

MINUTES FOR NW ROWING COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

January 27, 2007 at Lake Union Rowing Club

Present: Nick Haley (RCRC) Rome Ventura (LUC) Morgan Seeley (BIRC) Linda Desrosiers (BIRC) Ed Maxwell (GLC) Marty Beyer (ERA) Ryan Monahan (SRA) Jason Coffman (MBRC) Karyn Crouthamel (I) James Rawson (USRA) Sarah Hirst Smith (PRC) Arik Wiest (OAR) Tina Paniel (SRA) Peggy Tosdal (MBRA) Kathy McCormack (GLAC) Conor Bullis (LWRC) Margaret Christopher (PRC) Jenny Simon (Referees, Lewis & Clark)

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Jenny Simon, President.

Motion to Approve Agenda: moved, second, passed.

Motion to Approve November minutes: moved, second, passed.

Board/Treasurers Report: Jenny Simon

Bob Cummins resigned at the last meeting, so Jody Wilhelm has stepped in as Treasurer and Tom Fuller has stepped in as At Large Member. We have \$12,500 in the bank and \$7500 coming from the 2006 Regionals.

We will have a two signature policy on the checks; this will provide extra security on our funds and should make it unesceary to get D&O insurance.

Regionals Report: James Rawson

We're doing designs for the regional medals that we'll submit to US rowing; the rules are written and he handed them out. Regional championships packets will be out for 2007 within the next two weeks. Junior rule of 2 races for athletes excluding HS events will be the only major change. Will be changes in '08; USRA has gone to a different style of bid packet, trying to get it out in next month so that by Jr. Regionals, we'll be able to say where the next years' event will be. Trying to streamline the system to match the other regions in the country.

A question was raised about whether the decision would be made before Regionals and if so, will the Council have a chance to review the bids first. James indicated that there would be an opportunity for review prior to a decision being made.

USRA Board Comments: Jenny Simon

Jenny reported from Tom Fuller that the board meeting at the USRowing Convention in December didn't accomplish much because of weather. There's a meeting in Tampa at beginning of March so let Tom know if there's anything you want to raise there.

Referees: Jenny Simon

The Regatta “associates” idea was raised to give another level of refereeing, but the Commission voted it down at the Annual Convention. Commission is meeting again at beginning of March. USRA split club nationals into club and elite, both in NJ but different venues.

ID Camps: Jason Coffman

Men’s ID camp starts tomorrow at UW. Regatta Central has all the info and registration, though Ed says there are issues with registration so just come and bring a check. Ed says if any coaches have young athletes that are good, bring them because of something that is going on in Beijing. Feb. 17 ID camp at Lake Union.

Junior Mens/Womens: Ed Maxwell

Two coaching clinics; Level 1 and 2 at Greenlake. One day format, Jason Coffman and Margaret Christopher will be teaching at them. Can’t do them back to back; you have to be Level 1 for a certain period of time before getting Level 2.

Coach Mentoring Program: Karyn C.

Karyn will send out an outline to the entire counsel soon. The coaching database is in progress and we have contacted the clubs and asked for the emails for their coaches. This will be a contact resource for coaches. We want to set up a resource for coaches with a basic LTR curriculum and a mentor program, in the future we would like to add information on liability issues, sample emergency action plans, links to US Rowing insurance page, and create a general informational resource for coaches in the NW. Mentorship Program: Jody, Jason Coffman, Karyn, etc. will be available to be mentors for young inexperienced coaches. This would be for the whole region, ultimately; some of the mentors could travel to different areas.

It was pointed out that a list of the independent coaches in the region would be good to have too.

Spending Counsel Funds: Jenny Simon

We’ve been hesitant to spend money without the region giving us approval on everything, but now we’d like something in place so we can spend money between now and November.

Jenny opened a discussion about spending. No comments.

