

January 11, 2023
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Present		Member	Present
F. Hegeler	X		C. Lovazzano	X
C. Bump	X		A. Diaz	X
J. Sale	X		V. Blyth Marlin	X
B. Ip	X		T. Nguyen	X
A. Marduel			Z. Margolis	X
J. Li	X		E. Gliebe	X
G. Lazaneo	X		P. Mulvihill	X
S. Dominguez			L. Hovden	
D. Puglisi	X			
S. Fillipow			S. Wintersteen	

Approval of Minutes

The December 2022 Board minutes were approved (13 – 0 – 1).

President’s Remarks

Fran welcomed the new board to the new year and not just any new year ... indeed the Club’s 150th anniversary.

Because of members participation in multiple sports combined with the fact that members use the club at different times of day, its easy to not encounter our fellow members. But one of the great things about serving on the board is the benefit of all of us meeting in person and breaking bread together.

She observed that some board members are elected, others are appointed by her, while others are selected by specific constituencies (e.g., rowing or handball players). She challenged each of us, that no matter how we were selected to serve on the board, no matter what our sports are, to leave our parochial interests at the door and instead wear our big South End hats when serving on the board.

As Club leaders, Fran reminded each of us to lead by example, to model the type of behavior we want to see from our fellow Club members.

Fran posited that over the course of the year we may face challenging issues. She reminded us that even when there is a disagreement, we should always assume good intentions from our fellow board members.

Last year's board conducted a retreat that Fran thought was useful but might have benefited from better follow-up. This year she would like to schedule two retreats spaced out over the year. She'll be sending out a Doodle to identify the best dates.

Last year's board received a number of updates on the Port's Waterfront Plan. This plan will guide development along the City's waterfront for the next 30 years. Unfortunately, the plan paid scant attention to human powered bay recreation. A group of South Enders and Dolphins have been meeting with Port staff to try and get better language inserted into the final version of the EIR. We had some success, but the Port was trying to limit changes to avoid triggering recirculation of the EIR. The next public meeting will be January 24th. As a result of the conversations with the Port, the South End and Dolphins will begin participating in the Northern and Fisherman's Wharf Port Advisory Committees. It's at these Committees where stakeholders have a chance to review and comment on proposed developments.

Fran reminded the group what a success December's Muni Pier rally was. It received lots of press and put the Pier on Federal funder's radar. We will be working with the Park Superintendent and Supervisors Peskin and Stefani to keep the process moving forward.

The 1873 fund (our 501(c)(3)) has been filed with the IRS. Its initial board has been selected and will have responsibility to make the fund operational while we await governmental approval. The initial

board is: Sue Free, Kevin Buckholtz, Susan Blew, Van Cornwell and Marc Glomb.

Members Moment

27 year member Tom Pier addressed the board regarding the state of the Frank Coghlan plaque. Tom explained that when he joined the Club, Frank was one of his mentors. Frank had many accomplishments but Tom highlighted the fact that Frank was the first person to swim the Brooklyn and Golden Gate Bridges on the same day!

In the past, Tom has written to individual Board members about the fact that Coghlan plaque has fallen into disrepair but nothing came of it. Given Coghlan's place in Club history, Tom would like to see the plaque rehabilitated and Tom is willing to bear the cost of the work.

The Board thanked Tom for coming to the meeting and bringing this to our attention.

A. Confirmation of 2023 commissioners

For the first time in memory, we had the good fortune of having two candidates applying for a single position (gym commissioner). At Fran's request, Josh led the Board through the confirmation process.

Fran was asked to nominate individuals to each of the nine uncontested positions. She nominated: Erika Gliebe for entertainment, Thierry Nguyen for running, Steve Phillipow for building, Catherine Lovazzano for membership, Vanessa Blyth Marlin for rowing, Zach Margolis for swimming, Dennis Puglisi for boat house captain, Adan Diaz for handball and Laura Hovden as treasurer. The board voted (6 – 0 – 0) to appoint those individuals.

