

September 13, 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		V. Blyth Marlin	x
B. Ip	x	T. Nguyen	x
A. Gower	x	Z. Margolis	x
J. Li		E. Gliebe	x
G. Lazaneo	x	P. Mulvihill	x
S. Dominguez	x	L. Hovden	x
D. Puglisi	x		
S. Fillipow		S. Wintersteen	

Approval of Minutes

The August 2023 Board minutes were approved (14 – 0 – 1).

President’s Remarks

Now is the time to start thinking about who will fill your shoes on the board in 2024 if you are considering moving on. If you need assistance chat with Fran.

Fran wants to thank everyone for the TRI. Our turnout was substantial, and she is really proud of our club and how we showed up. Special thanks to the organizers, Josh, Thierry, Vanessa, and Zach. And a special thanks to Adele and John “Gower Power” for pulling off the day of festivities. Lots of fun! Everyone had a blast, and we kept the plaque!

Great athletic feats going on like Ryan Nelson who just did a double width of the Tahoe. Too many to note all but congratulations to those doing epic things.

Fabulous Ice Berg weekend with a great Happy Hour. Allison Kalhammer and Robin Kincade made a fabulous dinner for Happy Hour. Great Alcatraz and GGB swims, rounded out with the exceptional Blow out BBQ. Next year we head to the Bergs! First week of May 2024. Mark your calendars!

With the growth of the club membership, we have seen more thefts of wetsuits and now bikes. It is recommended members lock their stuff down and do not let people tailgate at the door when you enter.

Upcoming events:

- Big Celebration of Life for Diane Major is this Sunday September 17th so please show up for her family.
- Alcatraz Invitational is the following week on September 22nd and we need all volunteers.
- September 30th- Swim Across America
- October 19th is when the Marina Project moves to the Parks and Recs Board
- November 11th is a year to the day when Muni Pier was closed.
- October 1 thru October 9th with an Alcatraz swim Oct. 9- Our annual Pathstar event

Members Moment

None.

A. Review Club Dues and fees

Laura notes the dues have not been raised since 2008 and are \$405.

Dolphins fees are \$574 and \$515 for seniors.

Our initiation fee is \$100 vs. \$127 for the Dolphins.

We can consider raising dues based on operations costs.

10 years of data shows our costs have risen \$230K or by a factor of 3X.

We have more members so there is more wear and tear on the property. While we ensure we break even on events, it does not cover the increase in operations costs.

We currently follow the process outlined in the Bylaws on raising dues.

Laura is looking to the board to provide guidance. Fran asked the board if there is interest in considering raising dues and/or fees.

Several noted yes based on 3x operational costs, number of members impacting capacity constraints, wear and tear on the club that we need to get ahead of, and general inflation.

Fran is sensing and feels we should investigate raising dues.

Fran recommends we put together a committee of 3 people to review to include **Pete, George, and Laura**.

- Look at other athletic venues for comparison.
- Encourage the team to look at initiation fee, annual dues and the locker fee.
- Do we consider not allowing prorating the dues as we currently offer.
- Can we prorate/ stagger the rate increase over several years?

B. Plan 2023 Members Meeting

Monday November 13th is the proposed date allowing us two board meetings between now and then.

Proposed time is 5:30pm (limit to 1hr) with Pizza and Beer

Topics:

- Dues and fees
- Commissioner highlights for the year
- Introduce the 1873 Fund, how it sets up
- Review updates to the Bylaws to include the code of conduct
- Diversity, equity and inclusion, including our work with Max415

Consider sending out an agenda and asking for questions in advance or have questions held to the end.

Fran will put out a call-in advance for any issues our community would like her to address at the members meeting

C. Marina Green Project

Fran gave a presentation about this proposed project of SF Rec and Park, which will impact the Gas House marina where many club members people swim and including some who swim beyond, to Coghlan and further west. Note that it is in the center of the area where the clubs'

east bound (flood swims), so changes to this area will impact organized club swims. It is also a regularly used rowing route at all times.

The project being presented about as a Marina improvement project but involves a lot of elements.

