

February 7, 2024
South End Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Present		Member	Present
J. Sale	X		C. Lovazzano	X
C. Bump	X		A. Diaz	X
E. Gliebe	X		L. Hovden	X
V. Blyth Marlin	X		M. Miller	X
V. Cornwell	X		E. Gable	X
J. Li			K. Hutchins	X
G. Lazaneo			S. Phillipow	X
F. Hegeler	X		D. Flatow	X
J. Sellers	X			
T. Yarish	X		S. Wintersteen	

Approval of Minutes

The January 2024 Board minutes were approved (12– 0 –3).

President’s Remarks

Josh opened with how impressed he was with the whole community and how they came together to support Andrew after he was attacked. Cathy Harrington rendered help, Sean Johnson also lent significant help supporting him at the hospital and afterwards, Marc Glomb walked his dog, Jing Li created the go fund me page for donations, Dominica organized the governmental response. There was an arrest in Stockton. They were juveniles. Something we need to think about is do we want to write a letter to the DA to ensure they are held accountable for their crimes. We will have a Public Safety meeting on Feb 12th and encourage all to attend. And Josh encouraged the board to attend, support, and help with set up. There will also be a Webex. Andrew is going to attend the meeting but doesn’t want to be singled out.

There have been new developments regarding the Marina Green project. Fran commented on the developments of the plan. Peskin advocated for an

ordinance (BOS) that would only allow them to expand the harbor a minimal amount. The ordinance passed unanimously. The plan that would encroach on our swimming and rowing areas has been scrapped!

Josh shared we had our meeting with Rec & Parks about our increase in dues and they gave us a positive signal that they unanimously support our proposed increases. It still needs to go to the final meeting on Feb 15th and we were told they expect it to pass.

Some of you may know there was a dinner for past (and present) SERC Presidents. It was a very special dinner. He wanted to thank Simon Dominguez and Fran Hegeler for the idea and thanked Erika as the host. Josh also thanked the volunteers, including Florence Joliff and Ailis Peplau, who were the vision behind the menu and the décor. They were supported by Will Gramlich, Victoria Stein, Nira Ray, Sean Johnson, Larry Southern and Allen Luong. There were 14 past presidents there, including Rudy Stadlberger who just turned 100 this past week.

Rudy Stadlberger celebrated his 100th birthday at the club on February 4th, hosted by the Handballers. He was a handballer and we have a court named after him. We thought it would be nice to honor him for his 100th birthday. He joined the club in 1948. He's just turned 100 and we just turned 150. One of the things he said was the club had 90 members when he joined and all of them were handballers. The city wanted to take the club back for swimming and Rudy immediately said, we are swimmers. So, 10 Handballers signed up and swam the GGB so now they were in fact swimmers. Rudy took the club back. We want to honor him in two ways. One way is with a resolution on behalf of his 100th birthday. The second way is to make a SERC free library dedicated to Rudy, who loves to read and encourages others to read. Sasha Cavender, a member Rudy referred to the club, has agreed to steward this project.

Josh moved to approve the resolution and the free library.

Approved (16-0-0)

On February 21st from 6:30 to 8:00pm there will be a Water Resilience meeting hosted at SERC, addressing a project that will have a big impact on all of us and particularly SERC over time. A bit of background – The Draft USACE Plan is a high-level document that provides an approach to flood

risks on a geographic basis along the length of the Port of San Francisco waterfront. The Draft Plan is not a design plan, rather defers those tasks to a later time. This is an official meeting which is required as they must take our feedback. This plan will impact the waterfront of SF and future flood zones expected by 2050. It talks about sea level rise and how they plan to address. It is important that we show up as stewards of the water, especially board members. It was noted that we need to send out an email about this meeting coming up. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions. We should invite the Dolphins as well. Public comment closes March 31, 2024.

Swimmers from our our sister city club, Kiel, are coming in April. We ask that the club come out to join and support their visit. We have a happy hour on Friday April 12th and we have the Andy Field Bay Bridge swim on April 14th for our visiting Keil sister swimmers.