Fran then nominated Pete Mulvihill for gym and 2022 gym commissioner Seth Kenvin nominated himself. Both of these candidates were given a few minutes to speak on their own behalf. Each eloquently explained their history with the Club, vision for the gym, and why they wanted the position. Ballots were distributed,

counted and the results announced: Pete Mulvihill will be our 2023 gym commissioner. The board thanked Seth for last year's service.

B. Membership renewal

Catherine stated that 697 members have renewed on SportsEngine and about 25 using personal checks. She said this is pretty normal for this point in the process.

There have been multiple emails sent out that include the renewal link and more will be sent out in the future. Some members have complained about not getting the emails, so she asked each of us to talk to our mates at the Club and make sure they've renewed.

C. Quad fundraiser

Vanessa reminded the board that last year the rowing program purchased a new coastal quad. This type of boat is new to our fleet and is expected to arrive in April ... in time for most of the 150th festivities.

Vanessa's agreement with the board was that the rowers would raise \$13,250 of the purchase price. In December the rowers held a fundraiser that grossed \$17k and netted \$16,427!

Vanessa said she and the other rowers were touched by the support from the Club's swim community. In response, the rowers are going to redouble their effort to get out and support Club swims and sunrisers.

D. Budget kickoff

Laura was unable to attend but sent this message:

It's time to begin the budget planning for 2023. I will be getting the past years expense numbers for you to use for your budgeting process. If you are new to this process, please talk to the person who had the position previously. We will try to have a draft budget by the next meeting. Please think about how your activity can help raise money so each activity supports itself as much as possible.

E. Permanent hot showers

George came to us with what he described as his last item as outgoing building commissioner. He reminded the Board that Brandon Henderson had addressed the Board last year on the benefits of replacing the current temporary outdoor hot showers with permanent ones. George also reminded the Board that the Dolphins have had hot showers for a long time (maybe we should just go over there to shower?).

George and his team identified two alternative approaches for providing this amenity:

Tap into the Club's existing boiler. This is the less expensive (\$3k to \$5k) solution but has the disadvantage of putting another demand on a hot water system that is already over committed during peak periods.

Install a new on demand hot water heater for the outdoor showers. This is the more expensive (\$8k to \$10k) approach but has the advantage of not straining the existing hot water system and can also improve hot water delivery to the dish washer. Brandon has promised to crowdsource 50% of the cost of this approach.

The board voted (14 – 0 – 0) to support the second alternative. George will return at a future meeting with more specifics (e.g., location of the new showers).

F. 150th anniversary

Erika asked commissioners to reach out to her with anything that should go on the Club calendar. Putting events on the calendar will also get them included on the Club's monthly newsletter.

Erika said that our full year of 150th festivities was kicked off with the NY day swim (champagne, cake and a special key chain). She ticked

off events too numerous to list culminating in a crescendo in May (don't plan any trips in May)!

She reported that Fran had worked a little magic and was able to secure us the Maritime Museum at a nominal cost for a gala event.

18 bricks have been sold.

Bob Barde is doing daily postings to the Google Group and Allen Luong will be posting video's every other week.

G. Member survey

Catherine reminded the group that the idea of doing a survey of our membership came up at the 2022 Members Meeting. Luckily for the Club, Catherine has some expertise in this area. Catherine has partnered with Ray Crist with support from Bob Barde and Kim Howard Peinado on this project.

The team is coming up with goals for the survey (e.g, demographics, interests, wishes for the next 150 years, what's missing/blocking us, etc.).

The team is being very careful about how they launch the survey, will be using professional survey tools and is being quite intentional with their language.

She was asked what she knew about the last such survey conducted by the Club some years ago and why it had such a low response rate? Catherine noted that unless you pay people to take the survey (which we're not going to do) you shouldn't expect a very high response rate.

Catherine shared some thoughts she had for ensuring the survey reaches as broad an audience as possible, including reaching out to old timers who might be less computer focused.

H. Member complaint

The board went into closed session to consider a complaint between two members.

I. Complaint against a former member

The board continued in closed session to consider a complaint against a former member.

J. DC expansion

The board continued in closed session for an update on the proposed expansion at the Dolphin Club.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to a yummy Mediterranean dinner catered by the president, VP, treasurer and secretary.