

March 8, 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	X		Z. Margolis	X
J. Li	X		E. Gliebe	X
G. Lazaneo	X		P. Mulvihill	X
S. Dominguez	X		L. Hovden	
D. Puglisi				
S. Fillipow	X		S. Wintersteen	

Approval of Minutes

The February 2023 Board minutes were approved (14 – 0 – 2).

President’s Remarks

Fran began the meeting by sharing some recent life events. After a steep decline, her stepfather recently passed away. Fran was able to be there with him, her mom and the rest of the family. She took comfort in knowing that the Board would take care of things in her absence. She also expressed her appreciation to the Board for the flowers that we sent her. If this weren’t enough, at the same time as her stepfather was passing, Fran was interviewing for a new job which she has now begun. We will all need to adjust to her being a bit less available.

Referencing forward to some of the items on the evening’s agenda, Fran emphasized the importance of each of us setting examples of good behavior at the Club. Sometimes our fellow members seem to lose sight of how to behave in shared spaces so let’s lead by example and when that isn’t adequate by quiet and polite suggestion.

Several weeks ago, Dolphin Club member Joe Illick collapsed on the beach. He received superb care from highly qualified South End members who happened to be on the scene. Sadly Joe was unable to recover and has since passed away (a memorial at the DC will be held on 4/29). Fran reminded each of us how fragile life is and that one of the core aspects of our Club's culture is how we watch out for and take care of one another. The water is really cold this winter; there are more boats and swimmers than ever all occupying the same small space. Be vigilant.

Fran thanked Catherine for the recent updates on membership renewal. She urged each Board member to look at the list of people who haven't yet renewed and to reach out to people you know or see around the Club and ensure that don't let their membership lapse by accident.

Fran's suggestion led to a brief discussion about the renewal process. Members are entitled to a 30-day notice of delinquency. Catherine goes above and beyond with multiple emails, postings on all of the Google Groups, the Facebook page and notices on lockers. There was some feeling that perhaps we could be clearer about the quarterly payment option, however past Boards preferred to not promote quarterly payments because it effectively means that we have to go through the renewal process 4 times a year.

Fran announced that Recreation and Parks will be holding two public meetings to share their plans for the marina to the west of Gas House. The meetings will be held on Saturday March 11 and Wednesday March 15th at 1800 Chestnut Street. Fran said it would be great if somebody from the Club could attend. Zach and Erika expressed their intentions to participate.

Cold Refuge, Judy Irving's latest film, will be shown at the International Ocean Film Fest taking place April 13 – 16th. Members are encouraged to attend.

Fran closed by wishing everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day (Go n-eirí an t-ádh leat) and hoping they find their way to Sunday's luncheon, the club social on the 17th, handball tournament that same weekend and Live Worms art show.

Members Moment

Life member Dan Marshall addressed the Board regarding what happened in the men's locker room last Friday. He feels that the men who invited the women into the men's locker room were inconsiderate. They should have asked for permission before making the invitation. He thought that nobody should be punished.

Adan shared that he's also encountered women in the men's locker room and felt uncomfortable with the situation.

Fran reminded all in attendance that we're living in a world where the built structures no longer match society's (indeed the law's) expectations. In California, people have the right to choose their locker room based on what gender they identify as. That we all need to be polite and assume good intentions. We should give people the benefit of the doubt, but she admitted this stuff isn't easy.

A. 2023 Budget

Laura was unable to attend the meeting. Moreover, she's still waiting for budget input from a couple of Board members. Everyone who still owes Laura input promised to have it to her by March 17th or else!

Laura had emailed out her treasurer's report prior to the meeting.

B. 150th Update

Erika shared an updated budget for all of the 150th events. The budget showed actuals tracking to forecasts for everything other than the 150th Anniversary Gala.

In order to ensure that the gala is affordable to all members, the organizing committee wants to keep ticket prices at \$50. However,

at that price, the event will be \$5,000 in the red primarily because of the \$27,300 cost of catering. Erika asked for the Board to approve an \$5,000 subsidy for the gala in the interests of accessibility. A motion to approve the expenditure was made and passed (15 – 1 – 0).

