

# WJ Crew Board Meeting Minutes

## January 28, 2015

**Secretary: Barb Biesecker**

**Attendees:** Stephen Pruitt (Chair), Stu Bassin, Barb Biesecker, Alison Bouquet, Carlos Gonzalez, Gracel Javellana, Kjersti Lupo, Patty Porter, Eric Voit and Carlie Williams; Coach Emma Green. Absent was JB Brown and Coach Davis.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### December Meeting Minutes

**Barb Biesecker**

**Action:** The Board approved the December 2014 meeting minutes, to include several submitted edits. The revised minutes will be uploaded to the website.

#### Treasurer's Report

**Patty Porter**

**Discussion:** Patty submitted all of the reports to our accountant up through 7/31/14 for preparing our tax return. For the year ending July 2014, we spent over \$160,000 and our income was approx. \$190,000. Large expenses for the team are: Bus rentals, Coaches salaries, Boathouse Rental and personal property insurance. We own over \$100,000 worth of boats, we have debt of approx. \$13,000. Booster Club has donated \$12,000 toward regatta fees and we are anticipating substantial fundraising income from the auction.

**Action:** The Board accepted the treasurer's report.

#### Financial Report

**Patty Porter and Stu Bassin**

**Discussion:** Paul Whitehouse asked what the plan will be if the team membership goes down? Stephen Pruitt discussed the delicate balance between boat seats and filling bus seats. We need more boat seats than rowers so that we have a bit of flexibility when rowers are absent and an eight boat cannot be filled but a four boat can, for example. Coach Emma discussed the plan to phase out of some of the equipment, selling parts from one of the oldest boats.

**Action:** Stephen reinforced the importance of acquiring boats without assuming much debt.

#### Chair's Action Items

**Stephen Pruitt**

**Discussion:** Stephen called for a schedule of upcoming Board Meetings. Barb proposed meeting every third Tuesday evening of the month. Meeting dates are: Feb. 17, March 17, April 14 (moved one week earlier), May 19, June 16 and July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Action:** The Board unanimously approved the schedule of Board Meetings for the Spring season and summer.

**Discussion:** Stephen prioritized discussion of our boat fleet with plans toward replacement/expansion. Coach Emma reported that the coaches have reviewed the equipment and an independent evaluator reviewed the fleet in December. Our fleet is in the middle of the pack for area teams. We are developing an overall fleet management plan. This will include goals for maintaining the fleet and a schedule of turnover every 2-4 years. We row our equipment hard on an unforgiving river with sunken logs.

We currently have 63 seats for 72-73 rowers anticipated. We are in better shape relative to fours than to eights. A new high quality used Sykes four is under negotiation for approx. \$12,500 that will upgrade our fours fleet. Coach Emma asserted that we also need two eight boats. We are looking to purchase a high quality used eight. We will rent another eight this spring then maybe buy a new eight in a year or two. Restricting the 8s to only Vespoli brand will help us to establish standardization and allow for swapping

good equipment. This is a nice upgrade path.

Eric Voit noted that we need continuity, this means more seats than rowers so the JV team is not competing in boats of lower quality than they have been practicing in. Fleet standardization and capacity will avoid penalizing rowers. We may not find the "right" eight to purchase so we may rent and then get a better eight next season.

**Action:** The Board endorsed the plans moving forward to standardize the fleet.

### Coaches Report

### **Coach Emma**

**Discussion:** Coach Emma reported on wrapping up winter conditioning. The girls seem mentally fresh for this time of year. She will see what kind of speed gains they can achieve for spring. We will have to evaluate the longer winter break we took. The Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints are optional this year. Last week Emma distributed the tentative regatta schedule. The schedule will be finalized as the season gets started, in part because of the dependence on the weather. Easter starts spring break. Rowers will have days off at the beginning and will race the last weekend of the break. We need to set the spring season fees soon as we are only four weeks away. We have had no parent volunteer with a large truck to pull the trailer. Emma suggested that we ask Nimrod if he would donate his truck to pull the trailer. If not, we need to get the word out to parents that we are still looking for a truck. Barbara Giles has offered to order uniforms for new team members or for any member who needs a replacement. All rowers are expected to wear their unies when competing in regattas.

