

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2011

Medical School Conference Room, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH

Board Members Present: Jen Friend, Dan Ruml, Karen Sluzenski, Peter Davenport, Dick Grossman, Brenda Sirovich, Liz Marshall, Buzz Congram, Rowan Carroll, Heidi Lange.

Board Members Excused: Elizabeth Glenshaw, Bob Haynes, Paul Gross, Win Piper, Dartmouth representative.

Call to order: at 5:45 PM.

1. **Executive Committee report.** None.
2. **January Board Minutes.** Peter D moved approval, Karen S seconded, the minutes from the January 5 Board meeting were approved unanimously.
3. **Annual Meeting planning review –**
 - Logistics – were reviewed and confirmed.
 - UVRF supplied main dish will be Lasagna (4), from the Hanover Coop – Liz M. will pick up by 4:45 PM
 - Nominating Committee – Will be represented at the meeting by Karen S and Dan R., in Dick's absence
 - Dick also circulated a remastered list of job assignments: Facilities is divided into Admin (Win) and Maintenance (Peter); Maintenance also incorporates some equipment items, which have been moved around to some extent. New Board nominees would most likely take responsibility for Sculling Programming and Assistant Sweep Programming.
 - Awards:
 - i. Starzinger – Winner has been named. (At least one) Prize is being created.
 - ii. Best Dressed – Winner selected.
 - iii. Rookie of the Year – There is a tie this year. A prize idea was proposed and accepted.
 - iv. Trophies are being planned.
 - Annual Meeting Minutes - Karen S. proposed that Minutes be taken. Brenda offered to collect and compile remarks. We will also add to this the Agenda; Award winners; Door Prize winner; "Fun was had by all" e.g.
 - There will be time reserved to take questions from the Floor
 - Jen F. will confirm that an FOHC representative will be available to speak
4. **Sculling Safety Planning** – Carin R had forwarded something to Jen regarding a sculling self rescue program that Naragansett Boat Club runs in an indoor pool. If UVRF were to institute such a program, it would take place at one of the Dartmouth Alumni Gym pools; Dartmouth would charge us only for the lifeguard's time because it is a safety exercise. Jen has already been in touch with Dan Roock (head Dartmouth lightweight coach) to potentially offer the opportunity to Dartmouth scullers.

This led to discussion of the issue of a needed overhaul of sculling safety, instruction, testing, requirements. Buzz suggested the use of instructional video embedded on the website. We agreed to offer all scullers the chance to take a flip test. But at this point, we have higher priorities, and it was agreed that we will not require the session, nor require that people be able to get back in the boat – but scullers do need to know what they should do if the boat flips.

The number of scullers has grown and we have a wide diversity of experience.

We will strongly encourage people to participate in a flip test without the requirement that they be able to get back in the boat.

It was proposed to constitute a committee to overhaul sculling programs (including Sweep-To-Scull, which has been highly variable in content), instruction, safety requirements. Once the new full board has been constituted, we will convene a committee on this. All boats have had “tie in” shoes removed.

Dan raised the question of a new bulk PFD order from Peter Kermond for new scullers. The question was raised whether the Club should obtain a supply and resell; however, the expense and size variety seemed to preclude this. Heidi proposed a once or twice a year bulk offer to Club scullers.

5. **Update on Streamlining through Ronin** – Jen, Karen, Heidi, Paul, and Liz met with Eric Neiderber at Ronin – our account manager – and Liz had prepared in advance a Wish List. Some new features:
- ❖ When a program participant or rackspace signer upper goes online to sign up, their first three letters of their last name and DOB will be checked against the current membership list; if they do not have a currently paid up membership, they will be asked whether they want to pay for membership at that time. If yes, they will be able to do so; if no, their program or rackspace registration will not be fully processed.
 - ❖ We as a Club also need to require that no Coaches boat participants who are not members or who have not passed the Swim Test.
 - ❖ We will have to see if this somewhat gentle reminder substantially improves our problem with illegal signups. People who haven't become members will NOT show up on Program rosters.
 - ❖ We are going to eliminate the Family Membership. The first member in each Family will pay \$125, the second \$75, and the third and beyond \$25 each.
 - ❖ Ronin is also going to clean up some of our reports – we now have a number of sources of reports; Ronin will put that all in one report for us.
 - ❖ We are no longer going to require membership for those who want to participate in 2-day Learn to Scull programs.
 - ❖ Ronin will be able to add a blank line for voluntary donation of any amount when completing your registration. We will also be able to get reports of this as well as other donations all season long.
 - ❖ Ronin is also going to try to work with our bank to “label” payments to us.
 - ❖ Two new services: A credit card account for coaches to use for payment for regatta registrations (only for Ronin races, not for Regatta Central); and a cash register service for payments to the club for group purchases.

