

October 19, 2021
South End Rowing Club
Membership Meeting Minutes

Roll call:

Approximately 84 members attended the virtual meeting.

President's Remarks

Simon welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending. He noted that while Covid made 2021 another tough year each sport found creative ways to engage and deliver value and fun to the members. He thanked everybody for observing the various Covid related restrictions and complying with the various mandates.

A. Reopening

George walked the membership through his reopening report:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Reopening-presentation-SERC.pdf>

The report included a timeline that begin with the closure of the Club and captured each subsequent milestone on the road to reopening. He noted that Club safety depends on vaccinations, the use of masks and maximum ventilation.

The next developments will include resuming day use (per our lease) and guests. We will require day users and guests to be fully vaccinated and to adhere to all of the Club's Covid mandates.

George concluded by thanking all of the members who have cycled through the reopening committee over the last 18 months and the many members who served as monitors during the initial reopening. George deserves the special distinction of being the only person to stay on the reopening committee from day one!

B. Treasurer

Laura noted that the commissioners have done a great job of living within their budgets. This along with the success of the Alcatraz Invitational (where we cleared \$50k) will allow us to finish 2021 in much better position than the previous year.

Simon thanked Laura for everything she has done as treasurer and for ensuring a successful Invitational.

C. Handball

Juan Carlos thanked everybody for the opportunity to be handball commissioner. He walked the assembled group through his report:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Handball-Report-2021.pdf>

Obviously it was disappointing that there were no tournaments in 2021 but he's sure that will be cured in 2022. He noted that our tournaments pull competitors from all over the country including Los Angeles and Oregon.

He shared his plans to create a plaque that recognizes South Enders who have achieved national recognition in the sport. He also shared his plans for another air purifier to help mitigate Covid.

D. Swimming

Fran noted that it was an unusual year but nonetheless, numerous swims (both Club and individual) were completed. She credited this year's success to her team: Erika Shanahan Glieb, Suzanne Greva, Zach Margolis and Vanessa Lea.

Fran prepared a multi-media presentation for those on the call:

http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SERC-Swimming-2021_illustrated_v3_Aug2021_final.pdf

The presentation highlighted each swim, the many volunteer roles required to put on those swims and noted some of the accomplishments of individual swimmers in 2021.

Covid catalyzed some new activities such as virtual saunas and swimming specific patterns made visible using GPS tracking. No doubt some of these activities will remain in our quiver long after Covid is gone (which can't happen soon enough).

E. Rowing and Boat House

Dennis gave the group the grand tour of the many accomplishments of the rowing program in 2021 and the fantastic state of the fleet:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Boathouse-and-Rowing-Report-2021.pptx>

Despite the pandemic, the rowers were able to conduct two clinics and two regattas not to mention crushing the Interclub Tri! Dennis promised more of the same in 2022.

He explained how the pandemic has forced boat night to become decentralized over different times and this has allowed more people to participate. Its become common for 15 people to work on the boats each week!

As noted above the fleet in the better shape than anyone can remember with every boat being seaworthy and getting used! If that weren't enough, new dollies have been produced and the dock has been improved. Dennis and his crew are rightfully proud of their accomplishments.

F. Running

Van demonstrated the vitality the running program with another multi-media presentation:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SERC-Running-2021-members-meeting.pdf>

Highlights include six Club runs already completed with three more queued up. (Note from Secretary: If you're not a runner, then perhaps the upcoming Halloween Shuffle is your ticket.)

Alan Luong, not content to make GPS patterns in the water, ran a marathon in the City that spelled "SERC Marathon"! Could this creativity be a previously unrecognized effect of long Covid?

Van encouraged everybody to lace up their sneakers and find the perfect run and running buddy.

G. Building

George, when he wasn't working on reopening, managed to continue to improve the state of our facilities:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Building-presentation-SERC.pdf>

He explained his philosophy (triage, maintenance and wish list) and used the shutdown to: address long standing issues in the men's locker room, the old stair cases, repaint the exterior and handball court bleachers, install new gutters and downspouts, address dry rot at the sauna window and some of the siding, resurface the cook shack floor and upgrade the electrical. George was quick to point out that he didn't do all of this himself but rather we all benefited from the numerous hard working, talented volunteers who played critical roles in all of these projects.

George asked people to get involved in the care of their Club, to recycle and to save water.

H. Membership

Adele reported that membership has surged to 1,500! This includes 380 new members in 2021.

As part of the 2021 renewal process, members donated \$20k to the Club that was used to assist “a ton” of members who were struggling financially with the cost of renewal.

She noted that 2022 renewals will open soon and thanked everybody who has helped her in 2021.

I. Dog Guidelines

Several months ago, George brought dog guidelines to the Board:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Dog-Policy-3.pdf>

The Board provisionally supported the guidelines with the condition that they be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.

George presented the guidelines and they were accepted without controversy by those in attendance.

J. Diversity Committee

Edd Paterson reported on the work of the diversity committee that was formed 10 months ago. The seven person committee feels that it is making progress including: changes to the website, a plaque at the front door, conducting a training session for the Board, establishing achievable goals and reaching out to underrepresented communities.

Edd was quick to point out that this is a marathon and not a sprint. The committee will be accepting new members in 2022.

He closed by committing to increase diversity at the Club.

K. Getting Involved

Kevin W shared his perspective that Board service is a box that should be checked by everyone who has life membership in his or her sights. He noted that the current president and secretary are termed out along with a number of the current commissioners. As always, two director at large positions will be up for grabs.

If you think you might be interested, he suggested reaching out the current occupant of the position to learn more or talk to Kevin or Simon.

Statements of interest should be mailed to SERCElection@gmail.com by November 15th.

He also noted that many sport commissioners have created teams to help administer the program. So even if you don't want to be the commissioner, perhaps you can become part of a team.

He expressed an interest in recruiting members with experience in communications or IT to support the Club. If you have relevant experience, please reach out to Kevin.

Lastly, he thanked Susan W and Jefferson for stepping up in a big way during the pandemic.

Holiday Party

Betty Jean noted that the holiday party will take place on the first Saturday in December. Masks and vaccinations will be required. There won't be parking on Jefferson and we expect the party to take place outside (no sit down dinner). More like the post Tri BBQ.

Everybody thanked Betty Jean and Al for stepping up to cater the Invitational. Their effort was largely responsible for our financial success.

Conclusion

Simon thanked everybody for making 2021 such a memorable year in spite of the obstacles. He expressed his gratitude to be part of such a great community. He invited members who wanted to continue the conversation to reach out to him at president@serc.com.

The 2021 Membership Meeting adjourned.