

Bainbridge Island Rowing  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
09/28/2022, 7:15 PM



Location: Marge Williams Center and Zoom

**Board Members**

**Present:** Jennifer Ames-Karreman, Laura Bottger, Lindsay Browning, Celia Clark, Hannah Cutler, Julia Czesla, Melanie Edenholm, Sue Entress, Brandon Fleet, John Foy, Kris Kutchera, Marc Stewart, Tim Verharen.

**Absent:** Jill Bamburg, Andrew Block, Mirén First, Beth Wheeler

**Quorum: Yes (13/17)**

**Others Present:** Bruce Beall

**Proceedings**

Meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM PST by President Kris Kutchera

**Around the Room**

**Agenda**

- **MOTION** by Marc Stewart to approve September 28 agenda. Seconded by Julia Czesla, all approve.

**Minutes**

- **MOTION** by Brandon Fleet to approve August 24, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Jennifer Ames-Karreman, all approve.

**November and December Meeting Schedule – Laura Bottger**

- Instead of meeting on our usual 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in November and December, the executive committee proposed alternate dates to increase attendance.
- **MOTION** by Kris Kutchera to move the meeting dates for November and December to November 16 and December 14. Seconded by Sue Entress, all approve.

**Month in Review—September 2022 – Kris Kutchera**

- Fall Season kicked off with information meetings for junior parents and adult rowers. We have 107 juniors registered, the biggest turnout ever! Included are 12 members of the new coed 8<sup>th</sup>

Grade Team headed by Kristen Gagnon. Adult rowers are numbering around 100. Junior and adult athletes are preparing for Tail of the Lake on October 2.

- Bruce Beall has added several new coaches to the team including John Danielsson (adults), Addison Taylor (junior boys) and Ellie Calvez (8<sup>th</sup> graders).
- Andrew Block will join Mirén First as Co-Junior Parent Liaison. This will allow Lindsay Browning to take on the much-needed role of assistant regatta travel coordinator and head chaperone, learning from the best, Beth Wheeler. Lindsay will also share the boys varsity team parent role with junior parent, Tamzin Boyce.
- Thanks to Bruce Beall, Brandon Fleet, Marc Stewart and a large number of volunteers, launch and shell repair, equipment maintenance, and deep cleaning of the shells is in full swing.
- Brandon Fleet is working with the Equipment Committee to detail and prioritize needs for equipment expenditures. We'll hear a report from him tonight.
- Dream Big was a huge success!! Many thanks to Julia, who spearheaded the event, and the many volunteers who made it so special. The juniors stole the show with Hannah's heartfelt speech and their enthusiasm even after a 9-hour day.
- Our Public Campaign is ramping up with a presence at the October 7 Art Walk and hosting the One Call For All kickoff at the boathouse on October 11.
- John Foy, Jeff Krueger, Beth Wheeler and the Design Committee are vetting the proposal from Clark Construction, and contract documents are being prepared with the help of outside council, Jeremie Lipton.
- YTD finances are good with higher than budgeted membership numbers.
- Thank you to the board and all of our volunteers and staff for your help in making all of this happen!

#### **Development** –Julia Cziesla & Jennifer Ames-Karreman

- *Dream Big Results.* Julia reported that the event netted close to \$175,000, exceeding our \$150,000 goal. Ticket sales and \$14,000 in sponsorships covered expenses. Two \$10,000 matching gifts, the second week at a luxury Bali resort added to the auction, and the \$4,600 raised from a single bottle of whiskey were among the evening's notable moments. Not to be left out, people who could not be there still contributed thousands of dollars.
- *Public Campaign schedule & activities.* Jennifer Ames-Karreman reviewed current and upcoming activities and events. A strong article about the Stan Pocock Rowing Center's progress and BIR appeared in the fall issue of *Tideland*. Volunteer rowers will be at the October 7 moonlight market with a fundraising bake sale, raising awareness for the boathouse and signing people up for tours. On October 11, One Call For All will have its kick-off event at the boathouse. BIR will give a ten minute presentation. Later this year, BIR will run its annual half page ad in the *Bainbridge Review*, thanking the community for its support and highlighting the push to finish the boathouse. A year end post card will also go out to our supporters. More events are and will be planned for 2023. Dream Big included a salsa party to mark the grand opening of the completed upper level. Prior to the party, we may also invite key people, including donors and potential donors, for a sneak peak.
- *Other ideas for campaigns/awareness:* Suggestions from board members included inviting junior rowers as ambassadors to the OCFA event, launching an erg-a-thon in a public space, offering team building rowing (or erging) events to local small businesses, planning a one-day community

event to include on the Park Department calendar and in its island wide mailer, and getting active on TikTok.

