

March 11, 2020
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Present		Member	Present
S. Dominguez	X		J. Purmal	X
F. Hegeler	X		B. O'Malley	X
J. Sale	X		J.C. O Campo	X
B. Ip	X		A. Ramelmeier	X
M. Montgomery	X		B.J. Jaurique	X
M. Riley	X		K. Whalen	X
S. Greva			V. Cornwell	X
B. Wygant			S. Blew	X
T. Wurm	X			
G. Lazaneo	X		S. Wintersteen	X

Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were approved (16 – 0 – 0).

President's Remarks

Simon noted that it was nice to see such a well-attended meeting (board members and guests). He kept his remarks to a minimum in light of the packed agenda.

Members Moment

Deirdre Weinberg has been a member since 1991/1992 and is a mural painter. She addressed the Board with an idea to create a WPA style of mural on the wall of the dayroom that separates the office. She thought the WPA style made sense because of the WPA murals at the Maritime Museum. She brought a rough computer mockup. She said that she could do the project in conjunction with interested volunteers. She would like Board permission plus financial support. The Board asked her to work up a rough budget and asked if the mural could instead be placed at an outdoor location. She said yes to both questions.

A. Art Show at Club

Hilary Walters brought a proposal for hosting an art show at the Club. She said the idea was inspired by the work of various Club members (Jeff Cooperman, Fran Hagler, Joe Butler, etc). She imagines a brief art show (single day), in either the upper boat house (or perhaps even outdoors if the weather cooperates), showing the work of a few members. The event could be connected to a Friday Club Social (formerly happy hour). No art would be sold at the show. If the event were successful, it might be repeated on some interval (e.g., every six months).

She was originally thinking that the first show could be relatively soon, but in light of COVID-19, she's now thinking it would have to be pushed back.

Informally, the Board appeared to like the idea, and asked her to coordinate with Betty-Jean and to come back with a more specific proposal.

B. Aquatic Park & Pier Project

Fran introduced Dave Brouillette, NPS Superintendent of Aquatic Park and Cathie Barner, Project Manager. Dave has 40 years with NPS and has been involved in many relevant previous projects (e.g., Crissy Field redevelopment, Ft. Point, etc). Cathie also has been in a number of applicable previous projects (e.g., Crissy Field, Ft Baker, Lands End, etc). We're lucky to have such accomplished people leading this project!

Dave explained the visioning process now underway. That it's multi-dimensional (looking at the area both functionally and historically) and will involve many stakeholders (NPS, City, Fed's, Muni, Fisherman's wharf BID, non-profits, etc). They see an opportunity to create a more cohesive future for Ft. Mason, lower Van Ness, Muni & Hyde St piers, Aquatic Park, etc.

Of course anything of this scale also has a political dimension and so the support from our Congressional delegation (particularly Sen. Feinstein) and the City Council is critical. Fortunately, the project has already received amazing support from these players.

Once the visioning process is complete, the focus will shift to making the project shovel ready and then lining up the needed funding (expected to be more than \$100m).

Dave and Cathie thanked the Club for our early donation to the project. They emphasized the symbolic importance of a non-profit making such an early and significant donation to the effort and that it made it much easier for them to raise additional funds. They both also sang Fran's praise and said how lucky they were to have her participation in the project.

Dave talked about the importance of the relationship between neighbors and said that his door was always open to us.

Club Response to COVID-19 (added to agenda)

There are obviously still many unknowns about this virus. Nobody really knows how widely or quickly it will spread and how deadly it will be. If the response to the virus is hysterical, then the Board didn't want to be part of that hysteria.

We consulted with two members who are physicians and they both advised that the Board needed to address the virus and take it seriously. We discussed the responses to date from the City of San Francisco, the National Park Service, schools, the NBA and others and decided (16 – 0 – 0) to cancel all South End events involving 50 or more people through April 15th. The individual sports commissioners will translate this overall decision into specifics by sport. At our April Board meeting we will determine if further cancelations are warranted.

The South End Rowing Club is an adult sports club. Some of our sports have inherent risk. We expect our members to exercise good

judgement when determining their participation in Club activities. In this context the Board urges each member to use that same good judgement when considering their use of the Club. If they are part of the at risk population (as identified by the CDC), then perhaps they should abstain from using the Club until the situation is clearer. In fairness to fellow Club members, if you've been exposed to COVID-19 or are feeling ill, then we ask that you stay away from the Club until you have recovered. South Ender's take care of each other and this includes doing our best to not spread this virus.

The Board will revisit this issue at each of its monthly meetings for the duration. The Board authorized Simon to take additional actions between Board meetings in response to new information.

C. Entertainment

Betty-Jean reported that we lost \$1,200 on the St. Patrick's day luncheon. She speculated that poor attendance might have been caused by difficulties with Sports Engine and COVID-19. She acknowledged the efforts of head chef Alan Lapp.

D. Membership

Andy reported 16 new members. This is lower than previous months but he thinks it normal for February.

250 2019 members haven't renewed. He thinks perhaps 50 of those people will eventually renew. Simon requested that Andy share the names of the 250 with the Board to ensure nobody accidentally falls through the cracks.

