

February 8, 2023
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

The January 2023 Board minutes were approved (10 – 0 – 2).

Vice President’s Remarks

Cathy remarked that with Fran’s absence, she has been thrust into the position of chair on her second meeting. She asked everybody to be nice to her. While it’s not possible to read minds, we think that everybody in the room was thinking about how they treated their substitute teachers.

Cathy shared that Hyde Street Pier will be closed to some extent from February 13th to the 22nd while they move two buildings. This means that we won’t have access thru our side gate during that period. The Hyde St activities won’t have impact water-based activity.

She reported on the recent MAX_415 event. Several SERC board members as well as a diverse set of our membership turned out. The event was successful and everybody who participated felt great about the experience.

Lastly Cathy asked each board member to review the by laws and procedures (which can be found on the Board of Directors page of the Club website) to appreciate the duties associated with their office.

Members Moment

None.

A. Swim Across America

In Steven Hurwitz's absence, Laura explained that Steve wanted to gain the Board's approval to use the Club's inflatables and kayaks for the 2023 SAA event. There was a brief discussion about how SAA and Pathstar became the two non-Club events able to utilize Club facilities followed by a vote (12 – 0 – 0) to grant the request.

B. Renewal of insurance

Dave Santos (via speaker phone) walked the Board through the Club's nine insurance policies. These policies cover the building, liability, out boats, the board and works comp. Costs have increased across the board. The company that insures our dock declined to renew the policy but Dave is appealing the decision.

Erika pointed out that because of the planned increase in club socials, we expected alcohol-related revenue to increase. Dave said this will probably result in about a \$1,500 increase in premium.

A motion was made to renew all of the policies including the increase associated with the expected jump in alcohol related income and to accept what Dave is able to get us for dock coverage. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Dave for his efforts on behalf of the Club!

C. Founding Women's Photo Project

Erika reported on the effort to finally, visibly recognize the struggle for women to join the Club. She shared a brief presentation

(<http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/founding-women-wall-sampling.pptx>) that was put together by a committee that includes Shannon Raintree and Cathy.

The project proposes to relocate some of the photos in the hallway leading into the dayroom to create a space dedicated to the litigants and founding women (two groups with some overlap). The display area will contain some language explaining the significance of the display and have many historic photos, articles and even some art of the women who forever changed the Club. It was pointed out that in addition to opening the Club to women, the lawsuit addressed other forms of discrimination.

As part of this effort, the Frank Coghlan plaque, recently highlighted by Tom Pier, was restored to its former glory.

Erika informed the Board that all of these changes will be completed by the final Friday of March so they can be unveiled as part of the 150th festivities.

There was a question about creating a similar page on the Club's website. The committee had considered this possibility but didn't have the wherewithal to take it on at this point. Hopefully this can happen later.

Because of some member's sensitivity to changes in what's displayed at the Club, it was suggested that the committee get in front of any potential issue by sending out a communication to the membership explaining the change, that some things are being relocated but not removed and while things might be a little different they will definitely be much better.

A motion was made to support the changes recommended by the Founding Women's Photo Project which passed unanimously.

D. Membership report

Catherine (also an anthropologist) reported that we now have 1,235 renewals and 51 new members. She reported that we're on pace compared to 2022.

They plan to turn off the keys and reassign lockers for members who haven't renewed on February 15th.

It was requested that Catherine provide Board members a list of people who haven't renewed. Last year individual Board members scanned the list and then successfully called friends who had failed to renew.

The discussion then veered off topic to the funding of the Club's Building Fund (we don't have one of these) and Special Fund (we do have this); how the Special Fund is financed ("locker rental fees, initiation fees, other fees and fines, plus \$50 of every member's annual dues (except for new members joining in the 4th quarter) and special assessments"). This off topic discussion concluded with the suggestion that because our cost of doing business have gone up, perhaps we should evaluate changes to our fees and dues.

E. 2023 Budget

Laura handed out a draft budget that is largely complete (there are still a couple of budget managers who haven't provided her with their numbers). The draft budget projects a \$60k surplus.

As the Board discussed the budget, questions arose about the projected income. In particular, our by laws dictate that certain sources of the revenue be dedicated to the Special Fund (see above). How are these dedications accommodated in the budget? Have the dues and fees shown in the budget already been reduced by the mandated contributions to the Special fund? Or do the contributions to the Special Fund appear as an expense? Or none of the above in which case we have much less money to spend than is shown in the draft budget.

