

**June 14, 2023**  
**South End Rowing Club**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Roll Call**

| <b>Member</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Member</b>   | <b>Present</b> |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 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. Gower      | X              | Z. Margolis     | X              |
| J. Li         | X              | E. Gliebe       | X              |
| G. Lazaneo    | X              | P. Mulvihill    | X              |
| S. Dominguez  |                | L. Hovden       | X              |
| D. Puglisi    | X              |                 |                |
| S. Fillipow   | X              | S. Wintersteen  |                |

**Approval of Minutes**

The May 2023 Board minutes were approved (16 – 0 – 0).

**President’s Remarks**

Fran asked those in attendance to remember back to their first Alcatraz crossing. Were they told to stop midway and look around, to take in that special vantage point? Fran then pointed out that we’re now halfway through 2023 ... our Club’s 150<sup>th</sup> year! While there is still much to come, Fran challenged us to take stock of all that’s already transpired. To help jog our memories, she prepared a PowerPoint presentation that can be found here:

[http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/150\\_in\\_june.pdf](http://serc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/150_in_june.pdf)

She called special attention to Erika who has seamlessly masterminded the myriad events. She also called out Dominica Donovan who played a key role lining up the governmental support that was on abundant display at the Gala.

Cathy took the floor to share the sad news of the passing of Diane Major. Cathy shared that Diane was one of the six women who sued the Club (her husband was on the Board and voted against admitting women) and went on to become the Club's first women member. Cathy reminded us that at the time female membership was being fought over at the Club, in society women had only recently been allowed on juries and granted the right to get credit cards and open checking accounts. Title IX had only taken effect a few years before. Cathy remembered Diane as at once fierce but self-effacing. Cathy played a short clip of Diane speaking at one of the virtual saunas that occurred during the pandemic and encouraged people to look at the photos of Diane on the woman's wall at the Club. Dennis described the naming of a wooden double after Diane (with plaques for the four other women who were admitted to the South End). Cathy concluded by sharing how grateful she was that Diane contributions could be recognized before her death.

Fran continued with more sad news, announcing the passing of Pat Cunneen. In addition to being a retired firefighter, runner and devoted family man, the multitalented Pat was the Club's historian (he wrote the *The History Corner* in the South Ender), engraver and resident poster artist. Pat served as running commissioner and director at large. If you took a walk around the Club with Pat, he would treat you to the stories behind all of the plaques and photos. He personally engraved most of the plaques and made literally hundreds of posters commemorating all manner of Club events. Some of the posters he produced promoting the interclub tri are legend. Speaking of the tri, Fran revealed that in a previous life, the tri plaque was Pat's coffee table! Fran concluded by sharing one of Pat's quotes: *how quickly legends are gone*.

## **Members Moment**

None.

### **A. Honoring Pedro Ordenes**

At the suggestion of Kim Howard and (Fast) Eddie Peinado, the Board chose to recognize the many accomplishments of life member Pedro

Ordenes. Pedro, born in Chile, is the holder of numerous swimming records. However, Pedro is better known for his role as ambassador to open water swimming. In that capacity he has brought people from all over the globe to the sport. There are countless stories of South Enders traveling to foreign countries and the first two questions are always “Have you swum Alcatraz?” and “Do you know Pedro?”. Pedro is also credited with organizing our first Alcatraz Invitationals — to this day our most important and biggest annual fundraiser.

Cathy offered the following motion which passed unanimously:

Given Pedro Ordenes’ many contributions to the South End, including generously sharing his expertise and love for open water swimming and introducing many new members to the Club, we honor Pedro and celebrate him with an event as well as a framed tribute on our walls.

Kim and Eddie are in the process of planning a plaque recognizing Pedro which they hope to unveil on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Swim on, Pedro!

## **B. 1873 Fund Update**

Marc Glomb shared that the 1873 Fund is moving along. They have a 5 person board and have submitted the necessary documents to the CA Attorney General and IRS to be become a 501(c)(3). The submitted documents survived the first-round sanity check but it could be several more months before they receive final approval.

The Fund has identified four major categories of potential donors:

- Existing and former SERC members
- Corporate matches
- Casual club members (e.g., day users or rentals)
- Government grants and foundations

They're working on a messaging calendar and refining their value proposition. Their goal is to raise \$600k by 2026 (\$150k in 2024; \$250k in 2025 and \$350k in 2026).

Board members asked Marc if he was going to need more detail about potential projects and warned that it might take them a while to develop additional detail if required.

### **C. Aaron Peskin Birthday**

Fran shared that San Francisco Supervisor and 30-year Club member Aaron Peskin's birthday was coming up this week. She reminded those in attendance of the many ways (small and large) that Aaron has used his status to assist the Club and offered the following resolutions which was passed (15 – 1 – 1).

