

October 12, 2022
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Present	Member	Present
F. Hegeler	X	C. Lovazzano	X
K. Whalen	X	M. Lee	
J. Sale	X	V. Blyth Marlin	X
B. Ip		S. Harrison	X
A. Marduel	X	Z. Margolis	X
M. Riley	X	E. Young	X
K. Buckholtz	X	S. Kenvin	X
S. Dominguez	X	L. Hovden	X
D. Puglisi	X		
G. Lazaneo	X	S. Wintersteen	X

Approval of Minutes

The September 2022 Board minutes were approved (13 – 0 – 1). The October 2022 Special Meeting minutes were approved (13 – 0 - 1).

President’s Remarks

Fran welcomed the non-board members in attendance.

She congratulated Nancy Iverson on pulling off another Pathstar.

Fran called attention to accomplishments of Maya Merhige the youngest swimmer to complete Catalina and the Tahoe Triple Crown. Maya has raised tens of thousands for Swim Across America which supports curing cancer. Maya and her father train at the South End.

Members who are interested in serving on the Board should send a brief candidate statement and small photo to sercelection@gmail.com. Two director at large and the VP positions are in play. Existing Board members are encouraged to be available to answer questions from people considering running for election.

Fran and Kevin W. reminded commissioners who aren't planning to return in 2023 that now is the time to find their successor.

Fran noted that historically all Board meetings were conducted in person but that during the pandemic driven Club closure we switched to Zoom. When the Club reopened we experimented with hybrid meetings but, for numerous reasons, that didn't work as well as in person meetings. Since returning to in person meetings, some members have commented on their desire for the transparency that was available when meetings were online. As a compromise, Fran suggested that draft Board minutes be made available to the membership, which allows those interested but unable to attend the board meeting to know what happened without having to wait a full month for approved minutes. Procedurally this will work as follows: the Secretary will circulate draft minutes to the Board; Board members will have 4 days to review and comment on the draft minutes after which the draft minutes will be published to the Club's website. Board members may continue to review and comment on the draft minutes up to the next Board meeting at which point they will be approved and the final version of the minutes will replace the draft version on the Club website and be posted at the front door of the Club. This arrangement should be evaluated after several months.

Finally, Fran described the hard work being performed by SERC and the Dolphin Club on the Port's Waterfront Plan to ensure that open water swimming and rowing (human powered vessels) are better represented and protected in the plan. We've gotten the Port to make some changes to the Plan and hope that additional amendments are possible. Its unclear if this effort will be sufficient to get the City to update the EIR that's been prepared.

Members Moment

None.

A. Membership Vacancy

Fran announced that Catherine Lovazzano has agreed to be our new membership commissioner. Catherine has been a member since 2007. She's a rower, mentors new rowers and helps keep our boats in tiptop shape. When she's not at the Club, she engages in strategic negotiation at her place of work. Kevin W. and Adele Gower will show Catherine how the membership process works. She was affirmed in her position by acclamation (16 – 0 – 0).

B. Athletic Achievement Night

Simon noted the abundance of fantastic athletes at the club. That some sports have plaques to recognize achievements and some don't. Those sports that have plaques are hit and miss about keeping them up to date.

Simon proposed an annual Plaque Night (or perhaps Athletic Achievement Night) where all of the achievements since the previous Plaque Night can be recognized. He suggested that the cutoff occur in mid-October of each year and that the Night take place in November adjacent to one of the Club's Friday night socials. This would give each sport time to have the little medals prepared for installation on the plaque.

The Board was supportive of Simon's suggestion and while no vote was taken, the clear sense of the meeting was that Simon should work with the appropriate commissioners to make this happen. The event is tentatively scheduled for November 11 – to be confirmed.

While not directly related to this agenda item, the conversation segued to the Club calendar and the monthly event email blast. Claire Stein was present and asked for event details to be provided to her by the 17th of each month.

C. Acquire Costal Quad

Vanessa explained the rowing programs desire to purchase a new type of boat: Swift Elist Plus Coastal 4+. She explained that these boats are more stable than a shell but faster than a wooden. They're

good for training new rowers and retraining college rowers who are used to sweep (one oar). These types of boats are rentable so rowers can compete in regattas in other cities and countries.

Vanessa says that space has been found in the boathouse for the new boat.

All in the new boat will cost \$26,620 and she asked the Board to fund ½ with the rowing community fundraising the remainder. She would like to order it now so they have it in time for the 150th.

Dennis passed around the 2022 rowing budget along with YTD actuals. So far, the program is under budget.

The Board voted (16 – 0 – 0) to support the purchase of the new boat as requested.

D. 2022 Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting is coming up on October 27th at 6:00pm. Fran circulated a draft agenda for the meeting. It will include the state of the club (President, Treasurer, Membership), state of each sport plus updates from the 150th and 1873 committees.

Kevin agreed to be the coordinator for a common PowerPoint deck. If you plan to use a deck to share your report, please get Kevin your slides by October 24th.

