

June 10, 2020
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Note: This meeting was conducted via Zoom because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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	X		V. Cornwell	
B. Wygant	X		S. Blew	X
T. Wurm	X			
G. Lazaneo	X		S. Wintersteen	X

Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were approved (15 – 0 – 0).

President's Remarks

Simon noted that a lot has happened since we last met and he expects that dynamism to continue over the next four weeks. He again thanked everybody for staying positive during the pandemic.

He noted that he had received several emails today immediately following publication of his email blast on Club reopening.

Simon noted the presence of Vanessa Brown, Dominica Donovan, Joe Butler, Will Benjamin, Bob Buechel, Adele Gower, George Carvalho and Rosie in the meeting.

Members Moment

Dominica Donovan addressed the Board on the murder of George Floyd and subsequent Black Lives Matter protest. Dominica said she has been reflecting on her role as an individual and the role of the Club. She suggested that the Club issue a formal statement expressing solidarity with the black community. The Board suggested that Dominica draft such a statement. Josh volunteered to work with her.

This was followed by a general discussion about the demographics of the Club, did we track demographic info (we don't) and if we should track demographic info (there seemed to be an informal consensus that we shouldn't). There was general agreement that the Club would benefit from being more inclusive.

A. Covid-19 Club Reopening

Simon noted that Van had been leading the reopening committee but had taken on an all-consuming job at the SBA. Simon expressed his appreciation to Van for his leadership on the committee and getting it off to such a good start. Simon then introduced Vanessa Brown who has been on the committee from the start. Simon explained that he asked Vanessa if she would step up and lead the committee so that Van wouldn't be stretched between two demanding roles (SBA & leading the committee). Van continues to participate in the committee.

Vanessa explained that the committee has been working as a team and is committed to transparency with the membership.

Vanessa noted that the committee is working cooperatively with the Dolphin Club. She explained that while the DC isn't reopening, it is allowing limited access to their beach via their side gate. Since Hyde St Pier is closed (and is expected to remain closed thru the end of July) it doesn't make sense for us to build our plan around providing similar access via our side gate.

Instead we've forged our own path that we think will provide a more meaningful reopening. The reopening committee has defined reopening as a series of successive levels. We will submit a plan for level 1 to the City on Friday. Level 1 looks as follows:

- A limited reopening of the boathouses, the pad outside of the boathouse and the dock. The cookshack, bar, handball courts, ADA bathroom and entire second floor (day room, locker rooms, saunas, etc) will remain closed.
- Face coverings, social distancing and hand washing will be required when at the Club. During the closure hand washing stations have been installed as well as the types of social distancing markers now familiar at markets.
- Rowers will be able to reserve 2.75-hour rowing slots with a maximum of 8 rowers per slot. Only singles and doubles (rowed by people sheltering together) will be allowed. Rowers must clean their equipment before and after use.
- Swimmers will be able to participate in a modified version of sunrises swims. Basically these swims will begin from outside the front door (sign in and briefing), involve walking to the jump and finishing at the bleachers.
- Limited maintenance of our boats (rowing and inflatable), managed by the Boathouse Captain, by invitation to members with required skills.

We're in the final stages of preparing the needed protocols and documentation to request the above from the City (our lessor). Getting approval isn't a slam dunk. We will need to make the City think of us being more like an outdoor equipment rental (say Blazing Saddles) and less like a gym or health club since the latter aren't targeted to reopen until phase 3 currently scheduled for August. The committee is considering how to train members on the new routines and will have a soft reopening to test our processes.

We expect that it will take a few iterations to get approval from the City. If they flat out reject our approach, then our fallback will be to figure out how to get access to our Hyde St gate from NPS.

There was a discussion about the desirability of having a place where people swimming of the beach could store their stuff. Could their belongings be stored in the Club? While it sounds easy, in practice its not that easy. How to maintain social distance, keeping people from not using the whole Club, etc. Some folks said they would volunteer to work as door monitors, but they could just as easily volunteer to watch stuff on the bleachers.

The committee will continue to weigh all alternatives as it pursues its plan with the City.

There was a discussion about the resumption of handball games (not tournaments). The obstacle for handball is that the City has relegated all indoor exercise until phase 3 which is currently targeted for August.

B. Replacement of the Card Key System

Brian introduced the taskforce that researched replacing the system that controls access though our front door. He then walked the Board through his previously distributed proposal.

The current system is quite old, no longer supported by the vendor, can only be managed from the Club office (no remote access) and provides no data collection.

The taskforce looked at a number of alternatives before settling on a solution from Bay Alarm (who currently handles our smoke and fire) which is hosted in the cloud, offers remote access and collects access data. This system allows for access to be managed by user group in addition to on a user-by-user basis, by time of day, day of week, etc. Its capable of allowing customized access to the Club's vendors. While card keys & fobs continue to be supported by the new system, it also allows access using smartphones and smartwatches.

The estimated three year cost for the new system is \$9,340 and the taskforce asked for a not to exceed authorization of \$12k to deal with unexpected issues that might arise during installation.

Brian was asked if the new system could also control access to the backdoor of the Club as well as the Hyde St entrance? Could it control access to the Office? Would it be possible to remotely unlock the front door from the office? The system is capable of all of these things but none of them were part of the provided estimate.

The Board voted (17 – 0 – 0) to authorize \$12k for the purchase of the new system as described in the proposal with direction for the taskforce to get quotes from Bay Alarm for adding the office, backdoor and Hyde St doors to the system. The Board will decide about these add-ons based on their cost.

C. All Other Covid-19 Club Related Items

Betty-Jean volunteered to takeover a list of virtual Club activities that was developed by the reopening committee. If we could do a few of the things on the list or other things, it might help address our member's loss of community.

D. SERC Buffs

Kevin explained that City ordinance require people to cover their mouths when outside. This includes when people are exercising (e.g., running or riding bikes). He explained that he has been wearing a wool ski gator on his runs but it was too warm.

This got him looking into lightweight buffs. He thought it might be fun to create SERC branded buffs and came up with three alternatives



Kevin's plan is to order 750 buffs at a cost of \$3,901 and give one to each member who wants one ... a small thank you for their patience during the Club closure. He also plans to mail a buff to each life member (127).

There was a motion (17 – 0 – 0) to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$6k for the purchase and distribution of SERC branded buffs.

E. Paint Front and Back of Building

George explained the poor state of paint on the building's exterior. Painting the sides of the building will be quite expensive but he has a reasonable quote to paint the front, back and area by the DC stairwell. The total cost (labor, materials, scaffolding, permits) is \$16k.

The Board approved (15 – 1 – 1) the expenditure with the understanding that a more authentic SE red would be used and our lessor is notified in writing of the project.

F. Treasurer

Our account balances are healthy even after making a principal and interest payment on our loans. Susan took us on a magical mystery tour on the joys of applying for a PPP grant to cover part of Susan W's salary. It was suggested that she give Square a try.

G. Membership

We have four new members! Andy has been fielding questions about reopening.

Cathy, Susan W and he have spent a bunch of time creating the most complete membership roster ever. This involved consolidating info from numerous sources. The whole process is onerous and Andy hopes that the IT committee, fresh from its success on the front door system, will help him create a more integrated member management.

Andy reported that there were three new life members this year that still needed to be recognized.