The discussion of accessibility led to a discussion about ticket allocation. Ticket sales will be limited to 350 (venue capacity less event staff). If the holiday party is any indication, demand will be greater than 350. Should we limit sales to members (i.e., no guests)? Should we limit members to a single guest (+ 1)? Should tickets be released for sale in phases instead of all at once? The Board asked the committee to consider the overall topic and report back at the April meeting.

C. Insurance Action Items

Steve reported on a couple of items that emerged from his conversations with Dave Santos. First he and Dave are uncomfortable with the fact that doors leading outside from the lower boat house are unlocked all night. He asked the Board for permission to develop a plan to lock those doors at night while taking into consideration the fact that sometimes, some members swim overnight or extremely early in the morning. Catherine volunteered to provide him with a list of individuals with 24hour access to the building.

Second, he's looking for support for a general removal of personal stuff stored in various locations throughout the building. Steve has already begun the process of notifying people who he believes might have personal stuff at the Club that it needs to be removed. Personal stuff left at the Club will be thrown away. Steve will coordinate with the commissioners but is generally thinking about doing the cleanout at the end of the month.

The Board supported both of his efforts (16 – 0 – 0).

D. Board member onboarding

Pete observed that even with his previous board service, he felt a little disoriented when joining the Board this time around. For example: how to get reimbursed for expenditures, how does the Club email work, where can he find the bylaws and procedures, etc.

He suggested that we have a packet for new board members to help them through the initial period. It was broadly assumed that Pete's bringing this to the Board's attention was tantamount to volunteering to take on the task. Fran volunteered to work on this project with Pete.

E. Club rental policies

Erika handed out proposed modifications to the Club's rental policy. She reminded the Board that the facility is primarily for the enjoyment of the membership; that it would be easy to have the place rented out several times a month. For that reason, the changes are intended to raise the bar on rentals. At a high level, the changes: increase the rental fee; exclude the dayroom from rentals; and require three years of membership before a member can request a rental. There were also definitional changes to ensure that "regular" events (such as beer Friday and post swim birthday cakes) don't fall into the domain of club rental.

Erika's proposal, with some minor amendments from Steve, was accepted (16 – 0 – 0) by the Board.

F. Update on the Waterfront Plan

The Port's Waterfront Plan has been discussed at several previous meetings. Fran updated the Board by explaining that with their support, an attorney has been hired to assist us. Together, we've drafted new language which we are trying to get inserted as part of an errata to the EIR. The gist of the new language is to acknowledge that the master plan EIR didn't study the impacts on water contact recreation and to compensate for that, these impacts will be studied as part of each individual project's EIR.

Certification of the EIR has been placed on the planning commission agenda several times including March 9th. However, each time the item has been continued to a future meeting to provide an opportunity to settle the issue.

G. Membership report

Catherine provided a written recap of the membership metrics.

Renewals: 1,327

New member: 78

Total: 1,405

Based on previous years, she expects that membership will once again reach 1,800 over the summer.

Catherine reported that Board member outreach to friends who haven't renewed has been effective. She speculated that some people who joined the Club during the middle of last year never really "took" and therefore won't be renewing.

The keys of people who haven't renewed will be turned off at the end of the month. In addition to all of the electronic notices (mentioned earlier), she will be posting a notice at the front door of the imminent action.

There was some discussion of creating an incentive for people to renew in a timely manner. For example, imposing a late fee on those who renew after some cutoff date.

H. Member complaint (closed session)

George and Catherine walked the Board through their investigative process and recommendations. The Board voted to follow their recommendations.

I. Member appeal (closed session)

The Board heard an appeal from a member who had been previously sanctioned. The Board voted to impose alternative sanctions on the member.

J. Members complaints (closed session)

The Board considered multiple complaints that were received regarding the behavior of a guest at the Club.

K. DC expansion (closed session)

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 Erika.