

Bainbridge Island Rowing Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 7/28/2021, 7:00 PM



Location: SPLRC East Lawn

Board Members

Present: Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Jill Bamburg, Celia Clark, Julia Czesla, Grant Dull, Melanie Edenholm, Sue Entress, Brandon Fleet, John Foy, Rob Hershberg, Kris Kutchera, Anthony Oddo, Tim Verharen, Faith Watson, Luke Watson

Absent: Kurt Frost, Beth Wheeler

Quorum: Yes (15/17)

Others present: Bruce Beall

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President, Kris Kutchera.

Around the Room

- All present are doing well
- Grant Dull arranged for the BI Fire Marshall to inspect the SPLRC (Stan Pocock Legacy Rowing Center) on 8/12 ahead of late summer and early fall events.

Board Action

- Kris Kutchera proposed to amend the meeting agenda to move *COVID Policy* to after *Development*
- **MOTION** by Jennifer Ames-Karreman to approve the revised agenda as proposed above. Seconded by Faith Watson, all approved.
- **MOTION** by Brandon Fleet to approve the June 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Melanie Edenholm, all approved with Jill Bamburg abstaining.

Financials

- Melanie Edenholm presented on behalf of Kurt Frost that participation and financials continue to track projections and budgets.
- Fundraising for 2021 Youth Nationals was not as robust as previous years due, in part, to the decision to attend later in the program year and the general uncertainty around BIR's participation.
- Sue Entress suggested that fundraising for Youth Nationals could begin earlier and be part of outreach throughout the season. BIR will likely have the opportunity to send one or more crews each year.

- John Foy asked if a final cost had come back for the first phase of the stairs. ME will check with KF and report back.

Junior Alumni Wall

- James Sheldon is organizing the list of alumni names that will appear as part of the newly painted mural inside the boathouse.
- Jill Bamburg proposed a different nomenclature to reflect the recognition of the student athletes. Jennifer Ames-Karreman proposed “Alumni Recognition Wall.”
- Kris Kutchera solicited input on the plan for inclusion of student athletes based on the years of participation in the program and/or level. At the very least, all those students who participated as Varsity rowers during their senior year will be included.
- Others suggested additional notations or symbols to also indicate if a student athlete participated at Youth Nationals, rowed for four years, served as captain, etc.
- General sense of Board is to recognize student’s sustained participation in the program and to demonstrate the growth of the program since its inception.
- Bruce Beall will confer with James Sheldon during the Alumni row on Saturday, July 31st and also raise the issues with the returning alums as well for their thoughts.

Development

Plans for 20th Anniversary Celebration

- Jennifer Ames-Karreman provided background about the 20th Anniversary celebration at the SPLRC on Saturday, July 31st from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. This is the first large event at the boathouse and will include various stations for guests to view different exhibits and features of the SPLRC.
- Speakers will include current and former board members as well as Elisabeth Chun, granddaughter of Stan Pocock.
- Information for individuals who pass by, but are not registered, will be available at the check-in desk on Brien Drive.

Plans for Dream Big

- Julia Czesla provided an update on plans for Dream Big on Saturday, September 18th at the SPLRC.
- Event will be in a different format this year, but also notable as the first Dream Big at the new boathouse. Guests will be accommodated both indoors and outdoors with tents providing shelter on the outdoor lawn, portable restrooms, and a band stage. A permit has been applied for with COBI for the closure of Brien Drive SE on the day of the event.
- BIPD will provide security as required – at least two off-duty officers.
- JC expects up to 250 guests. Food and drink will be provided by local Bainbridge businesses.

- Tickets will be \$75 per person with invites expected to go out by August 16th.
- JC asked all to reach out to their networks and invite Learn To Row and novice participants as well as youth program parents to attend. Additional “social” events are planned to bring these new groups together ahead of Dream Big.
- JC will determine power needs for the band and caterer and reach out to the appropriate individuals for set-up assistance.
- Calls for volunteers to assist with night-before and day-of set-up as well as tear-down will go out later in August.

COVID Policy

- Kris Kutchera introduced a question of requiring COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition for attendance in Fall 2021 programming for all youth and adult rowers. She noted that BISD will not require vaccinations for the upcoming school year.
- General consensus of the Board is to require vaccinations for all participants in BIR programs.
- Through attestation of vaccination status, KK reported that for most programs (with the exception of Junior Try Rowing), the vaccination rate is at or above 90%.
- Sue Entress suggested contacting those that are not yet vaccinated to explain the Board policy thinking. Also suggested perhaps there may be a way to allow unvaccinated participants to participate in a limited way.
- Jennifer Ames-Karreman noted that BIR received funds to support programmatic activities impacted by COVID-19 and that this would be a good use of those dollars (e.g., additional coaching salaries, equipment use, etc.).
- Bruce Beall noted that all launches are in use during youth practice and it may not be possible to have a separate coach/launch supervising unvaccinated participants in 1xs.
- Grant Dull asked for clarification on the Board of Directors policy for liability coverage. Kris Kutchera will verify and report back.
- **MOTION:** Kris Kutchera moved that all rowers, coxswains, volunteers, and coaches in any BIR program (youth or adult) beginning in the Fall 2021 Season must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Seconded by Jill Bamburg. No further discussion; motion **passed** with no objections.
- **MOTION:** Kris Kutchera moved that the current policy of attestation through iCrew with request of proof of vaccination, if requested, remain in place. Seconded by Jill Bamburg. No further discussion; motion **passed** with Anthony Oddo objecting.
- **REQUEST TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION:** Sue Entress asked to reconsider the motion regarding attestation. Celia Clark noted that many adult rowers have asked for a policy to include demonstrating proof of vaccination to BIR.
 - **MOVED:** Anthony Oddo moved that all BIR participants must show proof of their vaccination status through an upload of the participant’s CDC

Vaccination Card. Seconded by Jill Bamburg; motion **passed** with no objections.

- **MOTION:** Kris Kutchera moved to adopt an indoor masking policy for all participants, guest, visitors, and any others who may enter the SPLRC, regardless of vaccination status, beginning on Thursday, July 29th. Rob Hershberg seconded. No further discussion; motion **passed** with no objections.

Exotic Aquatics

- Bruce Beall explained that the owner of Exotic Aquatics requested the use of a BIR Safety Launch in the event of an on-water emergency.
- General consensus of the Board is that use of a launch would be acceptable; however, logistical and insurance concerns need to be worked out first.
- Grant Dull noted that Exotic Aquatics would need the keys to a launch at the dock not at the office on Madison.
- Rob Hershberg noted that the best course of action would be to call 911 in the event of an emergency.
- BB will go back and gather more information and report back to the Board.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Jennifer Ames-Karreman moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Faith Watson. With **no objections** the meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 25, SPLRC
Board Reports August 20, 2021.**

Minutes submitted by Acting Secretary, Anthony Oddo.