

## **October 27, 2022**

### **South End Rowing Club**

### **Membership Meeting Minutes**

#### **Roll call**

Approximately 100 members attended the in-person meeting.

#### **Slide Deck**

The meeting was supported by a slide deck that can be viewed here:

<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Members-Meeting-Slides-2022.pdf>

#### **President's Remarks**

Fran opened the meeting by thanking all of the members who had taken the time to show up. She also thanked everybody who has volunteered at the Club over the last year. To drive the point home, she asked for a show of hands of who had volunteered and it seemed like every hand in the room went up. We are the South End!

Fran singled out past president, inventor of happy hour and woman's handball and the kitty committee Kim Howard. She announced that Kim has made herself available to explain the story poles that have been reposted at the Dolphin Club. We love our Dolphin neighbors but everyone at the South End should understand what's being proposed.

Her presidentness reminded those assembled how Covid inhibited our ability to get together as a group and she then went on to remind us of the beautiful Celebration of Life organized by our own Cy Lo. Mahalo Cy!

Past president Simon is kicking off what he hopes will be a new annual tradition: Plaque Night (don't tell your dental hygienist). This will be an opportunity to recognize the achievements of our members over the last year and to install medals on the various plaques that festoon our Club. The inaugural plaque night will be Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **A. Club Secretary**

Fran announced that Secretary Dominica Donovan had resigned a few months ago. She thanked Dominica for her service and announced that she had asked past Secretary Josh Sale to replace Dominica. This news was greeted with the same glee as a cable channel dedicated to reruns of Mr. Ed and Gilligan's Island, but when the membership got over it, Josh was unanimously confirmed.

### **B. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary    May 5<sup>th</sup> 1873 – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Erika Gliebe said that we didn't look too bad for a bunch of 150 year olds and then proceeded to wow the crowd with the many ways that this milestone will be recognized including:

Original pennants that will hang from light standards at the Club's previous locations and around Aquatic Park.

Special additions to the NYD swim.

Recognition of Joan Brown in conjunction with SFMOMA.

A special Club social in March (women's history month) honoring our founding women.

A (did she really say this?) 150k running event.

A run/row/swim from the Club's original location.

Plus overlays for regular events such as the annual blessing of the fleet, Bondi visit, the Invitational and our holiday party.

The Board has authorized expenditures for these activities, but to defray the costs, the 150<sup>th</sup> committee will be restarting the brick program. This is your opportunity to leave a lasting mark at your Club! There may even be opportunities to purchase the original pennants when they come down!

All of this ideation and implementation doesn't just happen it takes (wait have you already heard this?) committed volunteers. Let's recognize Joe Butler, Mary Riley, Liz Young, Susan Blew, Lee Bender, Allen Luong, Bob Barde, Pat Cunneen, Melissa Blaustein, Robert Guise and of course Erika for all of their efforts.



Courtesy Allen Luong

### C. 501(c)(3) 1873 Fund

Former Treasurer Susan Blew shared the progress of the 501(c)(3) committee towards the creation of a new subsidiary corporate entity to the South End.

She explained that the South End is organized as a 501(c)(4). While we are a not for profit organization, because of the range of our activities we don't qualify to be a charitable organization. The main advantage of being a charitable organization is the ability to fundraise. Donations to charitable organizations are tax deductible to the donor. Charitable organizations are also eligible for other sources of money such as employer matches of employee contributions.

Susan explained that while we don't currently have a specific fundraising objective, there are major projects on the horizon (e.g., replacement of the dock and a foundation for the upper boat house) not to mention the potential for reconstruction following an earthquake or preparing for sea level rise.

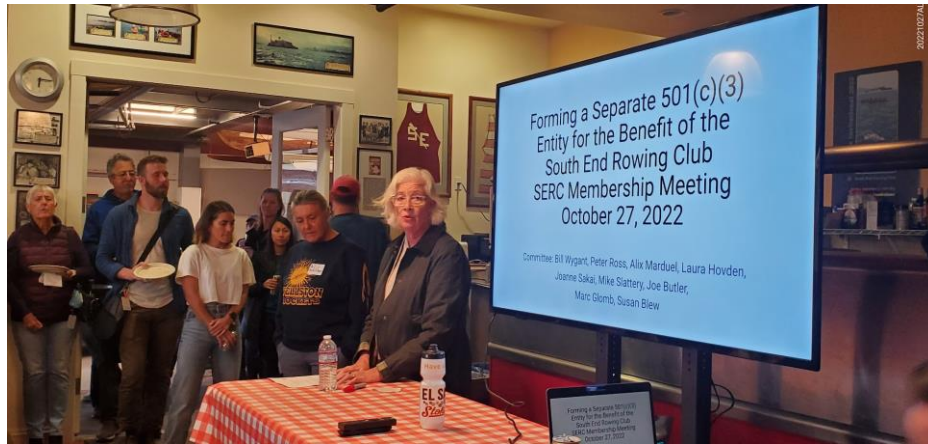
The committee has been working on this project for almost 2.5 years and the pace of progress has accelerated this year with the goal of filing with the IRS and state of California this year. They've selected a name (1873 Fund), spent around \$10k with an attorney who specializes in this area, had many conversations with the Dolphins (who have already created a 501(c)(3)) and drafted bylaws for the new entity.

