

September 8, 2021
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		Diane Caliva	X
K. Whalen	X		B. O'Malley	X
J. Sale	X		J.C. O Campo	
B. Ip	X		A. Gower	X
M. Montgomery	X		B.J. Jaurique	X
M. Riley	X		F. Hegeler	X
K. Buckholtz	X		V. Cornwell	
B. Wygant			L. Hovden	X
D. Puglisi	X			
G. Lazaneo	X		S. Wintersteen & Lord Bentley	X

Approval of Minutes

The August 2021 Board minutes were approved. (12 – 0 – 2).

President's Remarks

Simon pointed out that we're entered the 4th quarter of 2021 and it's appropriate to begin looking forward to 2022. In particular for those Board members who know they won't be returning and who haven't already identified a successor, now is the time. Things will go more smoothly in 2022 if the new Board members have an opportunity to shadow outgoing Board members. Simon continued by suggesting that it's not too early for Board members who plan to continue in 2022 to begin identifying their eventual replacement.

Simon pointed out how busy September has proved to be: thanking Van for the recent Top of Tam run, the moving memorial for Elizabeth Glass and the upcoming Invitational and Tri.

He closed by reminding everybody that we're still operating under covid restrictions.

Members Moment

Sylvia Lacock Marino addressed the Board regarding a minor collision between her boat and one of our wooden row boats. Here are her comments.

My name is Sylvia Lacock Marino and I am an 18-year club, co-owner of Pacific Open Water Swim Co., and a licensed United States Coast Guard Master Captain.

As the board is probably well aware by now, one of our (Pacific Open Water Swim Co) vessels was struck by a South End member rowing the Thor the morning of August 26, 2021.

As required by law in the state of California, a boat owner is required to report any incident to the Division of Boating and Waterways within 10 days for property damage exceeding \$500. This is typically done through local law enforcement - in this case the San Francisco Police Marine Unit. This is the procedure we followed for reporting the incident.

The process for repairing and paying for the damage of our vessel is on its own trajectory and timeline within the club and that's not what I'm here to address.

My comments tonight are both as a club member and as someone who is working on the San Francisco Bay almost daily. What I witnessed by the rower was someone with no situational awareness of their location, proximity or the fact that there were three vessels ranging from 22' to 31' - all in neutral - off the southeast face of Alcatraz getting ready to put twelve swimmers in the water.

The rower, despite calls to stop, made a direct port-side strike on a stand-on vessel that was in neutral.

The rower was told immediately that damage had been done (you could hear the crack from the strike) and was asked for their name multiple times. The rower rowed away - refusing to answer any questions.

This was a hit and run - plain and simple.

As a club member and someone who is both on and in the water, this behavior is extremely concerning to me for the following reasons:

1. *Someone with such lack of awareness creates a dangerous situation for himself, club property, other vessels, the environment and persons in or on the water.*
2. *When faced with an incident, the person fled.*

As stated earlier, the monetary damage and repair to the vessel is on its own path.

But the real remedy is looking ahead. And in that respect...

First, I request that this person be written up and have their rowing privileges suspended for 6 months and if and when rowing privileges are returned, they are on a supervised basis.

Second, if the club does not have guidelines already in place, members should be trained on what their responsibility is on the water when such incidents occur - regardless of what they may think the severity of the situation is at the time. Basic responsibilities include actions such as giving your name, vessel information, and phone number - similar to a car accident.

Finally, and on a more personal note, the lack of decency the individual showed after the fact both on the water by not giving their name and rowing - and now with the time that has passed - no effort to make contact, take responsibility, or even apologize for the incident is a poor reflection on the individual, the club and the rowing program. The latter of the two being marred unfairly based on this member's action and consequent behaviors.

I do hope the club takes this as constructive criticism and levies the appropriate consequences on the rower and implements or revisits processes and procedures on what to do when such on-the-water incidents occur.

Thank you

Next Joanne Sakai addressed the Board. She's been a member for three years. If we had to look for something positive coming out of covid it would be that it catalyzed Joanne's volunteer spirit.

Joanne expressed her preference for Zoom Board meetings over in person meetings. In particular, Zoom meetings make it easier for members to watch and participate in Board meetings, particularly for members who have to cross a bridge to get to the Club. She

encouraged the Board to stick with Zoom even after covid restrictions no longer dictate this format.

Simon thanked Joanne for her service to the Club but said we need more time to study her specific request.

A. Reopening Update

George provided the Board a detailed written reopening update report which can be found here:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Reopening-September-Update-Google-Docs.pdf>

Some of the key items from the report are

- We had one false positive covid report.
- Masks will probably be required thru the end of the year.
- Compliance with the various covid restrictions remains problematic.
- If the current community based approach doesn't become more effective they will recommend closing portions of the Club (e.g., saunas).
- Wristbands have been promoted from optional to mandatory to access the vax zones in the Club.