We’ll have to pay 501(c)(3) fees, etc. So she requested approval from the Council to spend \$1,000 this year for governance, \$500 for the Coach Mentoring program, and \$750 for the regatta box. We’ve talked about refs not having enough money to some of their own supplies so we try to keep some extra items in the regatta box to make it easier for the referees. Jenny proposed authority to spend up to \$500 on an program or endeavor the Board decided on during the year but this was not approved.

Comments:

- small clubs should pay us to send their coaches to our coaches for training.
- the Council should help small clubs who need our support, who can't afford to pay their coaches for the USRA class just to have them quit soon after.
- the "small clubs should pay" idea should be applied to clubs that are established and have income, but we should be willing to pitch in for a startup club.
- but 10 people forming a new club can pitch in \$10 each to bring a coach out for a training session.
- the NW can support their efforts but they have to convince us that it's a good investment.

Motion to ask the Board to develop a coach mentor application process. Moved, second, passed.

Motion for approval of governance spending in the amount of \$1000, moved, seconded, passed. Motion for approval of spending in the amount of \$750 for regatta box, moved, seconded, passed.

Note on Regatta box: there were originally supposed to be two but currently there's only one. James Rawson is maintaining it. Jenny proposed having two boxes, one for Seattle one for Portland. Peggy suggested that we tell people up front that missing or broken equipment will be replaced by the user, and 'in-kind' rather than invoicing them.

Bylaws: Margaret Christopher

Explained the various changes, including membership, the quorum rule, electronic voting. Also explained 501c3 process, cost and current status.

NW Awards Nominations: Margaret Christopher

Date set for February 17 at LWRC, not sure about format but there were a lot of nominations this year for the three categories. Will post the nominations and all the supporting information on the site and send notice to the members to come and vote rather than have the Board make the decision.

USRA Masters Committee: Kathy McCormack

Masters committee focused on static refereeing, and the AA rule allowing AA rowers to row in any age category at Regionals and Nationals. Still looking for bids for 2008 Masters Nationals. 2007 is in Oak Ridge TN. Most masters do not know that each race they enter at Nationals they pay a dollar to the junior national team. Kathy's objection didn't go anywhere so taxation without representation will continue. The region seems to be 50/50 on the issue. Static reffing at Princeton/FISA Worlds but the referees don't like it generally because they can't really help from the sidelines, and are concerned they can't get somewhere fast enough to help in a safety situation.

Burke Ketcham, a local rower, is working to get FISA to recognize H category so that the 80 year olds can row in their own category.

Comment re: Masters Nationals, the officials were SO impressed with the way it was run, it went beautifully, it was great, thanks in part to Peggy.

Race Course Development: Jenny Simon

On the back of the meeting Agenda was a proposal from Tom Fuller asking for \$3,000 for OAR asking to help put together permanent buoyed course on Dexter Lake. They have almost enough money, but they are coming up short. Asking the Region to front the funds that they will pay all or part of back. PVRA had similar situation several years ago, when they developed the course. They borrowed \$3,900 and then paid it back over time, or at least part of it.

Lively discussion about the Council's interest in helping to develop racing venues and how to use our funds, and whether the funds should be given outright or in the form of a loan.

Motion: The Council should spend money on developing racecourses in the region. Moved, seconded, passed.

It was suggested that proposals for funds should be submitted to the Council and posted on the website for preview by the members prior to the November board meeting so that they can be voted on. The Board was asked to develop a template for requests for proposals.

Motion: We will ask OAR for further information in a presentation format we'll request that they can present at the November meeting, and we're only interested in doing it on a repayment basis. Moved, second, passed.

Motion: Clubs/orgs/LOCs can apply for money that is to be repaid at the November meeting. Moved, second, passed.

Calendar/Website: Kathy McCormack

People have been really good about sending in information about regattas.

Next Meeting: Jenny Simon

Should we have another full Regional meeting in the summer? General discussion resulted in the consensus that no one will come to a summer meeting. So next meeting will be at next HOTL day.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED by Jenny Simon