot of fun with them. Van expressed his appreciation for the folks who have been putting on the regular swim clinics. 2020 looks to be another big year with the return of the “stick” and a biathlon!

Rory (Handball): Rory reported that handball was “going grand”. He reported that people who joined the Club for other sports are discovering handball. This combined with continued interest in the sport by woman makes for exiting times. In response to a question from the membership, Rory explained the importance of preserving the DC handball court.

Kevin (Running): Kevin said “its been a joy” serving as running commissioner. He is returning to the role in 2020. He added the 6-mile Presidio trail run and well as the Top of Tam event (from the dock to the top of Mt. Tamalpais). He will also be introducing a shorter event for mere mortals. In 2020 he’s looking to do some weird stuff including a ferry run and a biathlon. Kevin said he’s looking for race directors in 2020.

B. By Law Update

Josh walked the meeting through a PowerPoint that explained the history and motivation for the Board decision to update the by laws

in 2019. The presentation highlighted what's changed in the by laws and explained the rationale for moving the many operational details present in the current by laws into a new procedures manual.

Josh also expressed the Board's appreciation to Sue Free and Brenda Austin who invested a great deal of time and effort producing the new by laws and procedures.

At the conclusion of the presentation there were a couple of questions about how the changes might affect the independence of sports commissioners in the future. After some discussion, it was apparent that some members preferred the current by laws warts and all.

A motion was made to approve the new by laws which overwhelmingly passed with 4 objections and no abstentions.

C. Wrap-up

Simon concluded the meeting by ruing the members we have lost to death this year. He reminded us all of the very recent passing of long time members Buck Delventhal and Mel Patsel. The Club is a poorer place without them.

Finally, Simon reminded everybody to vote for Director at Large, expressed his hope that he would see everyone at the Club's holiday party and wished everybody a happy and healthy new year!

The 2019 Membership Meeting adjourned.