He closed by noting that the Club is not a sanctuary from covid.

There was a discussion about how to get wristbands out. They should be available:

- From the office.
- From sport commissioners at events
- At the AI and Tri
- New members should get a band with their card key

Enforcement was discussed. George said he didn't want members to be reporting on each other. He asked all Board members to take an active role when they see non-compliance. If this doesn't work, then the next step will be closing portions of the Club.

George was asked what a member who forgets their band should do? They should be prepared to show evidence of vaccination.

The Board voted (14 – 0 – 1) to approve the expenditure of \$1,800 for the purchase of two air purifiers for the locker rooms.

The Board then supported (11 – 2 – 2) the following motion:

In the best interest of SERC, for the health of our Membership and to be in compliance with City Directives, to make proof of vaccination and wearing of a SERC provided bracelet mandatory for accessing the Club's vax zones¹ starting September 16, 2021.

B. Invitational Update

Laura reported that since last month's meeting, the AI team has scrambled to line up boat support and contain costs. The event is sold out at 350. Club members have rallied and are volunteering.

AI and Betty-Jean have agreed to cook breakfast for 500 (swimmers and volunteers). The one change probably swung the event from a money loser to profitability. Thank You AI and Betty Jean!!

Neil Heller outlined the on water resources that have been mobilized and expressed confidence about his ability to run a safe event.

When asked about covid, Laura reported that they choose to keep things simple ... vaccinations and masks are required for all swimmers and volunteers. Swimmers will not be using Club facilities.

C. October Members Meeting

Simon announced the 2021 Members Meeting will take place on Tuesday October 19th at 6:30pm and is expected to take one hour. The draft agenda will include:

- A welcome and introduction from Simon.

¹ Cookshack, bar, handball courts and the entire upstairs.

- An opportunity for each commissioner to share program highlights (not to exceed 5 minutes each).
- A report from our treasurer.
- Publicize expected 2022 Board openings.
- Review the recently adopted dog guidelines.
- Look for volunteers for the communications committee.

The by laws require the agenda to be published two weeks prior to the meeting (October 4th). If you have items you want to appear on the agenda, please contact Simon.

D. Interclub Tri

Marc Glomb reported that after much back and forth with the Dolphins, the Tri is on! It will be scaled down this year and can still be cancelled as late as Sept 15th.

Marc reported that the DC has lost interest in the event.

Key points:

- Wristbands (red for us; blue for the DC) will be required for all volunteers and participants.
- Participants will register at their home club.
- The saunas will be closed
- The garage doors will be closed to discourage entry to the Club.
- No joint post party; we will have our own simple BBQ, beer, paper plate party at our Club.
- We need additional volunteers (but we'll delay the appeal until after the AI).

E. Improving Club Communications

Mary shared a report that summarizes the discussions she's been having with Simon and Kevin W. The report can be found here:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Communications-3.pdf>

The key recommendation is create a stable communications committee that is responsible for managing Club communications (but probably not individual program communications). This committee would report to the VP.

There was some discussion about increased bureaucracy, were we setting too high a bar for ourselves (we don't need the polished communications of a large company). It was suggested that it might be better to think about putting communications on a more sustainable footing. Right now, there are too many opportunities for things to go wrong.

Mary, Simon and Kevin W will continue to refine their proposal and plan to share it at the October Members Meeting with the hope of finding individuals interested in getting involved.

F. New Spin Bikes

Bobby reported that a hard-core biker complained about out two current spin bikes (problems with the gears, pedals, etc). Bobby plans to take them out of service. He and the biker are investigating alternatives and intend to come back to the Board with a budget request.

G. Locker and Waitlist

Matt asked for this item to be deferred.

H. Building Update

George submitted a report in advance that can be found here:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Building-September-2021-Update-Google-Docs.pdf>

He reported that he received a positive response to his written report and intends to continue this practice going forward.

I. Managing the Club Calendar

Betty Jean acknowledged that enthusiasm for reopening and summer resulted in a recent quadruple booking. It was unfortunate and won't happen again (actually there is still one double booking on the books and then we're done).

George (whose day of service was stepped on) pointed out that all events don't have to be competitive. Being a glass half-full kind of guy, George suggests that we look at these situations as opportunities to complement and assist one another.

J. ABC Permits

After some discussion, the Board authorized (14 – 1 – 0) Josh to spend ~~approximately up to~~ -\$9050 to ~~secure-acquire~~ a 2021 alcohol permit. Josh will coordinate with Steve Matthias regarding the best way to acquire the permit.