



ANN ARBOR ROWING CLUB

P.O.Box 3128 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 734-930-6462

Board Meeting

Monday, October 12th, 2015

6:30-8:30 PM

REI Conference Room

Present: Martin Myers (President), Dave Olson, Paula Goforth, Janet Goldberg, Sara Gronewald (Program Director), Julie Janusz, Lisa Psarouthakis (Secretary), Nora Krinitsky, Blake McGowan (Treasurer)

Absent: Tamara Stein

Guests: Mike McGovern, Peter Mancuso

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm

Minutes from the September 14th board meeting were unanimously approved as circulated.

1. Program Director Report - Sara

- Open rowing-assigning coxing responsibilities has been challenging due to large HOOCR contingent. Non Charles rowers are being called upon more than usual.
- PM rowing-Coach Priscilla is doing well and Sara is getting good feedback about her. Coach Marco is doing a great job and we hope to have him back in the spring. Coach Jerry will be done after this year, so we'll need a new sculling coach.
- No coaching post regatta season. Launch drivers only. Sara will do line ups. Sara will do line ups for the Halloween row if desired.

2. President Report- Martin

- New ramp to dock is complete.
- Still looking for winter erg venue. Send any suggestions to Martin
- Membership: 168 full members (17 more than last), fewer youth due to fewer programs and some going to WRC. 73 novice (up from 61 last year). Monthly

sweep is up, but fewer people signing up for year long. Sculling program saw enormous growth. Programming considering how big sculling program can get and not over tax coach.

Discussion re: options to control program. Ideas include dividing program into open and learning and adding a small boat practice night.

Discussion re: coxing in dark and coxing without launch-same criteria.

3. Programming committee issues:

- New coach leads
- Pipeline from tech program to open needs to be lengthened, but will require more coaches

Question: If programming decides to strengthen sculling, would this need be communicated to capital with regard to equipment needs?

Answer: Sara-we have the equipment, but not the people who want to race regularly.

Discussion about hiring an administrative lead to decompress the director, president, and board in the future.

4. Finance Report-Blake

- Club is in good financial shape with roughly \$65,000.00 in all accounts. Recently billed members for a significant amount of regatta fees.

5. Insurance report -Dave

- Insurance is all squared away. Waiting on confirmation for sending boats out to HOOR. Adding extra boats to the policy based on Sara's update.

6. Stewardship

- Volunteering dropping off at this time of year. Jobs not being filled with as much regularity.

7. Social- Nora

- End of year party announcement went out.

A motion was made and supported to cover the banquet fees for coaches. Motion approved with unanimous support.

8. Safety Issues Update:

- Coxswain issue re: rowing in the dark has been handled.
- Cold water rowing rules are being reviewed
- Coach/launch/rowers ratio being left up to coach discretion. OOAR says one coach for every three 8+'s. Hesitation about having a written rule as it takes away flexibility. Some members have questioned this rule. Committee would like to leave discretion with the director. Would consider adding a safety launch along with coach for these circumstances. Committee will come up with wording for the board to consider.
- Several reports filed concerning small boats getting too close to each other. Committee dealt with this individually. May consider putting out buoys along middle of river to help all coxswain's to stay on their side.

9. Conduct review board: Janet

- Three reports filed since language has been in effect. All successfully resolved.
- Issues brought up in 2nd case were reviewed and CRB decided to bring them to the full board. Issues include:
 - Coach to boat ratio
 - Coaches not using kill switch cord
 - Coxswain disparity closer to premier regattas. Julie reports that cox/row ratio tally indicates this is more of a perception than reality.

Discussion re: the need to update the OOAR document, and coxing in the dark. No coxing sessions this year. Plans were in place but it never happened. The onus was on the technical novice coach to teach novices to cox.

Suggestion and discussion about rethinking CRB and how it works. Very uncomfortable for rowers to have to investigate other rowers. What should come to safety committee and what should come to CRB? Crossover between two committees. Need a more clear process for what to do with consistent rule breakers. Where is the line in the sand? Should we have an ombudsman for rowers to report coaching or boating issues?

Extended discussion on avenues needed for members to air grievances on coaching, boating issues, and length to which CRB can act to impose sanctions on consistent rule breakers or behavior issues.

Martin suggests postponing election of officers until workday in the fall. Martin will remain president for one more year, but will plan to move to a Vice President role mid way through the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm

Workday/Retreat scheduled for Sunday Nov. 15 at Martin's house

Next regular meeting: December 14th, REI

Approved: 11-15-15