

## WRRR Board of Directors Meeting, 081319

In attendance: Gretchen Shimola, Anna Chanakas, Scott Labuda, Kim Bache, Elana Baldwin, Frank Campbell, Martha Rini, Lexi Pappadakes

### 1. Discussion of financials

- a. Martha proposed that income from corporate rowing in 2019 draft budget be adjusted from \$5000 to \$1000.
- b. Kim made a motion to: Pass the 2019 WRRR budget as amended. Anna seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.**
- c. Bookkeeper sent financials. Review.
- d. Frank opened for discussion an idea presented by Martha at an executive committee meeting that we establish a reserve fund. Martha guided this discussion.
  - i. Typically starts with an endowment, but for us probably not.
  - ii. We can begin setting money aside. Also we can allow membership to place volunteer refund into a reserve account.
  - iii. Often with these funds, the interest is available to spend.
  - iv. Put stipulations on touching the actual principle. Intent would be to never touch it unless circumstances require it and the stipulations are met.
  - v. We should be in a financial position so that we can weather difficult situations that might arise.
  - vi. Propose that the Executive Committee discuss and make recommendations to the board regarding stipulations. A board vote would then be required to formally create the reserve fund, methods for funding it, and stipulations for withdrawing from it.
  - vii. Frank, regarding some proposed equipment expenditures, suggests that we first see what money we have left in our account after removing rack fees, assessments, any other known expenses for rest of year. Then we can assess what is available for equipment expenditures and for potentially seeding a reserve fund.
  - viii. What are known expenses through mid-March when new income comes in?
  - ix. Martha, had discussed having an accountant do a financial review. Would work with MaryAnn. Are our books being managed in best way? Perhaps they can make recommendations with regard to the reserve fund, etc. Cost probably around \$3600 or so.
    1. They will come and make a financial presentation.
    2. Megan has seen the paper work. We will move on having this done.
  - x. Missing activenet check was reissued and we have it.
  - xi. Frank needs to send activenet distribution reports to treasurer.

### 2. Minutes.

- a. Kim makes a motion to: Approve the July minutes. Elana seconded the motion.. All voted in favor. The motion passed.*

**Directors reports:**

1. Anna ( Sweeps and Sculling)
  - a. Feedback from people that first SRL regatta went very well and smoothly. Very pleased.
  - b. Review of Minutes of sculling committee meeting, July 15, 2019
    - i. Discussed requirements establishing who can row in a quad.
      1. Additional requirements for the bow person were established.
        - a. Must be certified independent.
        - b. If no coach present, must be certified to be in bow, otherwise independent sculler.
        - c. Process for getting certified to be in bow in quad outlined.
        - d. No requirements for other 3 seats if have a coach, otherwise comply with CRF SaM.
      - ii. Anna made a motion to: Approve the Quad Sculling use and Requirements for the bow seat as passed by the sculling committee on July 15, 2019, with the understanding that all relevant SaM requirements are also in place.
        1. Elana seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed.
      - iii. The sculling equipment needs have been prioritized by the committee as requested by the board.
        1. Need inventory of sculling blades and assessment of repairs needed. And get them repaired.
      - iv. Zita (Varnelis) Row. Great participation. Was a good day. We raised about \$1000 for the charity.
  2. Elana (coaching and coxswains).
    - a. Lexi is amazing and a rockstar.
    - b. Nothing else.
  3. Frank.
    - a. Frank will send out press release regarding masters.
    - b. Frank will send out vacant board position info.
    - c. Gretchen will put both in newsletter.
    - d. No LTRs this month.
    - e. I will be opening Fall versions of rowing programs.
    - f. Update coxswain rosters.
    - g. Also need roster info for any fall participants in outreach programs.
  4. Volunteerism, Martha
    - a. Lexi will handle volunteers for second regatta as with first regatta. This made things work quite well. Relied on non-SRL rowers to make volunteer roles more consistent since SRLers are rowing. We can use SRL folks for help in the Merchandise tent.

