

## WRRRA Board of directors Meeting

July 8, 2019

Attendance: Frank, Scot, Megan, Kim, Martha, Lexi, Anna

Guest: Sam Liberman, Eileen Gordon, Janet Clark, Kirk Lang, Sharon Romilly (all present for about the first 15 minutes then departed).

1. Zita Varnelis: Request to name boat in her honor.
  - a. Janet: Comments on historical role of Zita to boathouse: coach, design, volunteering, rower, etc. About 20 years around here.
    - i. Asking for a boat to be named in her honor at the fun row in her memory.
      1. If did, might want input from Maris.
  - b. Eileen: Support of Janet's statement.
    - i. Zita was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer.
      1. Continued to volunteer and coach during the years after diagnosis.
      2. Rowed HOCA last October.
    - ii. Couple boats in fleet that don't currently have names, so maybe those can be considered.
  - c. Fun row in her honor is July 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Discussion
  - e. Anna: Made a motion that we name a boat after Zita Varnelis in recognition of her experience, volunteering, coaching, and overall devotion to the club over the past couple decades..
    - i. Elana seconded.
    - ii. All voted in favor.
    - iii. No opposition. Motion passed.
2. Coaching and launch guidelines:
  - a. A CRF "policy" sent only to safety qualified individuals. It was not sent to WRRRA Directors.
  - b. Sam:
    - i. Policy impacts mission of WRRRA, by virtue of people having to register for sessions ahead of time (can't just register at time of need).
    - ii. Policy requires a fee for usage of CRF launches / gas. Reason offered by Kirk is increased damages to launches.
      1. Coaches not knowing how to drive / use launch / motor.
      2. Who is responsible for their training?
    - iii. Impacts WRRRA rowers more heavily than other orgs.
      1. Discussion ensued.
        - a. Impact is primarily on independent rowers (i.e. buddy boats) that use a coach.

- b. These rowers have paid the same assessment as those rowers in structured coached programs. Why do they have to pay an additional fee why others don't?
    - 2. Lot more uses of launches this year.
    - 3. Mostly high schools doing most of the damage.
  - c. WE will prepare our comments / concerns and send to CRF board.
- 3. June minutes:
  - a. Megan suggested edits related to coach and coxswain payments in June minutes.
  - b. The bookkeeper has been very responsive to Megan, and should really only be responding to Scott, Lexi, and Megan.
  - c. Kim moved to pass June minutes with edits suggested by Megan. Megan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - d. Megan thinks that delayed payment of coaches and coxswains was a result of errors in timesheet, addresses, other by coaches and coxswains.
  - e. Some missing checks were found by Lexi in the boathouse; others had the wrong address provided to us.
- 4. Megan:
  - a. Costs associated with direct deposit (compass).
    - i. Can do this for 1099 folks
      - 1. \$2.55 / person / payroll.
      - 2. Base rate of \$37 / payroll plus above.
      - 3. Is this cost effective for us?
    - ii. Real problem is getting people to do what they are supposed to do. Submit on time, submit time sheets to correct person / place. Correspond with correct person, have correct addresses, etc.
    - iii. Several think that direct deposit would be more timely and involve less human intervention, etc.
    - iv. Compass will also send out files at end of year (1099, etc).
    - v. So Lexi and Megan will discuss to figure out what they want to do.
  - b. We are missing a check for \$59K. Ask activenet if that has been cashed and can they reissue it? Ask if there is a way to get direct deposit.
  - c. Needs to get budget information that Anna prepared in February / March.
- 5. Lexi (Program Director):
  - a. Thinking about Fall Rowing
    - i. Coaches will be limiting, but is looking for other time options that might make it more feasible to get boats on water.
    - ii. Has asked some coaches, some might be willing to take a boat.
    - iii. Losing David for the fall (SRL assistant).
    - iv. New phone number for WRRRA.
    - v. Kirk will send entire list of coaches for CRF.
    - vi. How handle boats that want to stay together.
    - vii. What about 1 coach and 2 boats? What if rowers are ok with it? Some just want to get on the water, and might be happy with that,

but what if one boat is strong and other weaker? How handle that?  
Safety issues?