- The catalyzing element is a long-standing remediation project that PG&E must clean up residual toxins from a legacy power plant sited there. The city has been litigating for years and finally came to a settlement for \$190M and the commitment for PG&E to clean up a fraction of the environmental issue. The remaining will remain capped. The minimum remediation portion of the project is required, and non-negotiable, though additional remediation would be permitted.
- Rec & Parks is proposing to use the settlement money to make changes to the existing Marina. Those changes, which will make the marina fiscally sustainable includes the introduction of breakwaters and dredging and reconfiguration of slips to accommodate more and bigger boats, which will bring in more revenue. An additional breakwater will include the introduction of a water taxi pick up location just offshore adjacent to where we swim. These changes will give the Rec and Park department more revenue, but they compromise their mission of recreation. The additional water traffic into the club's regular swim and rowing routes -- will curtail our activities and put the clubs' athletes at risk.
- Rec and Parks plans to introduce public access and landside amenities that include kayaks. Their FAQs explicitly state that swimming will be forbidden in and around this area because of the dangers posed by vessels. There is no recognition of the impacts to the substantial recreational swimming and rowing that is already taking place in this area.

There are a lot of neighbors and community groups who also are pushing back albeit for different reasons. Among them: the introduction of more and larger vessels will benefit a few very wealthy boat owners but forever compromise the unobstructed views to the Bay and Alcatraz that the public enjoys along Crissy

Field. Newly introduced breakwaters to protect these additional vessels will cause issues with the local hydrology and likely exacerbate the dredging problems that already exist. A group called “Keep the Waterfront Open” is building momentum.

Timing:

- Now community engagement is underway seeking feedback on the proposed project.
- Some elements of their proposed project are not negotiable, but others may be.
- On 20 October the Rec and Park Commission will meet to make decisions about moving forward with this. It is likely to get their support despite the neighborhood objections.

It is important for the SERC board to have a position on this and for the board to speak up. There was discussion about whether the Board should have a full stop objection to the project or to focus our objections on the specific aspects of the project that we know will impact the club’s activities. We decided on the latter.

Motion: The South End Rowing Club opposes the Marina Green Improvement Project's introduction of more marine traffic to the Northern Waterfront, which compromises the the safety and access of open water swimmers and rowers who regularly use and pass through this area for recreation.

Motion approved (13 – 0 – 2)

D. SERC/ DC Joint Board Meeting

On October 25th we will host the SERC/DC board meeting in the cookshack. The theme is Masquerade and Alix Marduel will be cooking an elevated meal.

Erika will be traveling and will need assistance.

Décor- Erika will put together a sample to build upon

Board Volunteers: Vanessa, Cathy, Thierry

Other Volunteers needed: Sous Chefs and Clean up

E. Membership Report

We have 2144 members, 396 new members and 93 joined in the last 30 days. Highest membership in the club history.

Key card management is a lot of management and Catherine recommends we only offer mobile/ cell phone access. All are a manual process for each new member. App is not perfect and works for 90%+ of people. We could add a cost of \$25 for the key card.

We will include an option to opt in to 1873 Fund emails when members renew this year. It will include a blurb about 1873.

F. Kitchen Clean & Bar Clean Up

Erika discussed the help needed to maintain the kitchen and bar areas. In regards to the kitchen, in the past few months, we have had 3 club events with directors and lead cooks where there were no volunteers on point to clean up. We also have lots of use of the kitchen for pop up events.

Ask: Ensure Event Director and Lead Cook understand they do not leave until the event is completed which includes the kitchen being completely cleaned up. If they realize while people are eating that they do not have enough volunteers for cleanup, that is the time to make that announcement to call for more volunteers. Ideally, the volunteers should be set in advance.

Second Ask: If you partake in any potluck events, please ensure someone is designated to clean up (i.e., beer Fridays, bday potlucks and the like).

In regards to the bar, the happy hour staff regularly arrives to filled recycling bins and messy sinks. The cleaning staff do not take out the bins or return the bins in the bar area.

Last Ask: For Adan, please ask the Handballers to be mindful of this shared space and to take out recycling a few times a week so it is not left on Happy

Hour leads on Fridays. For others who use the bar for mingling, the ask is the same.

Appreciate us all communicating with leaders, members and those hosting events to ensure everyone helps to keep our kitchen and bar areas clean.

G. TRI Club Debrief

Need to get the scoring the day of.

Discussion carried on to dinner.

Fran to circle back with Adele with feedback captured.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to a scrumptious homemade dinner made by Al Jaurique!