- ❖ A long discussion ensued about required volunteership; Liz will explore the possibility of requiring that all members register a directed commitment through Ronin to make themselves available to at least one Director or Committee; specifically, she will inquire both as to whether the signup function is available, and whether a usable report for us can be generated. Heidi pointed out that other nonprofit operations in the area require volunteership (e.g. Ford Sayre ski program requires that parents sign a check for \$800 for each family – it is only cashed if parents fail to volunteer for 4 races).

6. **Treasurer's Report** (*in absentia*) – Jen presented the report that Paul had emailed to the group. The Dartmouth bill for last year was finally billed and paid.
7. **Equipment Update** – Dan R. proposed that a 2001 Peinert 26 be purchased by the Club from a current Club member (first used at Craftsbury for three years, then actively used by a member for several years, unused for the past few years). It is available to us for \$1000. Retail price is estimated at \$2500, the remainder would be considered a gift. It is already in our boathouse.

Liz M **moved** to authorize \$1000 for this used racing single, Rowan seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Dan R. also mentioned a 2001 Vespoli DS (from Burnt Hills Rowing in Schenectady NY), never wrecked, kept in a boathouse, used by a high school crew spring and fall, that became available for sale today. The possibility was discussed; it was decided that this wouldn't fit well with our equipment turnover plan.

Heidi raised the issue of our plan to purchase a new set of Eight oars each year. This expenditure has already been authorized. Heidi will look into specifics of which oars we should order.

We have had no interest expressed in purchasing the singles we are trying to sell. Heidi will check with Lake Sunapee Rowing Club if they might be interested.

8. Follow up Items:
 - **Fundraising** - Did we offer to name the double? – still pending, Jen is going to take care of this.
 - **Land rental** – Requested by Jake Guest. Contract remains pending. Currently this is a Gentleman's Agreement. It has been plowed. Liability is covered.
9. **Informational items** – none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. (Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.)

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich
Secretary

Appendix: Annual Meeting Planning – Planning falls into the following categories:

- a) Notification – Needs to be sent to full membership. Notification will include information about: Door prize; absentee ballots; food; time 6 – 7:30 pm; new annual awards; location. **Karen S** will send out within 7-10 days. Heidi will contact all coaches from 2010 and ask them to email their rowers encouraging attendance.

- b) Presentations (content) –

Slideshow – **Karen** and / or **Brenda** (Pre-Meeting)

President's Welcome remarks – **Jen**. This will include Thank You's; Call for Volunteers / New Board Members.

Nominations – **Dick**, including request for any nominations from the floor

Season highlights, Equipment, Programming & By The Numbers – Update on past season and plans for the future. **Heidi, Dan & Liz**, including National Learn to Row Day; Row the Prouty; pumpkins!

Finance & Fundraising – **Paul**

Questions and Comments from the Floor - **Brenda**

Friends of Hanover Crew Presentation – **FOHC rep**

Voting results – **Dick**

Inaugural UVRF Awards (three) – **Jen**

Door Prize – **Rowan** Note that eligible include club members who are present, not Board members.

Adjourn

- c) Logistics –

Food. UVRF will provide main course (4 lasagnas from the Coop (**Brenda**)), for estimated attendance of 40 +/-.

Cups, plates, Silverware – UVRF will supply paper plates and napkins and silverware. The meal will be buffet style, self serve. **Brenda** will check supplies; **Karen** will get plates, napkins, cups, tablecloths

Centerpieces – **Rowan, Karen S.**

Setup - starting at 5PM. **Liz, Buzz, Jen, Dick**. Everyone will do cleanup.

Coffee - **Peter D** will bring Coffee – cut back amount.

Garbage bags - **Rowan** will bring garbage bags.

Notification - **Karen** will send official notification to membership this week and post Board Member nominee bios and photos on the website in advance of the meeting

Ballots - **Dick** will bring ballots

Membership List - **Liz** will bring list of current members

The meal will start at 6 PM, Presentations at 6:30 PM. A slideshow will be shown during the meal, if feasible.