- b. Anna:
  - i. Sculling
    - 1. Quad issue: inexperienced rowers using quad for guest row.
    - 2. Need to discuss what “inexperience” means? What does novice mean?
    - 3. Want to require certified independent sculler in bow and only experienced rowers in other seats. Need to define better terms better.
    - 4. This was understood rule, but has never been written into the sculling guidelines.
    - 5. Kirk thinks it use to be in SaM, but was taken out because only applied to WRRRA. Then was on our website, but didn’t make it to new website.
    - 6. Sculling Coaching:
      - a. Already have process on how to become certified sculling coach. Kirk will send it.
    - 7. Sculling wish List:
      - a. Need to prioritize
      - b. Planned obsolescence list, prioritize
- c. Elana (Coaching):
  - i. Met with Kirk to discuss assistant coaches.
  - ii. Will meet with Lexi to discuss fall coaches.
  - iii. Issues with Coxswain commitment. Lots of absentees / call offs, etc.
  - iv. Coxswains feel no need to come to regattas.
  - v. Absentee issues with Performance, masters and Rec coxswains.
  - vi. Are there older rowers who we can use as well instead of relying so much on younger folks.
  - vii. Could we reward committed coxswains by offsetting some of their rowing costs?
- d. Frank (Membership):
  - i. No August LTR’s, but Scott will speak to Bob about potential veteran LTR.
  - ii. LTS, if made available to new people, would be like a summer camp, and would have a reduced assessment fee.
  - iii. What is this price? Kirk will provide.
  - iv. Drop requirement that participants be an existing member.
  - v. Set up new way to register new folks.
  - vi. Find out if I can send out rosters only when new person signs up.
  - vii. Change timing to once a week. And only new things if possible.
  - viii. Issues with intro to sculling description.
  - ix. Failed payments.

- x. Send private sculling roster to KIRK (Frank).
- e. Martha:
  - i. Start refunding fees for vol deposit in Early September if possible. Need folks on payment plan to have paid vol deposit in full.
- f. Anna reporting on BVU meeting:
  - i. Learned about dvantages of having a good governance person on board, who can help identify board needs, identify and recruit board candidates, and assist with bringing them up to speed.
- g. Scott Veterans
  - i. 16 rowers, two boats
    - 1. They are bonding well, helping sub in, etc.
    - 2. Some other WRRRA folks are helping out and subbing in.
  - ii. VA blind rehab program, they come and row with VIPers
    - 1. 3 to 6 people show up at a time, maybe total of 25-30 different people. Same people don't come back as it is for whoever is currently in the VA rehab program.
  - iii. Scrimmage at 3 Rivers:
    - 1. Harlem Rows, adaptive program. Also DC Strokes in DC.
    - 2. Vipers will meet up with them.
  - iv. VIPERS:
    - 1. Online Fundraising for the HOCR.
      - a. Plan for how to do this fundraising.
      - b. Last year was concerned about donating across state lines with social media fundraising. Not currently a concern.
      - c. Won't know until September 5<sup>th</sup> if have a bid for HOCR.
      - d. Sherrod Brown's office sent info on a dozen or so potential grants that could be available.
      - e. Anna, Scott and program standards will review criteria for folks in boats for Vipers at HOCR (volunteer people)
- h. New Business:
  - i. WRRRA has an open board position.
    - 1. Can we find someone interested in being Treasurer. If so, we could appoint. Megan would then go to Governance/ Corporate rowing.
    - 2. This would be to fill Stephanie's full position.
  - ii. **Motion (Scott): Put out notice to general membership that we have open position for Treasurer for a term that begins immediately and ends November 2021.**
    - 1. **Kim Seconded**
    - 2. **All in favor,**
    - 3. **Motion passed.**
  - iii. Lease agreement with CRF for Lexi's office:
    - 1. Kim: concern regarding indemnification clause.

2. Martha will show to attorney at her company.
  3. There is an appendix that is intended to be a map / diagram of the office, but it is blank.
    - a. We need to see diagram.
  4. We will follow up with CRF.
- i. Megan made a motion to adjourn, Elana seconded. All in favor. Adjourned.  
8:19 pm.