Because of this uncertainty, the fact that we're still missing a couple of numbers and to allow Fran a chance to participate in this important discussion, we decided not to approve the budget at this meeting. On the other hand, we need to be mindful of the needs of the various commissioners to carry on day-to-day business at the Club.

The Board decided to provisionally approve the draft budget with the direction that expenditures be limited to those needed to carry on day-to-day business. That larger expenditures should be deferred until after the March meeting. This motion passed unanimously.

F. Project 300

Jing explained that while the Club is celebrating its proud 150 year history, it's also appropriate to begin looking forward to the next 150 years ... Project 300! She walked the Board thru a very professional presentation that be found here: http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Project-300-Overview_updated.pdf.

She explained that society is evolving and so should the Club. That the scope of Project 300 is broader than the previous Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. Project 300 will focus on being positive and respectful; ensuring the Club is a safe space for the membership.

Jing shared the proposed Project 300 mission: *To be a positive force for change to make SERC a richly diverse, welcoming, accessible club; where people of all backgrounds, abilities, races, ethnicities, gender, sexuality, ages, socioeconomic status, and circumstances can enjoy rowing, swimming, handball and running while thriving in community.*

Jing used the recently completed Lunar New Year swim as an example of the kind of new Club events that can be integrated into our sports (in this case swimming). She shared that the MAX_415 group is interested in partnering on an Alcatraz swim. As another example, MAX_415 recently invited SERC to join a 3K fun run.

Jing came prepared with a motion: To approve Project 300's mission statement. To authorize Jing, Cathy, Simon, Kevin Whalen to solicit candidates and recommend Project 300 committee nominees for the Board's approval at a subsequent meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was a brief discussion that referenced back to the first agenda item (SAA). For the past several years the Club has turned down the many requests from external groups (other than SAA and Pathstar which were grandfathered) to use the Club. If Project 300 chooses, in pursuit of its mission, to recommend developing relationships with external groups, what criteria will be used to decide who we partner with and who we say no to? This topic will need to be considered by the Project 300 Advisory Council and the Board at a future date.

The Board thanked Jing for her efforts and getting us off to a great start.

G. Purchase DC outboard

Josh walked the Board through a report and recommendation from Zach for the purchase of a 20hp Tohatsu motor from the Dolphins. This purchase would allow us to retire our last two Hondas which will increase reliability (the Honda's are 20 years old and breaking down), simplify pilot training (right now pilots have to learn both Honda and Tohatsu operating procedures) and streamline inventory management (the two brands require different fuel cells and fuel lines).

The DC motor is almost new. They paid \$3,900 for it which we negotiated to a \$3,200 purchase price. If the Board approves the purchase, we should be able sell the two remaining Hondas for about \$500 each.

A motion to approve the \$3,200 purchase and to sell the Hondas passed unanimously.

H. Update on Waterfront Plan

Cathy reminded the Board that the Port has been master planning the portion of the San Francisco waterfront that they manage. The Plan begins at Fisherman's Wharf and continues 7.5 miles east and south from there. The Plan has been complete for sometime and the EIR on the Plan is also nearing certification. Despite an expansive outreach plan, the Port and its consultants managed to ignore us and the rest of the community that enjoys recreation on the bay. We and the DC have been in discussion with the Port since March of 2022 and while they have offered modest changes to their Plan the EIR (the more important of the two documents from our perspective) has remained off limits.

Certification of the EIR has been before the SF Planning Commission twice and on both occasions it was continued. We believe the continuations are because the City has come to realize that the omissions have left the EIR vulnerable to legal challenges and they are looking for ways to assuage our concerns.

It's too early to know how this will play out, but if the Planning Commission does eventually certify the EIR, we may need to appeal that decision to the Board of Supervisors. The appeal has a filing fee plus we will probably need to have an attorney steeped in CEQA write our appeal and perhaps appear before the BOS on our behalf.

Cathy asked the Board to extend its previous motion authorizing Fran and Cathy to advocate on our behalf to include authorization to spend up to \$10,000 to hire lawyers and to advise and represent us on the waterfront plan.

The motion generated two questions:

Would opposing the Plan upset the City who we are depending on to ensure fair handling of the DC expansion? The majority of the Board felt the waterfront issue was too important to ignore but that folks who feel differently could oppose the motion.

Should the \$10k request be part of the 2023 budget? Given the timing of the request (i.e., while we're putting together the 2023 budget) the consensus was yes it should be part of the budget.

The motion to authorize funding was revised to request that Laura create a new SF Waterfront Plan budget item and assign \$10k to it. The motion passed (11 – 1 – 0).

I. 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 dinner catered by Catherine.