#### ***Proclamation***

#### ***South End Rowing Club***

*WHEREAS, On the week of his birthday, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Aaron Peskin's membership in the South End Rowing Club.*

*WHEREAS, through his advocacy and expertise, Aaron Peskin has been a tireless champion for the health of San Francisco Bay and its water quality such that all people can safely swim and row in it; and*

*WHEREAS, his passion for the Bay has also extended to issues of public access, whereby, despite many waterfront commercial and industrial uses, Aaron has ensured that recreational uses and public access are ensured along the city front; and*

*WHEREAS, his thirty-year membership, indeed, home-away-from home, at the South End Rowing Club-- the oldest rowing club west of the Mississippi-- has reinforced and amplified his commitment to the continuation of the club's presence and activities; and*

*WHEREAS, his enthusiasm for and participation in the club and its activities has deepened the connection between the City and County of San Francisco and this historical institution in Aquatic Park;*

*THEREFORE, be it resolved that The Board of Directors of the South End Rowing Club do hereby proclaim June 17, 2023, his birthday, as Aaron Peskin Appreciation Day.*

#### **D. Men's Locker Room Closure**

Steve has received notice of members slipping and falling in the men's locker room. He's tried a number of applications of a wax product but it hasn't solved the problem. He's identified another product that he hopes will be more successful. Unfortunately this product takes 24 hours to cure (i.e., no traffic). Steve's plan is to do a test application on a subset of the locker room to test effectiveness. If it works, then he will schedule an application for the entire locker room. Even if the product works, it will probably require an annual application. Steve's plan is to do the application on a Monday night and reopen the locker room on Wednesday morning. There will be plenty of notice and he will talk to the Dolphins about securing access to their shower and sauna during the closure.

Fran and the Board thanked Steve for the great job he's doing as Building Commissioner.

#### **E. Procedures Update**

Jing and Josh gave the Board a brief update on the committee's work. The Board was given a final opportunity to provide feedback on the draft statement of work provided at the May meeting. Pete and Fran have each sent their comments to the committee.

The committee asked the Board to discuss the Club newsletter and clarify their aspirations. For Board members who have been around long enough to remember the old printed and mailed newsletters, there are fond memories of the stories and photos and even the simple things like seeing the names of newly joined members. But these warm feelings need to be tempered by the reality of how much

effort went into producing those newsletters and our inability to find members willing to take on the responsibility. The latter group advocated simply declaring the monthly email blast our newsletter.

The spirited discussion was concluded when George magnanimously volunteered to become our newsletter editor. So at least for now, the question has become irrelevant. Thank you, George!

#### **F. Key Fobs**

Adele briefed the Board that on average we replace 10 card keys per week. This is costly for the members and a burden on the office manager and commissioners. When we purchased the new system, we thought that the Bluetooth capability would rule the day but once we got the system, we learned its drawbacks (each phone needs to be provisioned, the provisioning must take place within 24 hours of an email being sent, if the phone is replaced, the new phone has to be reprovisioned).

We had originally steered away from using key fobs because of cost (they are about twice as expensive as a card key), but Adele now wonders if they are less likely to be lost or damaged than the card keys?

There was a lively discussion of the topic which concluded with a decision to follow Adele's recommendation ... she will start a slow roll out of key fobs and see how it goes. Once we have more first experience with the key fobs, we can revisit the decision.

#### **G. JC Wallace Memorial Fund**

Fran acknowledged the efforts of Gabe Speyer, Darlene Bagley Comstedt, Randi Gerson and Kathleen Sullivan in creating the JC Wallace Memorial Fund. The Fund helps low-income LGBTQ+ seniors enjoy swimming in the Bay by providing clients of OpenhouseSF with memberships to our Club. At the time of his passing, JC was Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of OpenhouseSF (enables San Francisco Bay Area LGBTQ+ seniors to overcome the unique challenges they face as

they age by providing housing, direct services and community programs). Thus far, the Fund has financed two Club memberships.

#### **H. Board Member Onboarding**

This item was deferred.

#### **I. DC Expansion**

Fran reported the happy news that the Dolphin Club and South End have resolved their disagreements over the future expansion at the DC. The parameters of the expansion will be as shown in the most recent story poles. Happily these changes can occur without substantially diminishing the views from our dayroom.

A document memorializing the agreement was signed on Monday. The South End is in the process of drafting a letter to the City revoking our letter of opposition.

All hail Fran and Kevin for seeing this through to a conclusion that gives the DC substantially what they wanted without unnecessarily compromising the experience of our membership. Fran sang the praises of our attorney Scott Emblidge.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned to a delicious dinner catered by Adan.