

Conibear Rowing Club Business Meeting
October 13, 2011
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Minutes

Attendees

Kristi Skanderup, Karen Johnson, Merida Scully, Polly Meyer, Sara Lopez, Eleanor McElvaine, Susan Stocking, Raleigh Nowers, Martha Goodlett, Ellie Horsnell, Ronda King, Becky Brown, Gail Eshom, Presha Sparling, Caroline Perkins

Kristi Skanderup called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes from the July 7, 2011 meeting were presented. Presha Sparling moved to approve the meeting minutes, Karen Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2011 Budget

Merida Scully reviewed the budget information. Merida is still working to simplify the all the financial tracking systems into one comprehensive workbook. The 2011 budget forecasts were based largely on the 2010 expenditures and income and the information distributed shows the comparison between the two years with the 2011 actuals to date reflected against the estimates.

Susan Stocking noted that the budget line for monthly fees shows an increase and Merida confirmed that the club's larger number of active members is responsible for the increase, with a nod to this year's hugely successful novice class.

In preparation for 2012 planning Merida asked the group for feedback on the new payment structure for practice fees. This year was the first year with the options to pay yearly, quarterly or monthly, with the quarterly option proving the most popular. The monthly payment arrangements were the hardest to structure and track successfully. A frequent concern from club members was finding out if they were up to date on their payments for both quarterly and monthly arrangements. It was also challenging for the Treasurer to sort out who still owed practice fees and in which schedule. The group discussed possible methods for streamlining the fee structure and accountability system.

The Recession Relief Fund, which began with a donation of \$500, has grown to an estimated \$4,500. Information about their tax deductible donation will be sent to club members whose unused practice fees went to the Fund.



The question was posed as to what we will do with the Fund in future years if that coverage continues to be so sizeable. This question will be raised again for discussion at the next club meeting.

Online Auction

The goal for the auction is to raise \$4,000 and Kristi Skanderup reported that she expects to see that or a little more when the auction closes. The auction has gone very well so far and promises to be a great fundraising option in the future as well. The outstanding concerns and details to put in place before it closes include:

- how to wrap it up with the closing time deadline – the plan is to send out bid updates hourly so bidders know their lot's current status
- what to do if tie bids come in at the final minute – the plan is to offer the two bidders a chance to put in one last bid and the first in wins the lot
- need to add a "last updated" time on the bid records
- for the final day of the auction Kristi's e-mail will be added to all the e-mails sent confirming receipt of bids so both she and Tara are available to answer questions or concerns
- how to connect winning bidders to their auction item – the donors will be responsible for getting the item to the winner or arranging for collection. Ideally the exchanges don't take place until the bidder's money has been received.
- invoices will be issued to the winning bidders via e-mail
- how to evaluate the auction's success with useful metrics (e.g. how many winning bidders were CRC members or not)

Regattas

Head of the Charles

It's coming up and the participating rowers are working extremely hard in preparation for their races.

Head of the Lake

Entries are due – please RSVP via BigTent.

San Diego Crew Classic

Entries for this April 2012 regatta are due at the beginning of November and they fill up quickly. Polly Meyer will post the event on BigTent for RSVPs to gauge club interest. The race is a 2000 meter sprint and very competitive with the top California crews attending. There are age category races and mixed category races with staggered starts –we would send one or two eights. It's fun to have a regatta in the sunshine early in the year but requires a big training commitment as due to our Northwest weather Conibear's on the water training begins later in the year. Opening Day follows a month later.

Updates

Social

Presha Sparling has made arrangements for Sita's baby gift of an orange Bob stroller. Through member donations and a matching gift from the club the present is all paid for.



Sita will be in town Monday, October 17 and plans to join the post-practice coffee crowd at Mio Posto that morning. Please drop by to see her and offer congratulations.

Equipment

We will make arrangements to paint the blades in the winter. There is additional research to do regarding what type of paint was used previously and what should be used this time.

Randi Pratt would like to have the boats cleaned once more before they are put away for the winter. Since most of the club will be in town to participate in Head of the Lake it was suggested that boat cleaning follow the race. Jennifer Helgeson has volunteered to host a brunch following the regatta so arrangements will be made to somehow combine the two activities.