- *When BIR will start to book events.* The construction delays and uncertainty regarding the schedule have kept us from booking events. To be sure that we can meet any commitments, BIR does not plan to accept bookings until the project completion date is certain. Our event planning consultants have advised that most high-end events have already booked for summer 2023. That could translate into less event revenue than we'd hoped would be available to fund the new executive director position as well as operations. But others are optimistic that demand will be strong next summer even without being able to offer contracts now. BIR alumnae and others will want the boathouse for their events if it is available. Short of making firm commitments, we can put interested people on a waitlist and collect names on our website. That represents a fair approach for moving forward.

#### **Financials Update – Melanie Edenhalm**

- Melanie Edenhalm sought the board's input on what other information it wants to see in her monthly financial summaries. Suggestions included scholarship funds available, on-going repair and maintenance (R & M) expenses, with separate reporting for the rowing center and equipment. Other ideas can be shared by email.

#### **Construction Update – John Foy**

- Delays continue. The contractor is currently reviewing the changes BIR and its Design Committee suggested to reduce costs or improve the plan. Kris Kutchera is our chief negotiator as we move to resolve any differences and finalize a contract that meets our budget. Local attorney Jeremie Lipton is working on the contract, modifying the standard AIA form to suit our needs. We hope that construction will begin in October and take only five months, but that is yet to be confirmed. BIR put a 50% down payment on a lift so we are in the queue for delivery when ready. If possible, the juniors will continue to use the upper level until the Head of the Lake.
- Our architecture firm is working directly with engineers to finalize the HVAC design. There is some concern about lead times for ordering HVAC equipment, but fortunately much of it can be installed late in the project. If necessary, we used the upper level this past summer without AC, with the doors open.
- Just in time for Dream Big, gravel was added to reduce the drop below the east deck's first step.

#### **Boat Naming – Bruce Beall**

- Lindsay Browning's father wants to donate half of the cost of the open weight quad the board approved for purchase and to name the boat for his brother, Rex (Rick) Clothier. Rick, Bruce Beall explained, was a great coach and mentor who was close to Stan Pocock. Rick recently turned 80. His great nephew, Lindsay's son, is rowing with BIR.
- **Motion** by Lindsay Browning to name the open weight quad after Rex (Rick) Clothier. Seconded by Marc Stewart, all approve.

#### **Equipment Update – Brandon Fleet**

- Brandon prepared a table of equipment that offers a template for tracking the expected cost of wear and tear maintenance and year-over-year replacements for consumables in our program.

The acquisition plan built into the still-preliminary table is intended to help us keep up with and prioritize our needs. Brandon is working with Bruce to build the budget.

- Different equipment is handled differently. For instance, because the cox box model we use is no longer produced, the plan is to phase in 3 or 4 newer models per year over several years. Foot stretchers and shoes are also potentially in transition with a pilot program underway testing removable shoes. Other equipment calls for a stock of ready spares, like seats. The plan calls for having 10-12 extra seats so that when something goes wrong, a replacement is immediately available rather than having to make repairs on the spot. As repairs are made, the shelves of replacement/spare parts are replenished. At the end of the season, the inventory of spares would be restocked to maintain the desired buffer, assuming money remains in that year's budget.
- Forecasting how much of the R & M budget will remain at the end of the season is challenging because of the potential for accidents. Repairs tend to require hired help. And while we can do a lot of maintenance ourselves, we need to assess how best to meet those needs without member burnout. Some form of incentive or pay may come into play.

#### **Executive session**

- **MOTION** by Jennifer Ames-Karreman to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Laura Bottger, all approve. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:35PM.

**MOTION** by Marc Stewart to adjourn Executive Session and regular meeting. Seconded by Melanie Edenholm, all approve. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM PST.

Minutes submitted by Assistant Secretary, Laura Bottger