

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2010
DMS Conference Room

Board Members Present: Dan Ruml, Peter Davenport, Jen Friend, Paul Gross, Brenda Sirovich, Heidi Lange, Karen Sluzenski, Win Piper, Liz Marshall.

Board Members Excused / Absent: Elizabeth Glenshaw, Dick Grossman, Dartmouth Rep / Buzz Congram, Bob Haynes.

Call to order: at 5:50 PM. A quorum was not present until 5:55 PM.

1. **Executive Committee report.** Met once per usual schedule, re: planning for current meeting. No specific decisions made.
2. **March Board Minutes.** Deferred pending quorum.
3. **Review of open items, Master To Do List.**

Win Piper and Liz Marshall arrived at 5:55 PM.

- a. Payment via Ronin. Issue = how to limit installment plan payment to credit card payers (Ronin cannot currently do this). Discussion ensued, including whether we need to offer a pay-by-check option (~3 users last year). It was agreed to allow check payment this year (not for installment plan), and monitor to what extent it's used. The website will specify that the installment plan is not available to those paying by check.
 - b. Season start. The sculling dock will be put in next week but it will not be formally tied in. Target date: April 25, 2010. For scullers with private boats only, but they need to register online first (this will appear as special link for rackspace holders). This will be handled by the Sculling Committee.
 - c. Safety. We should include Dick's updated safety advisories in the following locations (sculling committee will share language, especially related to PFD requirement, with Communications):
 - i. Email to scullers
 - ii. The website (already there)
 - iii. At the boathouse
 - d. First Club workday. Note that June 5 is National Learn to Row day. June 6 is planned for our first work day to avoid Dartmouth graduation. Starting on June 7, then, members could use club sculling boats – a week earlier than last year. This will need to be coordinated with Dartmouth. Last spring we needed two workdays in order to allow for HHS to load their equipment into Fullington Farm without blocking our small boats. Phase I would only require a small group. We need to find out when HHS is planning to move their boats into Fullington, and whether potentially they would leave the trailer parked next to Fullington.
4. **Membership/Ronin, additional issues.** Swim test requirement – there will be one question at registration regarding whether the person has taken the swim test. This will be checked against our records from last year. We will be sponsoring ONE club swim test – this will be coordinated with the start of the Learn To Row session, on the first day (June 21) from 7-8 AM at the Dartmouth pool. This should work for new participants in other summer sessions, which start one week later, except for the competitive program (June 15). It will need to be clearly specified what prospective rowers need to do if they need a test and cannot make in on June 21. All members need to sign off that they can swim when registering via Ronin. Given this, we will allow competitive rowers who have not already taken the test to row for one week prior to testing. Spring scullers will need to take a

test ahead of time (Heidi is willing to administer the test). The following will be specified on the website:

“If you will not be able to take the swim test on June 21 or your program will begin prior to that date, contact XX to make arrangements to take the test. There will be a small fee.” Re: XX, Dick will contact Tony (Dartmouth lifeguard) to see if he will arrange to give the test privately again.

5. **NCAA rules as they affect UVRF coxswains.** Current NCAA rules preclude payment to prospective college athletes for participation in their sport. This directly affects us. It is likely that competitive coxswains and possibly learn-to-row coxswains would volunteer but it would be much more difficult to get intermediate (club) level coxswains. Several ideas were offered as incentives for coxswains to volunteer: Learn to Cox clinics; Sculling lessons; contribution to college scholarship fund. Heidi is working on finding on the specific rules and restrictions. UVRF wants to avoid restricting future opportunities for any high school student.
6. **March Board Minutes.** Jen **moved** approval of the minutes, Peter seconded. Passed unanimously.
7. **Sweep Equipment plan.** Recommendation was presented by the Finance Committee (Paul, Jen, Dan, Heidi) to no longer borrow funds for the purchase of equipment. This was **moved** by Paul, seconded by Peter D, and approved unanimously. The Sweep Programming Committee met to work out a 3-5 year plan for future acquisitions, with the goals to complete and diversify UVRF’s fleet, while simultaneously trying to avoid aging of the fleet. The proposed priorities: Racing DM midsized Eight, 5 years old or newer; two racing Fours, DS and DM 5 years old or newer); four sets of eight sweep oars at one set per year (with a future goal of turning over oars every ~ 10 years); also one cox box per year. The fleet would then consist of: Kevin C (Noname), Northrup, Kakela (recreational 8 mid 1990s), Fight (1999), Grace (2000), a new Eight to be named later, and 4 Fours (2 racing, 2 rec). We have had an offer from Hanover High School of lease-to-own the Nag & Gag (\$600). This would not diversify our fleet, but we do expect to need to rent a boat – thus we would own it “for free”. It is serviceable.
This year’s goals will be: one set of eight sweep oars, one cox box. The question was raised: What funds are allocatable to equipment – reserve, or only new donations? This was DEFERRED to the next meeting. It was agreed that we also need a sculling and sweep matching plan. Dan Ruml would like to donate a Sweep bow loader Four that he acquired for free, structurally sound but ? how serviceable. Seats are needed, etc. We do have \$500 allocated for this year to a Four rental, which we could use to refurbish Dan’s Four (after a test drive – which should occur ASAP, as we would need the Four starting in late June.
8. **Sculling Equipment Plan.** Priorities: Racing midweight double, racing lightweight double, racing midweight quad, Peinert 26 single. Many issues would need to be settled about how these are going to be allowed out, especially the Quads (is a launch required?). We need to make sure policies are equitable for scullers and sweep boats (e.g. if a quad can go out, why can’t a four launch from the sculling dock without a launch?). This issue was deferred to the next Board meeting. We agreed to convene a safety subcommittee, and it should meet before the next meeting. The following policy was proposed for use of club boats: Before entering a race (or a lottery for a race), you must speak to the Sculling captain (TABLED). Dan R will submit a proposal for selling his Quad.
9. **Special request.** From Whit Mitchell (potential coaching candidate). Would we be willing to lend a Four or and Eight in order to fulfill a wish of a terminally ill friend of his? Dartmouth (Brian Conley) is agreeable to use of the Dartmouth dock for this purpose. UVRF could consider the rowers as guests, have them sign guest waivers. The Board agreed this would need to be an eight with four experienced rowers (current members) and 4 guests. The Board agreed to this special request.
10. **Fundraising target:** A target of \$20,000 was discussed, in addition to the \$14,000 budgeted for.

11. **Other equipment issues.** Dan: What about trailers? Peter reported these were in good condition, as well as the tires, receiver (lubricated), and we have a new jack, courtesy of Peter D.
12. **Newly formed scholarship committee:** Dan Ruml, Karen Sluzenski, Brenda Sirovich. UVRF currently have some funds and may receive several requests. The Scholarship Committee will be convened before the next Board meeting and the current draft Scholarship Policy reviewed.
13. **Deferred / Continuing business for the next meeting.** Includes: Dartmouth contract; Challenge Quad; Additional Board member; FOHC joint meeting TBS; Master Equipment list; Master calendar, in addition to issues deferred as described above.

Adjourned 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Brenda Sirovich
Secretary