

March 19, 2013

Conibear Rowing Club - Business Meeting Minutes

Present: Sara Lopez, Eleanor McElvaine, Emily Smalligan, Alice Lippitt, Ellie Horsnell, Liz Ford, Irina Baker, Ginny Calvin, Jeanne Ianucci, Catherine Reid, Polly Thompson, Jennifer Helgeson, Sara Amies, Tara Morgan, Karen Johnson, Gail Schueler, Gail Eshom, Raleigh Nowers, Mary Chalker, Beth Upton, Ronda King, Caroline Perkins, Tara Vagen, Joy Knopp

Club President Beth Upton called the meeting to order. Minutes from the September 20, 2012 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Minutes were approved by the members in attendance.

Beth noted the increase in membership of our club, with the addition in recent months of approximately 15 new members. She distributed a sign-up sheet for club committees.

Sara Lopez introduced Peggy Tosdal, manager of the Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center, to our group. Peggy welcomed new and returning members and encouraged people to approach her if they had any questions about the boathouse. She responded to a question about access to the locker room, explaining that there is a \$30 annual fee for a key card.

Regatta Schedule

Sara L. distributed copies of the 2013 Regatta Calendar, noting that except for the addition of the San Diego Crew Classic, the proposed schedule is similar to 2012. She also made the following comments about upcoming events:

- For the Lake Stevens Spring Fling, the Novice category will include those who have been rowing since June of 2012.
- All regatta sign-ups are done on our Big Tent site.
- For Opening Day, we should hear of the specific age category we have been invited to participate in by the end of March. We have enough interest in the club that we may be able to fill two boats.
- NW Masters Regionals runs three days, with heats typically on Friday, when required, and finals on Saturday and Sunday.
- There will be two Sculling Camp sessions this summer with seven spots each reserved for Conibear and Mt. Baker rowers. Guest coaches will be announced in future. Proposed sculling camp dates are June 30, July 1 & 2, and August 25 – 27.

Sara also recognized the efforts of our new coach, Emily Smalligan, and encouraged all rowers to welcome and bond with new members.

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Money Talk

Catherine distributed the December operating report, prepared by Merida. She confirmed that club income is adequately covering expenses. She also explained the advantages of using Quickbooks over our current use of spreadsheets. Quickbooks will improve accountability, and allow Catherine the ability to generate a variety of useful financial reports. Sara L. made the following comments about Conibear R. C. finances:

- Practice fees are calculated on a per person, per session basis.
- An estimate of a monthly total cost is made at the beginning of the season, based on attendance, to determine an amount that CRC pays to Mt. Baker.
- Ross and Peggy are currently working on a more accurate plan to determine the monthly amount due.
- When rowers don't attend a practice, that per session amount is considered a donation to the club, and at the end of the year each rower will receive an accounting of their annual donation from the Treasurer.
- We don't charge rowers for each regatta they attend like many clubs do. Instead, our club dues and fees cover most of the regatta expense.

Liz asked about the Regatta Calendar in regards as to how it is generated, and Sara responded that it is typically a club decision, and that this fall we will address the 2014 schedule as a group.

The "Recession Relief Fund" will be renamed the "Scholarship Fund" and currently has about a \$ 4,000. balance. Sara explained various funds on the spreadsheet, including the Outreach Fund, which has a balance of \$ 2 – 3,000. The Outreach Fund is to be used at the club's discretion, and has previously been used to provide a scholarship for the Mt. Baker Juniors.

Beth offered a description of our annual auction fundraiser to our new members.

Catherine reported that we currently have about \$ 38,000. in our checking account and \$ 25,185. in savings. Sara added that it costs approximately \$ 40,000 per year to operate the club.

New Uniforms

Beth explained that with the recent growth of our club it is a good time to look at uniforms. Caroline has been in touch with Henson Rowing and Boathouse Sports, and brought some samples from Boathouse to the meeting. Henson is intending to send samples as well. Research will continue.

The intent is for a graphics committee to come up with a complimentary design that will resemble the uniforms that we already have.

A show of hands from the group indicated the club wants to move forward with new uniforms.

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Sara A. asked whether the Scholarship Fund could be used by a Conibear member to fund a uniform purchase, and the answer was “yes” from Sara L.

Karen suggested that the club could fund the purchase of a few extra unis to have on hand.

Social Media Talk

Tara reported that her survey had 31 respondents. She added that 70% of our members use Facebook daily or frequently. Both the Big Tent site and our website will stay the same; her proposal to have a Conibear Facebook page would allow sharing of photos, race results, interesting rowing articles, etc.

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of having a Facebook page. Sara L. suggested that we should think about what the priority function of a Facebook page would be, and possibly start with a private site first. There was also the suggestion that a Flickr account could handle photo sharing among members.

Tara also asked for feedback on our website, which she has been working on.

Given time constraints, Beth moved to table the discussion about a club Facebook page until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and the group voted to continue at the next meeting.

New Boat Talk

Sara L. offered an update on our purchase of a new boat. The boat will be a stern-coxed four, with quad riggers, and will come from Pocock. The delivery date is uncertain at this time. She noted that the Kulshan was the original boat for the club and that it has reached the end of its life. The new boat will cost about \$ 20,000.

Other suggestions for equipment purchases to consider in the future included a new set of quad sculling oars, a Rowperfect machine, and additional free weights.

There was a motion that was seconded and voted on to move the boat purchase ahead.

Meeting adjourned.