Mt. Baker Advisory Council

Diane Johnson will attend the next council meeting in two weeks.

Mt. Baker is hosting a pancake breakfast for rowers and their families on Saturday, October 29. The details can be found on BigTent.

December 4 is the Mt. Baker holiday open house and silent auction.

Sara Lopez took the floor to present her thoughts about a financial contribution to Mt. Baker. In Conibear's history we have given money to certain organizations, including the Huskies and Rainier Valley Rowers. Sara suggests we seriously consider a donation to Mt. Baker. It can be as specific as we like, such as money to fund scholarships for Rainier Valley Rowers entering the Mt. Baker program. The meeting attendees discussed the various ways to make such a gift happen, including a conversation about whether the money comes from individual donations, the club's funds or a combination of the two. It was agreed that we would like to target the donation to support scholarships at Mt. Baker and a subcommittee headed by Karen Johnson and Susan will further investigate the best audience, sum and approach. Sara noted that this might be one way to use some of our surplus money in the Recession Relief Fund. Presha suggested the gift could fall in the range of \$1,000-\$1,500. Merida confirmed that number should be feasible and she will have concrete financial information in November to help the final decision. It would be great if we can present our gift at Mt. Baker's December 4 holiday event. Susan Stocking moved to allocate a gift from Conibear Rowing Club, between \$500 and \$2,000, to Mt Baker Rowing and Sailing Center for student rowers in need, subject to review and approval by the Conibear Treasurer and Mt. Baker scholarship subcommittee. Ellie Horsnell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

As the recent outgoing club President, Becky Brown headed up the nominating committee for the 2012 slate of officers. Presha, Ellie and Jennifer were all on the committee. Becky is eager to have the club vote on the suggested candidates before the January awards party so there is ample transition time. Since there won't be another



social or business meeting before the new year, Becky moved to have the club vote online for the 2012 slate of officers. The motion had multiple seconds and passed unanimously.

Holiday Party

After some discussion about how feasible it will be to arrange a party in November or December, the group agreed that the next large gathering will be the January awards party. Karen and Ellie suggested an informal Volksmarch and will formalize their plan to present it to the club at practice.

BigTent and You

Due to time constraints Polly's presentation about BigTent was cancelled for this meeting. Please contact her with any questions about using BigTent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.



Conibear Rowing Club Volksmarch
December 3, 2011
8:00 – 9:30 am

Informal Minutes

Attendees

Kristi Skanderup, Karen Johnson, Merida Scully, Polly Meyer, Sara Lopez, Eleanor McElvaine, Susan Stocking, Raleigh Nowers, Ellie Horsnell, Ronda King, Becky Brown, Gail Eshom, Nancy George, Jennifer Helgeson, Liz Ford, Beth Upton, Denise Takahashi, Marie Westermeier, Judith Ames, Irena Baker

As announced previously on BigTent, CRC held the vote for the 2012 slate of officers at the December 3 Volksmarch, and Kristi Skanderup also received votes from absent club members via e-mail prior to the gathering.

The presented slate of Conibear Rowing Club officers for 2012:

Karen Johnson for President

Beth Upton for Vice President

Merida Scully for her second year of the two year Treasurer term

Tara Morgan for Secretary

Kristi Skanderup moved to accept the proposed slate of officers, the motion received multiple seconds and passed unanimously.

Becky Brown announced that on behalf of the club she put together two gift baskets of wine on donate to Mt. Baker's December 4 silent auction. After brief and merry discussion about reimbursement, Kristi moved to have the club reimburse Becky \$200 for the cost. The motion received multiple seconds and passed unanimously. Presha Sparling was also lauded for her generous donation of her Sayulita vacation home to the silent auction.

Per the vote at the October 13 business meeting Conibear will be donating \$1,500 to support rowing scholarships at Mt. Baker. The gift will be presented at Mt. Baker's open house and silent auction. Thanks were offered to the subcommittee who determined how to target our gift to reach youth rowers, and how much the club would give.