- b. Head of Cuyahoga. Work together with CRF.
  - c. Let board and members know if other volunteer events are planned.
  - d. New people came to the boatwashing event for the SRL boats.
  - e. List of volunteer hours to date is posted in the boathouse so folks can see what they need.
5. Equipment, Kim
- a. Sent out a list of equipment they want to purchase.
  - b. Need spare parts for shells.
  - c. Blades;
    - i. Keep same for SRL boats
    - ii. For Sweeps, narrow handle wood or the plastic handle ones?
      - 1. Masters will look at at Nationals at Concept II booth.
  - d. Capital expenses
    - i. Midweight double, 2019 demo to replace lightweight Gutske.
      - 1. Anna, Sculling committee thinks we need a lightweight replacement of Guske, but one with a broader range.
      - 2. Kim will see what is available.
      - 3. Anna asked Kim to send info on double demo or website and sculling committee will look at.
    - ii. Trade Moss for another heavyweight boat.
  - e. Anna made a motion: Approve purchasing of everything on list from slings to spray paint (omits shells and blades).***
    - i. Second by Gretchen. All approved. The motion passed.***
  - f. We will look at Vespoli and Concept 2 booths at Nationals.
    - i. Explore oar grips and discuss options
    - ii. Revisit purchase at next board meeting.
6. Gretchen, merch and communications
- a. No merch update
  - b. Newsletter, will go out in next couple days.
  - c. Will add note asking for those interested in coaching to reach out to Lexi.
  - d. Last year we paid Paul Kopp to take photos at SRL regatta. Will try again this year.

OTHER: How do SRL teams practice for HOTC

- a. In past, they could hire a coach and get a couple free practices.
  - b. WE agreed on this policy:
    - i. Make boats for HOTC available to all SRL folks first come first serve, FRL folks do not get preference (as so many SRL folks can't get in FRL due to lack of room).
    - ii. No more than two practice rows, between SRL and HOTC. Lexi will communicate to folks.
7. Outreach: Scott
- a. Vipers are doing doubles now.
    - i. Push to do as many as can instead of 4's and 8's.

- ii. Programs with largest adaptive rowing programs find best success with doubles.
        - 1. Will increase # of volunteers required, and will have to be certified scullers.
      - iii. Had scrimmage with 3 rivers a couple weeks ago.
      - iv. Plan to go to HOTC, HOTO, and HOOCR.
      - v. Goal is to have a 4 or 2-3 doubles for HOOCR.
    - b. Veterans, have 2 teams
      - i. Ordered Freedom Rows shirts for them. Will get next week.
8. Anna, Vipers and HOOCR
  - a. When announce HOOCR, also announce VIPERs to membership.
  - b. Will help recruit folks for doubles.
  - c. Announcement to membership, include:
    - i. last year vipers went to Charles
    - ii. hope to go this year
    - iii. Will be taking sighted rowers
    - iv. If interested in helping, need volunteers, and may lead to opportunity to go to Charles in future.
    - v. Intent is to make more visible.
9. Megan, Corporate Rowing (Megan is absent).
  - a. Hyatt hotel one this week. Mark Silverstein is running it.
  - b. CRF not doing it. WRRRA is doing it.
  - c. Email from Cathy Duhigg-Gannon to Megan,
    - i. With loss of Russ who was hired by CRF for corporate rowing. Kirk doesn't have time to fill that role. Therefore, Cathy will step in and help to schedule and staff corporate learn to rows. Cathy will work with Megan to get these set up.
    - ii. Will need access to volunteer list.
    - iii. In long run Cathy proposes that CRF and WRRRA carve out time over winter to figure out how to do this.
10. Old Business:
  - a. Signed lease for Lexi's office completed
  - b. Need to follow up with the \$15 fee to row buddy boats, etc.
  - c. Kim: request to name two oars and payment. Can do.
    - i. When get donations like this, do they get tax form for deduction.
    - ii. Cara bought and donated two sets of slings. Needs tax form. Thank you and tax form. Thank you for donation and can use letter. Scott should send.
11. Lexi:
  - a. SRL Regatta
    - i. Planning is progressing well.
    - ii. 2 food trucks booked.
    - iii. Medals in.
    - iv. Scott hosting Mark Warricks family.