Andy rued the fact that membership data is saved in two disconnected databases (QuickBooks and Sports Engine) and that there is no automated reconciliation between the two. He will put out a request to the membership for somebody who might be able to help address this source of friction.

Monty reported that individuals who are no longer members have been purged from the men's locker waitlist which cut the list down to 140. He thinks there are 28 available lockers.

E. Building

George organized his first day of service and it was very successful. He wants to use day of service to connect with new members.

He has a wish list of things to do at the Club and has organized it into two categories: items that can reasonably be addressed by volunteers and those that will require contractors. Most of the major building projects will be deferred till after the AI.

Susan asked George if he could fast track the new mini-lockers so that we can start collecting rental fees.

Juan Carlos thanked George for freeing up a storage closet for handball and the whole Board roundly thanked him for already doing such a great job in this critical role.

F. Treasurer

Susan promised a full report at the next meeting. Never one to disappoint, she regaled us with an explanation of our property tax saga. Briefly ... our property taxes jumped from \$4k/year to \$40k/year. She paid and appealed the increase. She went to a prehearing with the City and was told to apply for a waiver. To get the waiver we need to modify our 1903 Articles of Incorporation to include language indicating the disposition of the Club's assets in the event of dissolution. The new language need not be complicated, but it will require a vote of our membership. Membership meetings have a quota requirement of 50, which also happens to be the size of Club events being canceled because of COVID-19! It may take a bit to cut this knot, but Susan is on it.

G. Rowing Commemorative Brick Program

Alan explained that he has talked with Bill Wygant and others about the previous brick program and that the rowers intend to restart it.

Basically the process involves: identifying an unused square that can be bricked, selling the bricks at \$500 each, placing a single online order for the sold bricks and then installing the bricks once delivered. The installation is on sand (not mortar) and will probably require the hiring of a mason. There is a good margin on each brick, so rowing could make a substantial amount of money. The money would have to go through Parks Alliance if the purchases are to be tax deductible.

It was pointed out this is kind of fundraising isn't renewable (i.e., eventually we will run out of squares that can be bricked). There was also some discussion about if the funds should be earmarked for rowing vs the Club's general fund. Overall, the Board acknowledged that rowing is more capital intensive than any of our other sports and this creates a special challenge for them. The Board thanked the rowers for taking on this challenge.

H. Rowing Program Overview

Jules reported that she has been working with Susan to better understand the rowing program's income and expenses in order to prepare a better budget for 2020 and beyond. She also reported that they now have a hole in their budget as a result of the COVID-19 related cancellation of the crab feed.

They believe their regattas and clinics will be revenue positive, hope to net \$12k from the brick program and have made changes to the online apparel sales to make them more profitable.

I. SERC Coast Guard Relations

Van reported on the recent Coast Guard scrutiny of bay swimming including our program. He thought that overall this was a positive development.

Over the course of the review, the possibility of including the Coast Guard member who performed the review in one of our swims came up ... in particular his participating in the (now cancelled because of COVID-19) St. Patrick's day swim. The Board was very supportive of the idea but we needed a way to address the insurance issue.

It was suggested that when Van is ready to try and reschedule, that he ask the Board to give the individual a one month honorary membership (as allowed for in the By Laws). The same thing could be done for other public safety individuals who we interact with.

J. Alcohol Use at the Club

The Board had an extensive discussion about alcohol use at the Club. While alcohol is part of the tradition of the Club, when consumed at the wrong time (e.g., before a swim) or to excess, puts individuals at risk and jeopardizes the future of the entire Club. As such, the Board made a few decisions:

First, the Board decided (16 – 0 – 0) to ban the consumption of alcohol before any Club sporting event or activity. The first violation of the ban will result in a warning, the second a suspension and the third expulsion from the Club.

Second, the Board decided (16 – 0 – 0) to rebrand “happy hour” to “club social” to place the focus on comradery rather than drinking. Last call at club socials will be at 9:30 with lights out at 10:00pm.

Third, Bobby was tasked to reach out to the ABC to understand what it will take for the Club to become compliant with their rules. He will report back at the April Board meeting.

Lastly, the Board stepped into closed session to address an alcohol related complaint between members. The Board agreed that Simon would send an email to one of the members.

K. Website and Email Migration

Brian explained that the Club’s website is currently hosted on Dan Morris’ server. Dan has not charged the Club for this service. Brian argued that this informal arrangement wasn’t appropriate for such an important facet of the Club. Commercial hosting will cost about \$300/year.

Brian also made the case for the use of a cloud based password management system for the various Club website/email accounts. This will provide better security and redundancy in the event that members leave, lose their laptops, etc. This will cost about \$200/year.

Finally Brian suggested that we utilize G Suite for the various Club email accounts. This would allow us to have both generic email accounts (e.g., president@serc.com) as well individual accounts (e.g., SimonDominguez@serc.com) as necessary. G Suite also includes Google Drive that we can use to store the Club's electronic assets.

The Board approved (16 – 0 – 0) to authorize Brian to spend up to \$3k/year to implement all of the recommended changes.