The IRS rules governing these organizations require that the 501(c)(3) have an arm's length relationship from the parent organization (SERC). So getting all of the details associated with governance right is time consuming.

All Club members need to recognize that the creation of the 1873 Fund won't change the South End. We roll on as we have for the past 150 years! The only difference is that in addition to receiving funds from dues, locker fees and the Invitational, we'll now have the possibility of receiving grants to support certain qualified activities (like replacement of the dock or hardening the facility against sea level rise) from the Fund.

The 1873 Fund will be an important part of the Club's future. Expect to hear more in 2023.

If you have questions (or just feel the need to thank someone for their efforts on behalf of the Club), please reach out to the committee: Bill Wygant, Peter Ross, Alix Marduel, Laura Hovden, Joanne Sakai, Mike Slattery, Joe Butler, Marc Glomb and Susan Blew.



Courtesy Allen Luong

#### **D. Bylaw and Articles of Incorporation**

Josh reminded the group that three years ago they reviewed and approved a major update to the Club's bylaws. In the intervening years, those bylaws and associated Procedures Manual have served the Club well.

The IRS will be reviewing our bylaws and articles of incorporation when we file for our 501(c)(3). When we reviewed our articles of incorporation we discovered that they are ancient (1903), have expired (they were only good for 50 years) and specified the incorrect number of Board members (we've grown the Board since the articles were written). Our updated articles correct the number of Board members and have no expiration.

Our old bylaws were missing a few words that are of technical importance to the IRS but have no practical significance to the operation of the Club. Since we were opening the bylaws for revision, the Board made three other minor changes:

There was no policy for changing the articles of incorporation. Changes to the articles will be handled like changes to the bylaws.

The language for dealing with the resignation of an appointed Board member was only clear following a careful read. That scenario is now clearly described.

Lastly there was no minimum membership requirement for appointed Board members. The Board has learned from experience that a one year minimum is appropriate.

The changes to the articles of incorporation and bylaws were unanimously recommended to the membership by the Board and were unanimously accepted by the membership at the 2022 Membership Meeting.



Courtesy Allen Luong

## E. Treasurer's Report

In Laura's absence, Kevin Whalen demonstrated that being an excellent running commissioner, membership commissioner and VP isn't necessarily a predictor of interest in spreadsheets. He shared that the Club is in good financial condition, that we made \$56k from the Invitational and that guest fees brought in \$15k.

All sports programs are operating within their budgets. Major expenses include the purchase of cool new boats, legal startup expenses for the 1873 Fund, the Celebration of Life, front door security required by COVID and the water safety class.

Our cash reserves have held steady since pre-COVID.

Please help reduce costs by keeping sand out of the locker rooms!

There was a question about the possibility of allowing Venmo to be used for the payment of guest fees? Kevin said that he thought it was a good idea and worth exploring. We're going to be dragged kicking and screaming into the 20<sup>th</sup> century (yes that's the 20<sup>th</sup> century).

## **F. Membership**

New membership commissioner Catherine Lovazzano introduced herself to the throng. She may be new to the position but isn't new to the Club (been a rower and swimmer since 2007).

She broke down the numbers as follows:

- Total members: 1801
- Renewing members: 1,464
- New members (since 12/2021): 337
- Life Members: 75 (plus +/- 50 not online)
- Out of town members: 133

She noted that after the Covid dip in membership, we're back to our pre-Covid highwater mark.

Onboarding new members remains a challenge and she reminded those present of the value in showing new folks the ropes. She also suggested that the best new members are your best friends ... so bring them down to the Club.