1. Bought 10 oars. Getting lettering to put on them.
- b. Program changes proposed for next year. Would like a special meeting for that outside regular board meeting.
- c. Fall Rowing
  - i. There is a lot of interest in FRL, but we have a poor supply of coaches.
    1. Worse supply than last year.
    2. Some coaches are doing different things that are taking them away from being able to do this.
  - ii. Bulk of availability is from Mark and Nancy for FRL, REC and Perf
  - iii. Sam is available on Mondays and Patty Travis is also available.
  - iv. One issue to consider: We could have two teams go out with one coach in order to increase capacity.
    1. Martha: Fall rowing is more about doing longer pieces with less coaching.
    2. She asked her team if they would object to sharing coach with another team. They indicated they would not.
    3. Nancy and Mark and Patty can take multiple boats. Sam can only take one.
    4. Lexi has asked coaches to give feedback on rowers to help gauge where they should be next year. This info may help with putting teams together and might also be helpful in guiding crews/ boats to assign to one coach for the fall.
  - v. Coxswains: program descriptions indicate that we don't provide coxswains in Fall except for masters.
    1. Coxswains are in very short supply so we should not offer to help provide coxswains for FRL teams.
    2. Martha: Can we use the FRL sessions to train coxswains.
  - vi. More general issue that arose in the summer with Coxswains
    1. Coaches were reliable in showing up for practices, despite some isolated issues early in the season. Most are now going back to college, etc.
    2. Reliable scheduling of coxswains has been more problematic.
      - a. A few have proven to be quite dependable with respect to showing up for their scheduled teams (or finding a substitute). Others have been significantly less reliable in those regards, which has been a frustration to rowers (and to the Program Director).
    3. Gretchen, self-coxing helps some people learn what coxing is like, and we often find good coxswains who ultimately enjoy coxing that way.

4. We should think about what might have resulted in the perceived change in commitment from some coxswains and the relationship between coxswains and teams and whether there are ways we can improve that.
  5. Next year maybe WRRRA should pay a dedicated coxswain to be on call to come in if someone cancels. Lexi proposes this.
  6. Martha: The perception when problems arise these days is: "I paid to row, you said I would have this. Where is it?" Also there seems to be a breakdown in relationship between team and coxswain. In past it seems that teams considered the coxswain a part of the team and interacted with them accordingly. It seems like it may be less that way now.
  7. Can we bring coxswains and coaches together next year and have them meet and understand their relationship with each other?
- vii. Registration for FRL
1. How do fairly? With limited spaces?
  2. Martha: people get over being closed out quicker than having a bad experience.
  3. Mondays and Saturdays: REC
  4. Performance on Tuesday and Saturday
- viii. Safety concerns with 2 boats, 1 coach:
1. Concern if coxswains in both boats are novice?
  2. Pay structure for coaches would be different, would pay at the normal rec rate.
  3. Elana: two options:
    - a. Go with 2 boat plan
    - b. Or, we don't do fall rowing for SRLers this fall. And encourage to do buddy boats.
  4. Can we have coaches evaluate strength of rowers on first row and rearrange to try to balance the two teams a coach might take out?
- ix. Will Jamye be willing to do another coxswain clinic.
- x. Lexi would like to keep week between fall and summer available for makeup sessions (week after regatta).
- xi. Wants to take FRL from 7 to 6 weeks.
- xii. Kim: motion to accept fall rowing parameters (description) as outlined in the program directors description, including issues regarding need to self-cox and two boats with one coach and a 6 week session.**
- 1. Anna seconds**

***2. All voted in favor, motion passed.***

xiii. Adjust price from 7 to 6 weeks.

xiv. Duration applies to FRL, REC and Performance.

***12. Martha motion to adjourn at 8:54. Elana seconded. Motion passed.***