Last month Josh talked about key projects. Vanessa Blyth Marlin will lead the club capacity assessment. Van Cornwell will lead management of systems and reporting. Community engagement will be led by Cathy Bump, who will work with Swimming, Rowing, Running and Handball. Fran Hegeler will continue to lead the external affairs (Hyde Street, Muni pier, Marina green). Josh thanked them in advance for their support in these areas.

Members Moment

None.

A. Renewal of Insurance (David Santos, 15 minutes, not deferrable)

David Santos joined the meeting to discuss the renewal of our insurance as it needs to be reviewed each year by March. The last couple years we had some covid credits which kept costs down so without those credits, we are looking at an increase of 13%. They also look at our membership, which is a big factor as we are at the highest numbers we have ever had. When we add everything together, we land at \$82.9K in 2024 vs. \$73.3K in 2023.

Steve inquired if there was anything we can do to reduce the insurance costs but we really have already done what we can. There are specific companies that manage marine liability. They know what we do and are very knowledgeable. We could increase deductibles to see reductions in costs. Material impacts would be reducing membership or reducing our fleet of boats. The other option is to take our deductible from \$10K to \$25K. We are not covered for flood, earthquake, or sexual harassment. We are an adult club and if you bring a child, you are responsible for always being with them.

Fran motioned to approve the renewal of the insurance.

The board voted (16 – 0 – 0)

B. Membership update & discussion (Catherine, 10 minutes, not deferrable)

Members renewed for 2024: 1570 (of 2149) as of 2/7/24 (we are way ahead of last year)

Lockers down to last 50 or so to renew

Key access will be turned off on 2/10/24

Lockers will be cut starting 2/15/24

Proposed fee increase schedule:

Increase membership fee to \$450 on 3/1/24

Increased new member fees starting 3/1/24

APPROVED 2024, \$45 Membership Fee Increase, \$25 Initiation Fee Increase

Restricting 1:1 pro-rated membership until June, with 50% accrual 3Q and frozen at 4Q values membership at \$3 a day year round (with initiation fee).

This makes it not super cheap for people to join at the end of the year.

Day use fee will also increase to \$12.

Van moved to approve the turning off keys on 2/10 date, cutting locker locks on 2/15 date, and implementing the fee change on March 1, 2024.

The board voted (16– 0 – 0)

C. Jeremy Fisher-Smith request for funds (Marissa, 10 minutes, not deferrable)- Pre-read

Marissa noted how lucky we are to have Jeremy Fisher-Smith come back. He has built 4 of our boats. He has agreed to join us on our Boat Nights on Mondays and share his expertise on how to properly maintain our fleet. We have had an average of 20 people on boat night.

They are asking the board to approve \$24K to cover his weekly fee of \$500 out of the General Fund. This will cover his expertise. They will capture the learnings. They are creating a set of standards for the boats and working on a set of procedures where there is a check list before taking out at wooden. They have also created a tracking system for their boats, work that has been done, what was done and when it was done.

They request these funds as the wooden boats are our legacy and our heritage and we need to maintain them going forward. It is a club expense as this is part of our core history.

Erika suggested that we have regular check ins, and that we review the cadence of his visits over time and reassess.

Vanessa noted that there is work on the Murphy that is needed and if we sent it out, we would spend \$10K to have it fixed. Also, the Dolphins spend \$110K annually on maintaining their fleet. This was in rebuttal to Van's concern about the spend for just the rowing program. Van does not think other sports do this and are we setting a precedent by approving this spend. Josh noted the club bought inflatables and engines for the swim program which did not come out of the swim budget.

Cathy noted that the boats are a club asset and not to be dispensed without board approval. The Club Procedures require that photographic evidence of the boats be documented annually. When the club started, we had 15 wooden boats and we are now down to only 4 original boats. Something happened to the Brady, and no one knows what happened to it.