Fran would like each Board member to wear a name tag at the meeting. Dinner will be provided.

Mary said she will organize a tour for new members that will occur adjacent to the meeting.

E. 1873 Fund

Susan Blew reported that the committee's original intent to ask for approval of the Fund's bylaws at this meeting has been postponed.

There is still more work to do before we are ready, and the committee plans to return in November for bylaw approval.

Susan explained the difference between a 501(c)(3) (the fund) vs a 501(c)(4) (the club). For our purposes, the primary difference is that a 501(c)(3) can accept tax deductible contributions. This can be a tremendous benefit when fundraising but everybody (including the donors) needs to be clear that money donated to the Fund can only be used for limited purposes (e.g., the maintenance of the building, educational purposes). Many donors want to donate for a specific purpose (e.g., the purchase of a new boat) but this only works if the purpose is consistent with the mission of the Fund. Susan shared the need for clear language about this distinction that can be shared with potential donors.

To address the evolving needs of the Club (after all, we might be around for another 150 years), the committee will make the purposes as broad as possible.

To get and maintain 501(c)(3) status, the Fund needs to maintain an arm's length relationship with the Club. This is spelled out in the draft bylaws and will be clarified further by November.

It will take 18 to 24 months after filing to get IRS approval. During that period we can accept pledges but not donations.

Susan explained that the committee has spent \$10,350 to date and that additional expenditures will be forthcoming. She estimates that the Fund will cost about \$15k/year to operate (e.g., tax preparation, accounting, etc).

Susan was uncertain if donations to the Fund would be subject to the 10% share to the City per our lease but said she would investigate.

Susan closed by reminding the Board how tenuous our finances were following the building project. We're back on stable footing now, but things could change quickly (another pandemic, earthquake, etc).

Susan also reminded the Board how critical the Fund could be to the Club in weathering some unforeseen future storm.

F. 150th Committee

Erika Gliebe reported that a ton of planning has gone into the Club's upcoming anniversary. Each sport will have a role.

The committee is asking for \$15k to fund a number of activities over the course of 2023. The committee plans to recoup some or all of those expenses by restarting the brick program (Melissa Blaustein has agreed to lead this). Some of the items have long lead times so the committee needs to pull the trigger now without knowing the results of brick sales.

Some of the activities are designed to overlay on events we already plan at the club and others are new. Events planned so far include: hosting a champagne brunch following the NYD swim, celebratory SERC 150 pennants at the 7 different sites around the City where the club has been located starting with the original home of the Club at Oracle arena, the annual blessing of the fleet at the Corinthian yacht club, etc.

The committee will provide monthly reports to the Board as the plan gets further developed and refined.

It was suggested that the pennants could be auctioned off at the end of the year as another way to defray the costs of creating them.

The Board voted (16 – 0 – 0) to support the request.

G. Covid Policies

George reminded the Board that he was first appointed to his position as Building Commissioner one month before the Club was closed for the pandemic. That he had helped close the Club and then reopen the Club. All these actions were guided by a desire to remain consistent with the guidance or requirements emanating from the government (CDC, SF, Rec and Parks).

He also reminded the Board how we had reopened with volunteer monitors, wrist bands, PPE, etc, etc. In some ways it seems so long ago!

George then went on to say that it was time to revisit our Covid policies and again bring them into line with government recommendations. He believed enough people in our area have either had Covid or been vaccinated to achieve local herd immunity.

He offered the following motion:

The South End Rowing Club, in alignment with Federal, State, and Local guidance is transitioning from enforced policy to advisories regarding the use of the club relevant to covid (Covid 19, coronavirus, et al).

- 1) Vaccinations (with boosters) are recommended but not required for both members & guests to enter and use the club.*
- 2) Masks are optional but recommended in confined spaces. (Be gracious in shared spaces)*
- 3) The club will cease contact tracing.*
- 4) Don't come to the club if you feel sick or have recently tested positive.*

He agreed to continue to provide outside facilities (showers and changing area) for members who feel uncomfortable using the indoor facilities.

Finally, he noted that none of this will stop arguments in the sauna.

George's motion was passed (14 – 2 – 0).

H. DC Expansion

Fran updated the Board on the state of the proposed Dolphin Club expansion. There are two parallel courses of action underway.

The DC have taken down the story poles (which demarked the proposed deck structure atop their gym) and have submitted plans (with a full-size deck) to the City for approval. We have hired a top-notch land use attorney to represent our Club and guide us through the process of objecting to the deck.

Simultaneously, the two clubs are engaged in a City-sponsored mediation process that involves both the Planning Department and Rec and Park. The hope is that we can arrive at a negotiated solution that all parties can find acceptable and that will avoid a protracted and expensive pitch battle. There have been two meetings thus far (one with all parties and a second separate meeting with each party). The City has expressed confidence that a negotiated solution can be found.

The Board adjourned into closed session to continue discussion of this topic.

Adjournment

The Board then adjourned to a cena magnífica courtesy of Kevin B.