Catherine was asked what demographic info we have about our membership. She explained it was limited to gender and age. A suggestion was made to conduct a census of the membership to collect additional information. This catalyzed a lively discussion about what kind of information would be collected, privacy and purpose. Catherine explained that she has professional experience with surveys and could assist such an effort, but that the initiative would have to come from the membership.



Courtesy Allen Luong

## G. Swimming

Zach is not only a very fast swimmer, but also a fast presenter covering an amazing number of slides in a brief amount of time. Including:

- 18 club and 27 sunrisers so far
- 3 kayak clinics
- 2 piloting classes
- 13 stroke clinics
- a first ever water safety class
- 14 volunteers who in various ways support the swim program
- New equipment for the piloting program and the dedication of one of the inflatables to Bill James
- A crazy number of Big Swims broken down geographically (Bay area, northern California, the Southwest, Hawaii, English Channel and the rest of the world ... so far no swims on other planets)

It's been a big year for swimming.





Courtesy Allen Luong

## H. Rowing

Vanessa made it clear that rowing also had a big year! In addition to conducting the four traditional regattas, the rowers added 17 new rowers and a cox. She thanked race directors Nancy Sorrell, Will Newby, Diane Davis and barge captain Elena Keamy.

For the very first time, we launched two barges in the interclub Tri. How did they do? First and second of course! 14 rowers also participated in the swim event. The whole rowing community put a lot of work into this year's Tri and the results showed!

Besides helping the Club win the Tri, Vanessa remarked on the close team that developed over the months of preparation leading up to the event.

When we weren't trouncing our neighbors, Vanessa noted that we also had a lot of fun with them including: Friday fun rows and breakfast, the North Tahoe regatta and the Open Ocean regatta in Sausalito.

Like Fran, Vanessa remarked on the emotional significance of participating in the Celebration of Life that Cy organized.

Our Boat House Captain (and artist extraordinaire) injected into the conversation that over the last year, 37 members had helped do all the large and small things necessary to keep the fleet in the tiptop

shape. Its amazing to come into the Club and see a completely empty boat house when all the boats are on the water.

Vanessa announced the purchase of a 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

She rounded out her presentation by noting how much work it takes to have fun and that being rowing commissioner has been the best experience of her life!



Courtesy Allen Luong

## I. Handball

Past commissioner Juan Carlos declared that handball is the best sport!

Handball is addictive!

There is no better place than the South End to play handball!

Because of its nature, it has taken handball a long time to return to normal, but slowly, starting in March that started happening. They conducted their first tournament in May (Cinco de Mayo) and happily nobody got sick.

In order to encourage reentry to the courts, Juan Carlos has been personally coaching members. They are looking at hosting a pro tournament this March that would bring in top players from around the world.

Tom McGraff recently won a national tournament in Arizona he competed in.

Juan Carlos thanked past president Simon for his support during Covid. For his part, Simon applauded Juan Carlos for keeping his community together during those rough years where the Club couldn't offer much to the handball community.



Courtesy Allen Luong

## **J. Gym**

Kevin Whalen demonstrated the same easy facility with gym equipment as he did earlier in the evening with spreadsheets. He told us about futuristic treadmill machines and wowed us with tales of upcoming running, gym, swim collabs.

## **K. Running**

Unfortunately for us, Sydelle was off doing an Iron Woman and left her presentation in the hands of (drumroll) ... Kevin. Luckily for us, Sydelle left Kevin with lots of slides of smiling runners. Valentines, Presidio, Celebration of Life, Boitano, Half Marathon, Top of Tam,

Leidesdorff Loop seemingly the only place they don't run is on the water (maybe next year?).

But wait, the year isn't over! There's still time for the Halloween bar crawl and the Bolinas 50k run ... the morning after Plaque Night (what could go wrong?).

Those in attendance wowed by the accomplishments of 11 members who ran half marathons, marathons, ultra-marathons, endurance runs and other exhausting distances that have yet to be named.



Courtesy Allen Luong

### **Holiday Party**

Elizabeth announced that this year's holiday party will take place on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. The theme is *Under the Sea* (like when you fall out of the shell that you're rowing). It's going to be great, so get your tickets and also keep your eyes peeled for the volunteer signup.



Courtesy Allen Luong

## Elections

Election Manager Sue Free announced the three open positions (VP and two director at large). Interested candidates should send their (max) 150 word statements and 150 pixel photo to [serselection@gmail.com](mailto:serselection@gmail.com) by November 15th.

## The 2022 Membership Meeting adjourned.



Courtesy Allen Luong