

Bainbridge Island Rowing Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 4/22/2020, 7:00 PM



Location: Video Conference

Board Members

Present: Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Jill Bamburg, Rob Bloom, Celia Clark, Meloni Courtway, Julia Czesla, Tim Dore, Sue Entress, John Foy, Kurt Frost, Rob Hershberg, Kris Kutchera, Kayla Musser, Anthony Oddo, Sommer Vincent, Faith Watson

Absent: none

Quorum present: Yes (16/16)

Others present: Bruce Beall

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President, Sue Entress.

Agenda

- Agenda was reviewed. **MOTION** by Julia Czesla to approve the agenda. Seconded by Meloni Courtway, all approved.

Minutes

- **MOTION** by Anthony Oddo to approve the March 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Celia Clark, all approved.

State of the Organization

- Sue Entress provided an overview of the state of the organization amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- See Sue's April 21 letter to the BIR family.
- A similar letter focusing on masters rowers is forthcoming once we have additional direction from the Governor's office.
- Consider ways to continue as a source of connection and positivity for our members given that it will likely be fall or beyond before things return to normal.

Financials

- Kurt Frost provided an update on the financials.
- Partial refunds were offered to junior families, who have been incredibly generous donating all or portions of their refunds to help us through the crisis.
- Masters rowing fees and refunds will be dependent on startup date, which is currently unknown. Requesting that masters postpone fee payment, however they can make a straight donation if desired. **ACTION:** Provide COVID-19 update

to masters, coordinating with Kurt Frost, Sue Entress and Nicolai Otte. **Celia Clark**

- Based on cost and refund modeling, we project having enough funds to cover non-coaching overhead costs even if programs are closed through the end of the year.
- Kurt is applying for an SBA PPP loan, which would allow rehiring of the furloughed coaching staff.
- The hotel deposit for juniors regionals will be refunded.

Development

- Jennifer Ames-Karreman led a discussion about changing the timing and format of Dream Big, currently scheduled for November 21.
- Primary purpose of Dream Big this year is to pay off \$286K in member loans for the recent phase of rowing center construction.
- November not ideal for a traditional fundraiser given reluctance to gather in large groups, economic impacts of Covid-19 and proximity to the presidential election.
- Board brainstormed ideas including a virtual event in November, postponing to February, bringing it forward to this summer, multiple smaller events, outdoor event (s), fun event like Nottaregatta, series of zoom gatherings, etc.
- **ACTION:** Lead a smaller group to craft a Dream Big fundraising strategy with flexibility that continues to build community in an innovative way. Present alternatives at May 27 Board meeting. **Rob Bloom**

Juniors

- Kayla Musser provided an update from the juniors.
- Kids are disappointed but understanding and trying to stay positive.
- Coach connections are helping kids stay connected, motivated, and united as a team.
- Making virtual posters online.
- Suggested getting all juniors together for a virtual event.

Director of Rowing

- Bruce Beall provided an update on the rowing programs.
- Attending Friday meetings with coaches in the region to discuss news and strategies.
- Planning to accommodate all kids regardless of training whenever able to get on the water.
- Considering virtual meetings with junior parents and masters.
- Working on ways to honor graduating seniors.
- Decision on whether novices will need to repeat their novice year will be either a regional or US Rowing decision.
- Working with Rob Hershberg on cleaning and oar handle sterilizing practices.

- Rockaway is sanded but not painted. Karen Campbell located a barn for this work once restrictions are lifted.
- Staying connected with key major donors and continuing to cultivate others.

Juniors Program Liaison

- Faith Watson provided an update on the junior rowing program.
- Working with Rob and Sommer to transition to Juniors Program Liaison role.
- Many thanks to coaches during this difficult time!
- Senior boys interested in a high school 8 regatta if possible.

Masters Program Liaison

- Celia Clark provided an update on the masters rowing program.
- Masters requesting more communication. Positive feedback on Sue's letter. Celia will increase her communication.
- FaceBook interview with Tom Coble was a big hit.
- Sommer Vincent encouraged people to submit Instagram content to promote social connections.

Go Forward Ideas

- Kris Kutchera solicited additional ideas for moving forward.
- Looking into organizing programs with singles, 16 identified.
- Consider rowing spaced out in the barge.

Safety Manual

- John Foy provided an update on latest version of the Safety Manual.
- **ACTION:** Send Safety Manual to Board for review and approval at May meeting. Identify/summarize changes. **John Foy**

Meeting adjourned without executive session at 9:02 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 27, Video conference
Board Reports will be due May 24.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Kris Kutchera