

WJ Crew Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015

Secretary: Barb Biesecker

Attendees: *Ad Hoc* Chair: Eric Voit, Stu Bassin, Barbara Biesecker, Alison Bouquet, Kjersti Lupo, Carlos Gonzalez, Patty Porter, Carlie Williams. Coaches-Emma Green and Davis Bale. Absent-JB Brown, Stephen Pruitt, and Grachel Javellana.

ACTION ITEMS

January Meeting Minutes

Barb Biesecker

Action: February minutes were discussed and edits suggested. New version to be sent by email for final approval.

Treasurer's Report

Patty Porter

Discussion: Spring team membership is at 69. \$57,845 is the current income for the year (without the addition of action funds). Our last year expenses were \$62,100 to help anticipate what they may be this year. Our bank account balance is \$92,000 with upcoming expenses ahead.

Action: Patty continues to work on full financial report with help from others.

Legal Report

Stu Bassin

Discussion: The following Thursday Stu and Stephen planned to head to Baltimore to appeal assessment of our property taxes. Technically as a non-profit, parent run organization, we are exempt. It would mean a substantial savings to the team if the argument is successfully made.

Action: The plan is to take two team captains to help argue the appeal.

Chair's Report

Eric Voit

Updates on the boat fleet

Discussion: There was discussion of whether we have enough eight boats. There is an option open to swap with Seton our Winteck four for their Resolute eight. We still need one more set of oars. We may be able to purchase a set of oars from Georgetown or will need to put in a new order. Emma made a request for up to \$2700 to spend on oars.

Action: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the Coaches to use up to \$2700 on oars. Coach Davis was previously approved to spend \$3000 for replacement parts for the Vespoli.

Emma found a new 2004 Vespoli refurbished for \$8000 and insured for another year. One seat is not working and most shoes are boys' sizes. We would need to put in new shoes for the girls.

Action: The Board re- approved acquiring a credit card from Wells Fargo for the coaches and authorized Stephen to request a second credit card.

Coaches report:

Coach Emma

Safety equipment order

Discussion: Emma reviewed our equipment for safety. Bags are not waterproofed so blankets and other equipment get wet; we need waterproof boxes for solar blankets and first aid kits. One more box and one more bag. \$200 for waterproof boxes. Three new life jackets and replacement cartridges are needed, costing up to \$400.

Action: The Board unanimously approved these requests. A suggestion was made that a list of the safety equipment be sent to someone with an Amazon smile account.

Action: For safety purposes, there should be a standard safety box that all the kids know exists and hangs in a specific place in the boathouse.

Action: Les Biesecker reviewed the safety manual and there are a few revisions that need to be updated.

Coaching Gear

Coach Emma requested two polo shirts and a vest and shirt, costing \$700.

Action: The Board unanimously approved the coaches' gear request.

Trailing to regattas

Emma received a quote for truck rental to haul our boat trailer to six regattas using our own drivers. \$2300 to trailer the boats includes truck rental, gas and tolls. We need to confirm that the rental company has a history trailing boats.

Action: The Board unanimously approved the truck rental expense to haul the boat trailer.

Coaching Report

Discussion: Saturday, March 28 is the first regatta so plans need to move forward as if novices are going. It is stick boating at the Occoquan. First time we are doing a Virginia rowing race in the spring.

Need for website updates. Mark and Emma having a hard time keeping the website updated. Use of additional photos, blurbs, and updates may encourage people to use the site more for updated information. Mark has to do logistical stuff on the website. We need to write prose for the website. Carlie suggested a parent who writes for a living at NIH who she will approach about taking on keeping the website updated.

Action: Carlie will make the connection and report on the parent's decision to Emma.

There are two new boats that need names and two boats to paint names on. We need to schedule a naming ceremony.

Action: Emma volunteered to paint the names on.

Next weekend we have oars that need to be painted.

Action: There will be a social break held during spring break to paint them.

Old Business

Fundraising report:

Carlie Williams

Auction report: there are not yet definitive numbers on what was raised. A report was distributed

to the Board. Carlie will close out the earnings by April 14th to arrive at our final numbers. One of the outcomes was the realization that a number of people worked too hard at the auction, such as the food ladies. More analysis will be done to help plan next year. But it was the largest and likely most successful auction financially in the history of WJ Crew.

The fundraising committee has decided based on funds raised by the auction that WJ Crew will discontinue the winter wreath sale. The May 2-3rd plant sale is approaching. It costs about \$5,000 to purchase the plants. Too many plants have been leftover in the past. We now have better sales records to guide us in the purchasing.

There was a need expressed for an October fundraiser. The fundraiser should be something fun for the rowers. There may be an alumni yard sale in June. There is an ongoing effort to expand and update the alumni contact list.

New Business

Rower Retention:

Eric Voit

Discussion: We lost some team members over winter: Two varsity girls, five varsity boys, and four novice boys. We gained two girls and one boy spring season. Some of the reasons we lost kids were due to rowing fees. According to Coach Davis, the novice boys we lost were not competitive; did not demonstrate a commitment.

For retention, it begins with bonding with the team members in the fall and relationships need to continue into the winter. The coaches feel that they need to be honest about what is required in the sport to be successful. Fall season the focus is providing opportunities to see how fun rowing can be but at the same time we need to prepare the kids for the hard work involved. We have been working under a coaching philosophy based on cultivating A and B boats. B boats are more development, for kids who are actively working to improve their skills. Coach Davis spends more time with the kids who are working hard to be competitive.

Do the kids in the development boat understand that they are valued? Do they have sufficient coaching support? Coach Davis does not want boys denied opportunities because of a few who are not into the sport.

Overall we need agreement among the parents and coaches about our coaching philosophy and what it means for the rowers in terms of expectations. Once we have an agreed upon approach, it needs to be clearly articulated to the rowers.

Action: To develop a coaching philosophy that promotes inclusion but also becoming a more competitive team to be discussed further at future meetings.

Stotesbury Regatta

Emma Green

Discussion: We will be taking a couple of alternates. If they stay for only one night, they should be assessed a lower registration fee.

Action: The Board agreed to the option of a reduced fee if alternates stay for only one night.

Eric Voit adjourned the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Biesecker
April 14, 2015

Next Meeting: Will be held April 14, 2015 at
the Bieseckers, 5523 Oakmont Ave, Bethesda

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barb Biesecker', with a stylized flourish at the end.