**Action:** Stephen will contact Nimrod and send out an announcement to the parents about the truck. We will set up registration for spring season soon and set the cost of the spring season pending Patty's estimates of operational costs. We will aim to keep registration the same as last year: \$1,100. Emma will negotiate the coaches schedule with Eric and enter the tentative spring regatta schedule onto the website.

### Old Business

### **Fundraising Update**

### **Carlie Williams and Nancy Voit**

**Discussion:** March 14<sup>th</sup> is auction night. There are many people working on the plans this year: Leadership is provided by Carlie Williams, Ann Sulzenberg and Nancy Voit. Software by: Mark Nathans, Andrew Afflerbach, Joanne Hovis and Noni Byrnes. Entertainment by: Abby Nathans and Tiia Karlen. Decorations by: Jody Nurik and Tatyana Knyushko. Print Media design by: Barbara Giles and Philip Whitehouse. Food by: Christie Gibbons and Kjersti Lupo. Promotions by: Alison Bouquet. The committee is aiming for donations and do not want parents paying for items. To make money it needs to be based on donations. To date we have 41 items donated totaling approx. \$6100 in value. We are about a third of the way toward the goal. The committee would like to try a raffle as BCC has done this successfully. They are hoping to auction off a GoPro camera and an erg. The intent would be to sell each ticket for \$10. Nancy Voit arranged for partnering with Booster Club for the raffle. If we make a profit, we will split the profit with them up to \$1,000 to get parents other than from Crew to participate. Booster Club will promote the auction. The committee is hoping to purchase better auction software to give us an on-line presence. It would also support the plant sale. Entertainment for the night will involve a well-known trumpet player, Chris Grekker, and a UM jazz ensemble. The committee is asking alumni t-shirts to be donated. Currently running a deficit of \$1,000 aiming for \$15,000 + \$9,000 from the raffle. Donators like the longer on-line presence available through the new software. We could create a banner with sponsors on it, but it is unclear where would we hang it. How much would be needed to get your name on the banner?

**Action:** Carlie made a motion to authorize the Auction Committee to purchase software for \$1,000, an erg for \$500, obtain a GoPro camera donation, hold a raffle with the hope that each family will sell 15 tickets. In total she asked for \$1500 line-items for the auction. The Board unanimously approved the authorization.

### **Recruitment Update**

### **Alison Bouquet**

**Discussion:** Alison is receiving emails from new people interested in registering for spring season. We need to get the registration up on the website. Morning announcements at WJ will be made for the next couple of weeks. There will be a parent meeting for all team members in the WJ cafeteria early in the first week of March.

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**New Business**

**Montgomery County Proposed Bell Change**

**Stephen Pruitt**

**Discussion:** The most expansive proposed change involves a 3:30 or 4 PM school end time that could affect our schedule. The Teachers Union has not come out in favor of the change. It is not likely to pass but we should keep an eye on it. It is most likely that the schedule would delay us by 20 to 40 minutes. If so, Coach Emma will adjust times the bus leaves to make up the 20-40 minutes.

**Action:** No action will be taken but we will stay abreast of the proposed bell change.

**Booster Club Rep**

**Discussion:** Abby Nathans volunteered to be a liaison for WJ Crew to the Booster Club.

**Stotesbury Regatta Coordinator**

**Discussion:** We need a Stotesbury Regatta coordinator for this May. We have our hotel reserved but the details of the trip need to be planned. Barb Biesecker has offered to mentor the new coordinator

**Action:** Please let Barb Biesecker know if you are willing to coordinate Stotesbury.

Stephen Pruitt adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

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**Respectfully submitted by Barb Biesecker**  
**Feb. 2, 2015**

**Next Meeting:** Will be held February 17, 2015 at  
the Bieseckers, 5523 Oakmont Ave, Bethesda

