

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2011

Murray Meeting Room, Howe Memorial Library, Hanover, NH

Board Members Present: Jen Friend, Brenda Sirovich, Heidi Lange, Dan Ruml, Karen Sluzenski, Paul Gross, Dick Grossman, Erika Dade, Peter Davenport, Bob Haynes, Kevin Cotter, Liz Marshall, Win Piper, Rowan Carroll.

Board Members Excused: Penny Sirjane, Buzz Congram, Dartmouth representative.

Call to order: at 5:45 PM.

1. **Executive Committee Meeting.** No decisions made by EC in interim, today's agenda formulated.
2. **Vote on September Minutes.** Peter D moved approval, Dick seconded, passed unanimously. Jen Friend summarized the takeaways from that meeting:
 - We will not continue coached sculling programs other than Learn To Scull
 - We will not dilute the Masters Competite Program and not merge it with other programs
 - Despite the paucity of intermediate level programs, we will continue them for several years and attempt to grow them
 - Junior programs – These will be continued, although will be size constrained
 - FOHC was acknowledged for support of Junior Programs with free loan of equipment

[Rowan arrived at 6:00 PM]

3. **Moving forward.**

- **Community programs:**
 - i. *National Learn To Row day* – This was viewed favorably as a benefit to the community, and a source of new members and participants. We got at least four new member/participants this year. There was conflict between the Hanover Invitational, and if possible, we need to try to avoid that in the future (if we can also avoid Dartmouth graduation). This year we didn't publicize the event much in advance, due to absence issues; we can do better next year.
 - ii. *After Hours program* – This has been more of an issue. It did fill this year although it had to be reschedule due to Dartmouth availability. Do we ever recruit any members? No. Do we get email or contact information? Sometimes. Is it a service to the College? There was discussion of this, but the consensus was this is very unlikely that it provides particular value to the college. Maybe the solution is to A) check with the Dartmouth coaches before cancelling; and B) make sure that National Learn to Row day is advertised in Dartmouth After Hours.
 - iii. *Row the Prouty.* We are already signed up for 2012, and this past year it was a huge success and is appreciated by the Prouty administrators. FOHC also won awards for participation and money

raised and new members. This could end up being (in Dick's words) the "tail that wagged the dog". Prouty also can offer administration support starting next year (we took care of this for 2011).

- iv. *River Clean Up Day* – Win proposed Club participating in the event. Peter D knows the new Director of the CT Watershed. It was proposed that getting UVRF members, as well as HHS, LHS, and Dartmouth students out there could be a huge boon. ACTION ITEM: Contact the director and express our interest in participation, and get our club email on their contact list at a minimum (Peter D).
 - v. *LHS program*. In the future this will turn into a Club or Team sport. What sort of sharing arrangement would we want in the short and the long run? Heidi noted that the LHS program already owns one boat (donated). Kevin raised that we need an explicit agreement about ownership in case the program ends up folding, for example. The seasons are non-overlapping. Dick G thinks we have to be very careful about spelling everything out. i.e. Who gets access to what equipment? Once there is agreement, there are no exceptions. Also, any question of moving the LHS program to the Dartmouth boathouse would likely be a non-starter.
 - vi. *Community Junior rowing (Fall)* – is open to all schools.
- **Fundraising** – We need new models and renewed interest; there are untapped potential opportunities for local corporate fundraising. We need someone with interest and skills to own this responsibility. Kevin Cotter asked whether we do any corporate fundraising – the answer is no. Suggested Burn Foundation, Mascoma Bank, Ledyard Corporation, Hypertherm, etc – Rowan pointed out that these are all big sponsors of the Prouty. Our involvement in Junior rowing may make this more realistic. Tuck has teambuilding programs at Hulbert; we might be able to offer something comparable. Every year there is a BSchool regatta. Also every year a Tuck student approaches UVRF for dockspace. Recruiting a Board Member who would take an interest in spearheading Fundraising is a priority.

4. Operations

- **Board responsibilities and Structure**. What's working well? What's not? Fundraising is not. Dick reviewed the Bucket List and found a number of responsibilities that he was responsible for *as a coach*. Given what we pay, perhaps our coaches should be responsible for many of these things. One option is to have a Head Coach. A proposal was put forward to compensate coaches in salary rather than a dollar amount per session. One head coach may be a better model so that ownership of specific responsibilities (taken off the bucket list) was clear. A Board Member should oversee this Head Coach position. The Head Coach might delegate these responsibilities. It was agreed this should not be a Board position. Is it feasible? Dick thinks we may have spoiled our coaches to date. Kevin proposed starting with the Job Description; there are a lot of former rowers and rowing coaches around. Action Item: Dick is willing to start the Job Description.
- What discrete responsibilities can be delegated as named posts to non-Board members? Some suggestions:
 - i. Log book monitor

- ii. Dock monitor coordinator
 - Requiring volunteerism with membership was discussed and endorsed by the Board.
- 5. **Nominating Committee.** Consituted: Jen Friend, Dick Grossman, Bob Hayne, Heidi Lange.
- 6. **Safety – lights, bailing, action.** We need Bow and Stern lights for every shell. There was concern that the boat lights don't stay on. Headlamps are used instead. The launches still don't have lights. Light colors are red/green in the Bow, and white in the Stern. Action item: Dick will do this, if he can't he will let Rowan know (four white lights); Paul will order three red/green lights for the Junior program. Electric bailers are not working. Win proposed a flexible NRS bailer with a metal rim – he will order some for the Club. It allows for bailing 3 gallons. They need to be marked UVRF. Also several bilge pumps.
- 7. **Fall Workday planning.** The Green Monster is on November 5, so the Long Row will be on November 12; no singles will be allowed. Whether we can row a quad is a decision delayed. Workday and Dockout day will be on November 19; rain/snow date on November 20 (Sunday).
- 8. **Updates and follow up items:**
 - Paul announced two generous donations to cover adjustable shoes for the Juniors, and a new launch motor.
 - Scholarship Committee report to Board deferred.
 - We need to accumulate policies and figure out where to post – these include Private Sculling Lessons, Scholarship, Unaccompanied Sweep, Club Sculling Boat Use. (Brenda)
 - Website – *deferred*

Motion to adjourn by Bob Haynes @ 7:35 PM, seconded, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich
Secretary

Deferred:

Boat use policy

Scholarship policy