

Bainbridge Island Rowing
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
11/16/22, 7:00 pm



Location: Videoconference

Board Members

Present: Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Andrew Block, Laura Bottger, Lindsay Browning, Celia Clark, Julia Cziesla, Melanie Edholm, Sue Entress, Mirén First, Brandon Fleet, John Foy, Kris Kutchera, Marc Stewart, Tim Verharen, Beth Wheeler

Absent: Jill Bamburg, Hannah Cutler

Quorum: Yes (15/17)

Others Present: Bruce Beall, Jeff Krueger

Proceedings

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Kris Kutchera

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda

- **MOTION** by Lindsay Browning to approve the November 16, 2022 Agenda. Seconded by Celia Clark, all approve.

Minutes

- **MOTION** by Mirén First to approve October 26, 2022 Agenda. Seconded by Jennifer Ames-Karreman, all approve.

Month in Review - November 2022

- Congratulations to all of our teams, coaches and volunteers for their excellent showings at Head of the Lake and Frostbite regattas!!
- After a short break, winter training programs began for juniors and adults on Monday.
- Lindsay Browning, Miren First, Beth Wheeler, Melanie Edholm, and Tammy Galbraith finalized travel reservations for spring junior regattas. The travel accommodations policy has been updated to allow parents to make their own reservations if they want to determine room assignments for Covid purposes or otherwise.

- Marc Stewart and Andrea Chymiy drafted some medical safety protocols for use by first aid assistants at regattas, coaches, and others.
- Celia Clark and Coach Redge have resurrected the adult team coordinators and held their first meeting yesterday.
- Judy Friesem facilitated a discussion on Aging while Rowing with 25 of our more senior adult members. There's a zoom option tomorrow night and she will follow up with recommendations to the Board.
- A big thanks to Brandon Fleet, Marc Stewart, Coach Nicolai, and our maintenance work parties who got our boats and equipment ready for Head of the Lake, and also for taking advantage of the empty boathouse to do some major fall cleaning.
- Work is underway to repair shells and launches, modernize our equipment, and build a supply of repair parts for spring season.
- We were awarded the Parks & Trails Foundation grant of \$3,500 for our new quad! James Sheldon and Julia Czesla have applied for a grant from Rotary for an additional launch to enable growth in our junior programs.
- John Foy, Jeff Krueger and I have been negotiating the bid and contract with Clark Construction. We received the first detailed estimates yesterday and will discuss them with the Board tonight.
- Laura Bottger has done extensive legwork to ensure we have adequate insurance for builder's risk and general liability during construction.
- Lindsay Browning is working with Mary Agliam to implement the venue rental process starting with the waitlist, which is now up on the website. They are incorporating input from Julia Czesla based on her experience with Dream Big. Once we have a firm construction completion date, we can start committing to reservation requests.
- Jennifer Ames-Karreman and her team are ramping up social media, preparing to send the Thanksgiving Gratitude / Year End Appeal cards, and developing the donor newsletter.
- Kurt Frost and Melanie Edenholt are assisting with modeling our pro forma budget for 2023 with rental revenue and expenses, an executive director, and maintenance needs. Lots of moving parts for sure.
- Thank you all for your dedication and hard work! It takes a village!

Financials Update - Melanie Edenholt

- Overall still \$100K ahead of budget for year; this will decrease by the end of the year as expenses continue. \$13K in scholarship fund, which is favorable over previous year. Budget attachment in Consolidated Report shows more detail on operating expenses. Please contact Melanie with any questions.

Board Candidates

- The board will have openings in March, in addition to the one-year Junior Representative position. Board members should be thinking of potential candidates.

Jeff Krueger joins meeting.

Construction Update

- Estimate received yesterday from Clark for \$1.5MM, which is \$300K higher than budget. Primarily due to redesigned, more flexible, improved HVAC system, compounded by universal supply chain issues and inflation.
- Executive Committee discussed means of addressing increase including additional fundraising, obtaining loans or redefining scope of work to meet budget. Recommendation was to reduce costs and/or defer some aspects.
- Jeff Krueger reviewed some opportunities proposed by Clark for cost reduction.
- Additional items not in construction budget include furniture, AV to enable use of spaces
- Consensus that BIR needs to work within current budget. Board members working on construction items will regroup to study options.
- Special board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 7 @ 7:15 pm via zoom.

Jeff Krueger departs meeting.

Development Update - Jennifer Ames-Karreman

- End of year development efforts are in the works
- Lindsay Browning is focussed on Event Rental business; drawing together event information, and integrating work already by the committee. Julia Czesla has been a tremendous resource from her exhaustive work to make Dream Big happen.

New Business - US Rowing policies and venue

- Tim Verharen discussed concerns related to USRowing:
 - Holding USR Nationals in Florida, a state in which public policy around LGBTQ+ inclusivity is at odds with standards that BIR supports and promotes.
 - Discontinuation of lightweight category, a historically strong category for BIR Juniors
- Bruce Beall noted that, among BIR coaches, the absence of the lightweight category has been a discussion point. Bruce and Chelsea Vessenes attended the Scholastic Rowing Association championships in NJ last spring, as a possible lightweight alternative to USRowing Nationals.
- Board support for bringing both issues to the attention of USR, preferably with additional regional clubs participating.
- Kris requested that Bruce make a recommendation at the December meeting.

MOTION by Jennifer Ames-Karreman to adjourn to Executive Session. Mirén First seconded. All approve. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:27 pm.

MOTION by Kris Kutchera to adjourn meeting. Mirén First seconded. All approve. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Beth Wheeler