

WJ Crew Board Meeting

September 24, 2013 Minutes

Secretary: Barbara Biesecker

Attendees: Board Members: Stuart Bassin, Barbara Biesecker, Alison Bouquet, JB Brown, Tiia Karlan, Kjersti Lupo, Patty Porter, Stephen Pruitt, Nimrod Shmul, and Eric Voit. Retiring Board Members: David Marshack, Tom St Clair, and Stacy Stryer. Head Coach: Emma Green
Absent: None

Agenda Topics

August Meeting Minutes

Barbara Biesecker

Discussion: The August board meeting minutes were distributed by email prior, reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Patty Porter

Discussion: Costs of running WJ Crew were tallied and debts were reviewed.

Action Items: Patty and Stu will meet prior to the next meeting to update the financial report outlining the state of the organization. This will be used to inform allowances for spending needs, fundraising plans, and for long-range fiscal planning for the organization.

Old Business

Fall Recruitment and Learn to Row

Emma Green

Discussion: The Fall season is off to a good start. Emma presented totals on fall season registrants and learn to row—There are 47 novice and varsity rowers/coxswains registered. There are fifteen learn-to-row registrants but Emma knew of about 10 more who intend to sign up. There was discussion of how to most effectively engage new parents in the activities and expectations of crew families to run the team.

Action Items: A few more new recruits who have expressed interest in learn to row will be encouraged to register on line. Emma will distribute by email the schedule for the learn-to-row week. Emma will submit copies of the medical forms to the Board Chair.

Fall Season Regattas

Emma Green

Discussion: Emma presented the final regatta schedule to include: Head of the Potomac, Occoquan Chase, Head of the Charles (Boston), Head of the Schuylkill (Philly), Tail of the Anacostia and Bill Braxton (Camden). A budget was sketched out for the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston Oct. 18-20th. Stu Bassin offered to donate miles from Southwest Airlines for Emma and the five girls to fly to and from Providence, RI. A fee of \$400 will be assessed each rower/coxswain. No alternates will be going. Emma will select the girls who in the weeks ahead. David suggested a more formal process be used in the future to make pre-season decisions about the number and choice of regattas to insure that they are commensurate with available funds and approved by the Board.

Action Items: Emma will update the regattas on the website calendar.

Fundraising

Tiia Karlan

Discussion: WJ Crew is scheduled to work WJ football concessions on Friday, Oct. 11th. Ann Marie Cardoni is organizing the event and parents and kids are needed. These volunteer activities are expected of organizations receiving funds from Booster Club. This Fall Crew was awarded a Booster Club donation of \$4,000 to cover fall regatta registration fees. If we fully staff the concessions, we will receive another \$500 from Booster Club. Tiia has solicited preferences for the dates for spring auction with little response. There was a decision to defer discussion of the auction until a financial report had been updated and discussed.

Action Items: Board members were encouraged to volunteer for concessions on Oct. 11th.

Recruitment

Allison Bouquet

Discussion: There was a good turnout for the lunch hour recruitment at WJ and the rowers were active at the information table during Back to School Night. Stacy Stryer created a recruitment book to guide the Board's efforts going forward.

Action Items: Recruitment efforts for spring will begin during winter conditioning.

Pasta Dinners

Barb Biesecker

Discussion: There are four pasta dinners scheduled for the Fall season: Sept 27, Oct. 12, Oct. 25, and Nov. 8th. Hosts for all four dinners have been identified. One difference in the protocol for the pasta dinners this Fall is that parents will be invited at the discretion of the hosts who may or may not have room to accommodate them. Also, members donating food for the dinners will be asked to stay and help serve the food to assist the host. Last year some hosts received food donations but no help in serving.

Action Items: Reminders will go out each week prior to a pasta dinner and food donations will be solicited.

Stotesbury Regatta May 16-17, 2014

Barb Biesecker

Discussion: A Stotesbury regatta hotel reservation service was developed to obtain reduced room rates for teams and eliminate the need for negotiating with hotels. Good rates are available. Barb sought permission from the Board to proceed with a reservation in downtown Philadelphia.

Action Items: Barb will make a reservation for WJ Crew at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Philadelphia for May 15-17, 2014 following the Board meeting.

Resignation of Members and Chair

David Marshack

Discussion: The outgoing members and chair were thanked for their dedication and service to the Board. Each one nominated his or her own resignation.

Action Items: Sadly, the Board accepted the resignations of David Marshack, Tom St Clair and Stacy Stryer. Stephen Pruitt will take over as Chair as of the October meeting. He will circulate a schedule for the meetings.

New Business

Transportation of boats on trailers: Nimrod offered use of his truck but due to his work schedule he may not always be able to drive the trailer when needed.

Action Items: A third volunteer driver will be sought.

Scholarship proposal: Nimrod submitted a written proposal to the Board for a scholarship fund to make rowing accessible to interested students whose families may not be able to afford the costs of joining the team. The proposal included plans for soliciting sponsors, marketing, establishing and building the fund and hiring a third party to implement it. There was general enthusiasm among the group for the proposal and discussion of the need for protection of sensitive personal information that would need to be collected from families applying for the scholarship. Nimrod was thanked for his efforts in bringing forth the proposal.

Action Items: The proposal was tabled for a future meeting until a financial state of the organization is finalized and new projects can be prioritized.

WJ Crew Newsletter: Kjersti acknowledged the work of Carlie Williams in producing two WJ Crew Newsletters last year, one in Fall and another at the end of Spring season. This was a time-consuming endeavor and if we continue to produce the newsletter help will be sought from a small group of volunteers. There was general recognition of the value of the newsletter and appreciation for the efforts of those who produced and distributed it.

Action Items: Volunteers will be sought to help with upcoming newsletters.

**Respectfully submitted by Barb Biesecker
Oct. 18, 2013**



Next Meeting: To be scheduled and will be held at the Biesecker house: 5523 Oakmont Ave, Bethesda. [Now scheduled for October 28th at 7pm]

