

March 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		V. Waik	X
K. Whalen	X		B. O'Malley	X
J. Sale	X		J.C. O Campo	X
B. Ip	X		A. Gower	X
M. Montgomery	X		B.J. Jaurique	X
M. Riley	X		F. Hegeler	X
K. Buckholtz	X		V. Cornwell	X
B. Wygant	X		L. Hovden	X
D. Puglisi	X			
G. Lazaneo	X		S. Wintersteen	X

Approval of Minutes

The February 2021 Board minutes were approved. (18 – 0 – 0).

President's Remarks

Simon thanked those commissioners who have been busy at the Club (shoutouts to Fran and Van for creating the March competition) and to those who have spent so much of their time helping manage expectations during the partial reopening. Simon also expressed his appreciation to Joyce and the rest of the reopening committee for their hard work.

Simon let the Board know that the Club will be flying the Irish flag next week as part of our recognition of St. Patrick's day. (Speaking of which, has anybody watched Derry Girls?)

Members Moment

Joanne Sakai thanked the Board for flying the BLM flag in February. She asked if there will be a report on how the money that was donated through the membership renewal process was utilized? Lastly she noted that many people learn about the Club through the day use policy and since day use currently isn't happening, perhaps we should create a pamphlet to help prospective members learn about the Club.

Kevin W. responded that 35 members asked for hardship assistance and all of those requests were granted.

A. Dolphin Club Building Project

Past DC president Diane Walton and current president Ward Bushee begin their presentation by explaining that they would be holding a training session on diversity and leadership and generously invited us to join them.

Diane said they were still working on their expansion plans. The second story above the weight room has been replaced by a rooftop deck. Story poles have been installed which show where the new roofline will be. The handball court has been preserved. They are working with Joe Butler.

Joe Butler acknowledged the committee (Peter Ross, Miriam Hiser, Dan McLaughlin, Scott Ellsworth, Fran Hegeler, Kevin Whalen and Simon Dominguez) that's been reviewing the DC plans. He reminded Diane and Ward that we've gotten use to looking across their gym's gravel and tar roof to capture our only westward views. He suggested that if the DC want to increase their deck space, that an additional deck be installed off their other day room.

During discussion it was pointed out that story poles are typically installed around the perimeter of the proposed structure but that the current story poles are only present on the west side. The absence of story poles on the front (north) aspect is particularly glaring since some of our views are over that facet of the building.

Juan Carlos expressed appreciation on behalf of the handball community for the DC preserving their court.

Simon concluded the item by thanking the DC representatives for working with us and assuring them we'll get there.

B. Urgent Dock Repairs

George showed us photos of one of the pulleys, that carries a steel cable, that is starting to splinter. The original estimate to repair was \$5k however after additional consultation with Scott and Dave, the recommendation is to replace more of the system. The revised estimate to replace the sheaves and counterweight cables is \$10k. The board voted (18 – 0 – 0) to authorize up to \$11k (a 10% contingency) for the project.

George will coordinate with the various stakeholders and expects to do the work over a weekend.

C. Membership Update

Adele asked for the item to be skipped.

D. 2021 Budget Review

Laura walked the Board through each program's draft budget and how the program's budget fits into the overall Club budget. Those documents can be found here:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-Budget-Proposal.docx>

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2019-2020-2021-Full-PL-version-1.xlsx>

Laura will continue to work the numbers over the next month and the Board expects to finalize the 2021 budget at its April meeting. She expressed her appreciation for all of the support she's been given by the Commissioners and Susan Blew.

E. SERC Foundation

The South End is a 501(c)(4) and therefore isn't able to accept tax deductible contributions. We also pay various taxes (e.g., property taxes) like a for profit. Marc Glomb gave the Board a presentation that outlined the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a 501(c)(3).

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SERC-Foundation-Board-Presentation-10March2021-Ver-3-Final.pdf>

For example, in addition to being able accept tax deductible donations, we might be able to claw back approximately \$200k in taxes paid to the City over the last five years and stop paying these taxes going forward.

The presentation also provided a roadmap for the lengthy and complicated process for becoming a not for profit. Because of this complexity, we will need to hire professionals to lead us through the change.

Marc requested authorization to spend \$20k for professional assistance. Noting that we're in midst of approving our 2021 budget and that 2021 will likely be a financially tight year because of the decline in membership, the Board deferred this request until the April meeting.

F. IT Committee Update

In deference to the size of the agenda and lateness of the hour, Brian asked for this item to be deferred to April.

G. Disposition of Donated Funds

Van noted that some of the information he wanted had been provided by Kevin W. during the Member's Moment. He then went on to stress the importance of transparency so that people will continue to donate.

Van indicated that members who have signed up for the March Marathon have donated \$937 which is being added to the hardship fund.

He suggested that unused funds might be used to promote diversity at the Club.

H. Member Complaint

The Board heard a report from the investigating committee and took action. The parties to the complaint will be notified of the Board's decision.

Entertainment (not on the agenda)

Betty Jean asked if she needed permission to get into the cook shack to assess its condition and clean it up. Everyone thought this was a good idea and she was told to coordinate with George.