Cathy moved that the Board approve spending up to \$24,000, including the \$2,000 allocated in January, to pay Jeremy Fisher-Smith, of Fisher-Smith Boatworks, to attend the Club's weekly Boat Nights and to provide the Club with expertise, education, and other support for our wooden boats. As a condition of this approval, the Rowing Program is directed to:

- Ensure that the Boat House Captain and Rowing Commissioner collaborate on priorities for Jeremy Fisher-Smith.
- Memorialize Jeremy Fisher-Smith's teachings, ensuring that the information is available to future South Enders and is not limited to those attending Boat Night.
- Document the work performed on each boat, including photographic records as required by Club Procedures.
- Create a standardized process for boat care, for all rowers to follow.
- Have the Boat House Captain and Rowing Commissioner provide mid-year and year-end progress reports to the Board.
- Have the Boat House Captain and Rowing Commissioner regularly calibrate the appropriate frequency of Jeremy Fisher-Smith's attendance at Boat Night.
- Add one more element regarding payment to Jeremy Fisher Smith

The board voted (14- 1 - 1)

D. Building Commissioner updates (Cleanout, Painting, Security)- (Steve, 10 minutes, not deferrable)

Club Cleanout

- Junk Dump will be on Feb 17th. Commissioners, Pilots, Officers and others – this is the only opportunity budgeted this year. Per the recent BC notice to all members, this cleanout will include personal items stowed outside of personal lockers.
- Steve plans on starting at 9AM and you should have all of your items in the truck not later than 10AM. Pro tip – stage your stuff near the trash cans.
- Steve is investigating interest of collector/salvager (James Dawson) in some of our leftovers
- Rowing and Swimming have been notified
- High-value items? What do we do with those high value items? Can we sell these high value items? They have been unresponsive to removing it from our facility. There will be a few final communications and then Steve is cleared to do as he sees fit.
- Finally – Fire Marshall will be inspecting the club (date TBD). Once Steve has the date, Steve will communicate to the Board
 - Oily rag bins cleared daily
 - NO flammables outside of Flam lockers
 - Steve will dispose of charcoal under stairway
 - If you see something that looks out of sort, let Steve know.

Club painting plan.

- We'll have a more programmatic approach to painting in CY2024. Evan Auchard, a professional painter member, will work with Steve on the program/priorities. Evan will not be paid. He will directly pay his painters to perform specified projects, approximately 24 hours of service/month. The painters are covered under Evan's company's worker's comp. Evan will submit the expense reports via Steve's

signature for payment. Steve has vetted this with Don Margolis and Laura.

Security

- As a consequence of the assault/carjacking of a member and known incidents of theft and unauthorized club entry, Steve is investigating a plan to install/activate one security camera at the club entrance and one facing Jefferson St, both to be operated in compliance with the existing club Procedures. Steve is meeting Warman Security on 2/8.
- Steve has \$1,500 in budget for this but presently has no estimate of cost. Given the nature of this expense, Steve intends to come back to the Board with his recommendation of how to proceed.

E. Budget discussion & adoption (Laura, 25 minutes, not deferrable)

Laura sent out a link to the budget. The income at the top and expenses are pretty standard. The exceptions are as follows:

\$24K for the JFS rowing request

\$18K for the Boat Retrieval project- capital fund

\$7K for the "South End Today" wall and the maintenance of our archives

And lots of building projects. They are all needed. They are an investment in the club. Again, Laura feels they are all reasonable.

\$425K in the black but that does not account for \$508K that gets transferred to the capital funds so technically we are not breaking even.

\$314 + \$111K (sum of the capital expenses) = \$425K Income

\$508K moves to the special fund

Net the deficit is about \$83K for 2024

There will be a mid-year budget review at the June/July Board meeting so we can assess where we are at and adjust accordingly.

Fran asked if all the programs are self-sustaining and it was noted all were with the exception of rowing due to the approval of the JFS budget. Laura confirmed that was the case.

Fran noted that there are many moving parts of the budget, most notably membership numbers. Historically we come in under budget on many events.

Catherine moved to approve the 2024 budget.
The board voted (16 – 0– 0)

F. Change the name of the club event billed as Happy Hour to Club Social. (George, 5 minutes, deferrable)- deferred this discussion to next month

G. Roll Up Door- (Cathy, 10 minutes, non-deferrable)

Cathy noted that the letter introduced was to educate people. However, the draft was not well-received by the test group due to various elements. The goal will be to make it more educational and briefer.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to a delicious dinner cooked by Ailis Peplau & Addie Silveira.

Next Board Meeting March 13th, 2024