

Conibear Rowing Club Business Meeting
July 7, 2011
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Minutes

Attendees

Kristi Skanderup, Karen Johnson, Polly Meyer, Sara Lopez, Eleanor McElvaine, Randy Pratt, Tara Morgan, Irena Baker, Beth Upton, Susan Stocking, Raleigh Nowers, Martha Goodlett, Ellie Horsnell, Sarah Smith, Jennifer Helgeson, Alice Lippitt, Ronda King, Sally Clark, Liz Ford, Becky Brown

Kristi Skanderup called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and ran a quick overview of the proposed agenda. No other business items were added to the agenda.

Kristi reported that Caroline Perkins will soon be returning home from the hospital, where she was recuperating from a severe bicycle accident. The group discussed the particular intersection of trail and railroad tracks where Caroline was hurt; apparently it is a frequent accident site and the surrounding neighborhoods and Seattle bicycle communities have wanted the safety issue addressed for a long time. Keep an eye on the news for any city action taken toward repairing the problem spot.

The minutes from the September 2010 meeting were not available for the club's vote at the March 10, 2011 meeting. They were presented for review along with the minutes from the March meeting. Tara Morgan moved to approve both sets of meeting minutes, there were multiple seconds to the motion and it passed unanimously.

Novice Class

Karen Johnson reported on the very successful novice class hosted in May and June. The participants were offered a well-priced package deal (including practice fees and pro-rated annual membership fee) to continue with CRC for the remainder of the summer. Sara Lopez congratulated the club on recruitment efforts and the accolades were returned to acknowledge her terrific coaching during the six-week session. Karen Johnson was thanked for her leadership organizing the recruitment and registration, and Alice and Raleigh were also cited for their assistance. The support they provided was critical to the class's success. Tara Morgan noted that Mt. Baker novice classes saw a small surge in enrollment with the overflow from Conibear's recruiting.

Summer Sculling Clinic

Peggy Tosdal will be the guest coach, working with Eleanor for the three-day clinic. We still need to confirm which participants will bring their own boats so we can manage storage space.



Communications Plan

Polly Meyer is working on a Big Tent primer to assist club members with navigating the site. An updated roster was circulated for review and will be posted to Big Tent when all the novice additions have been made.

2011 Budget

In Merida Scully's absence Kristi distributed copies of the budget for review. She summarized that at this half-year mark the Executive Committee feels good about the current numbers. Sara Lopez noted that regatta spending falls well within budget expectations, and we should see a small profit from the novice class. Merida is working to set up a better budget tracking system for monthly practice fees so the new pay structure can be more easily managed. Simplifying this system will support budget tracking for regattas, operations and discretionary spending. The recession relief fund is in practice and working out well.

While the next big fundraising goal has not been formally agreed upon, discussion about it is welcome. This fall we will start building momentum to lay a strong foundation for that next milestone. Club members were asked what type of boat they would like to purchase next. Sara Lopez noted that chronologically a quad is probably the next boat to replace. Shells that can be rigged as both a quad and a coxed four have the most versatility, but the cox seat is a detriment to racing it as a quad. Since storage space is at a premium, someone raised the question of whether boats can be rotated seasonally. Unfortunately the summer is the only time the boathouse is cleared out enough to accommodate those shifts. It was asked whether we could split the cost of a new boat with Mt. Baker. This is a possibility and it seems advantageous to them considering the recent campaign completion.

The Executive Committee proposes launching the next fundraising effort with a fall online auction open to the extended Conibear community. Tara Morgan has agreed to provide technical guidance for setting up the bidding site. Kristi Skanderup suggests the auction could span two or three weeks in the fall, and asked that everyone start brainstorming potential donations.

Two of our cox boxes are no longer working. The price per replacement box is between \$700 and \$800. Kristi Skanderup asked the club for approval to purchase two new cox boxes. Jennifer Helgeson and Tara Morgan simultaneously moved to approve the purchase, there were multiple seconds to the motion and it passed unanimously. Many of the club members expressed interest in owning the broken cox boxes so perhaps they can be auctioned online in the fall.

There are other miscellaneous equipment needs, including sculling grips and some general wiring replacement in preparation for the Speed Coach software.

To accommodate these additional needs, Liz Ford presented a new motion to approve spending \$2,500 to purchase two new cox boxes, replacement sculling grips and wiring



updates for the new software. Becky Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regatta Calendar

RCA Canadian Masters Championships

Caroline Perkins has made reservations at the Waddling Dog for rowers attending these BC races. The coaches noted that we still need trailering arrangements as Mt. Baker is not participating in the regatta. Rowers will need to bring their passport or enhanced drivers license for the border crossing.

Row for the Cure

Beth Upton reported that Karen Hart is eager to receive the Conibear video by July 16. Becky Brown kindly agreed to initiate the video planning and we'll try to pull our contribution together by the deadline. The Seattle Row for the Cure fundraising goal for this year is \$100,000.

Head of the Charles Regatta

The regatta will be October 22-23, 2011. Conibear automatically qualified a 40-year old four and a 50-year old four; there will be a lottery to enter any other boats. We will need a cox in addition to Alice as Sita Pearce will not be coxing this year because she is pregnant.

San Diego Crew Classic

If there is interest in this April 2012 regatta we need to register in November 2011. Historically it is very enjoyable and the pleasant weather is a welcome spring break. However, we return to water training late in the year and it is a rush to be prepared for these races. We would race eights in this 2000 meter regatta and can expect strong competition from the southern California rowing clubs. Rowers are encouraged to start thinking about their interest in this regatta.

Committee Chair Updates

Equipment

Randy Pratt is planning to get all the boats cleaned in July and August. Proposed July dates are the 16th or the 23rd. In August the cleaning date is the 27th. Randy has been researching new paint for the sculling blades, and whether they need an epoxy application. She is also debating the merits of decals vs. paint to replace the chevrons on our blades. Randy reminded the club to notify her of any equipment issues.

Mt. Baker Advisory Council

Kristi Skanderup reported in Diane Johnson's stead. August 14th is the grand opening of the new event space at Mt. Baker boathouse. They are still trying to rent out the new space for Seafair.

The south boat bay (middle of the three) has been dedicated to Conibear and we have the privilege of naming it. As we have not yet determined how we want the dedication



plaque to read, Presha Sparling and Martha Goodlett were tasked with compiling ideas for the club to review. Kristi will follow up with them regarding this assignment.

The question was raised whether the south dock can get more flotation as it is vulnerable to minor sinking and somewhat dangerous as a result. The flat answer from Seattle Parks Department is no. They do plan to set up new dock ramps which should help with weight bearing on the docks, however. The coaches recommend launching eights from the north dock as a rule.

Susan Stocking voiced additional concern about the poor lighting on the docks during pre-dawn rowing season.

Upcoming dates

Club members were reminded of the Seafair Practice Schedule:

YES rowing: Monday 8/1 & Tuesday 8/2

NO rowing: Wednesday 8/3, Friday 8/5 & Monday 8/8

YES rowing: Tuesday 8/9 & Wednesday 8/10

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

