

CLRA Board of Trustees Meeting. Monday, October 17, 2011

In attendance: Gary Mount, George Carcagno, Tom Heeling, Alison Pollini, Bill Flynn, Ali Vafae, Rick Hall, Barbara Hogan, Karen Ellis, Pat Lyons, Ken Sharp, Veronique Ooman, Rose Ford.

Also attending: Don Bergman, Loretta McCarthy, Spurge Hogan, Margery Mark (second half of meeting), and Mary Makarski (first part).

Not attending: Barbara Heck

Election and Annual Meeting: Loretta McCarthy, chairman of the Nominating Committee, summarized the procedure for nominations and reported that it all went smoothly. No one self-nominated. The proposed slate consists of six new and three incumbent members of the board. Gary asked to verify that all candidates know that four of the nine will not be elected. Fifty percent of the membership needs to vote to have a valid election.

Note: Bill Flynn and Barbara Heck are the current board members who are leaving the board at the expiration of their terms in 2011.

Alison brought up the question of electronic ballots. It was explained that to date we are more comfortable with the security of paper ballots. Members can vote for proxy only by email.

Gary asked if a closed session for discussion would be needed.

Pat moved and Alison and Ken Sharp seconded the motion to accept the proposed slate of candidates. There was a unanimous vote to accept the slate.

The Nominating committee will proceed with the biographical statements of the candidates which will go out to members via email. E-reminders may be sent to get out the vote. The Annual Meeting will again be held at Miele on Dec. 5th-- refreshments beginning at 6:30, meeting to begin at 7:00 PM. At that time the votes will be counted and the new board members will be announced.

All candidates will be notified if the Board will meet following the Annual Meeting. This is a meeting to elect the officers of the Executive Board within the Board of Trustees. This meeting can be held at another time by agreement. When an incumbent candidate is involved, they should let the board know of their interest in continuing in the position. Gary stated that he would indeed like to continue as Captain; Karen said she would be happy to continue but also would be happy if someone else is interested in taking over the position of President; George indicated he is interested in continuing as treasurer. The Secretary position will also be open due to Barbara Heck's resignation.

Gary reminded the Committee that the ballots need to be printed in the format devised by Harold Stone.

Karen discussed possible guest speakers for the Annual Meeting. Alison will explore the possibility of getting someone from US Rowing. Tom and George also recommended speakers for exploration.

Social Committee -- Holiday Party: As of this time the party will take place on December 17 at the Boathouse. The PURA will underwrite a large portion of the cost of the party. It will be partially catered. It will not be necessary for members to pay, but we will be asked to bring something to supplement the catered entrees.

Member Survey: Last month at a well-attended meeting a member survey was proposed and discussed. Karen Ellis, Frank Hoffman, Tom Rowe, Dan Wakeman, and Patricia Lofberg will serve on a committee to design a survey to get feedback by the end of the year or by early January to have information for discussion at the January Board of Trustees Retreat. Others are welcome to join in the process.

Tom Heebink suggested that the survey be focused on the original issues of boating announcements and practice schedules.

As discussed at the previous meeting, this fall race boatings were sent directly to participants from Tom to underscore it is he who makes them. An effort has been made to get earlier notification and practices for race boats. Signup dates will likely be moved back next year to allow ample notification time.

Tom Paulett: Lineups were shuffled around for the Head of the Passaic due to injury. A boat was scratched at the regatta. Do we have a policy about how such a decision would be made? Pat was in the boat that scratched and reported that weather conditions had deteriorated and it was an "open" event. It was a decision by the members of the crew.

Is there a policy? There has been a person at regattas who is designated to make onsite decisions about boatings. Gary says that the policy is that if the coach makes up a boat, we row it unless there is an injury. If a boat is to be scratched at the venue, the "regatta lead" should make that decision, not the crews.

Veronique asked how the rule applies to singles and doubles. These are an exception. These rowers can decide to scratch for safety.

Coxing: The coxing clinic held on Sunday, October 16, was attended by very few people. Mary Makarski suggested a PowerPoint presentation for coxswain training. Another possibility would be a DVD. In addition, the coxing manual should be put on a pdf file to make it easily shared. Ken said the presentation by Alison was excellent and needs to be better attended. Spurge reminded us that a few years ago there was a more formal process to get novice rowers into the cox seat. Gary reported that a conscious decision was made to revise the procedure using experienced strokes and to accelerate

getting novices exposed to actual coxing duty. The new system reduced the anxiety attached to beginning coxing.

Some experienced rowers who join the club are also asked to cox without experience. Alison suggested a diagram of the traffic pattern be posted downstairs at the boathouse bay.

A recent incident took place in which an experienced rower, new to the club (and USRowing certified coach) went through the incorrect arch and had a couple of near collisions. Rick indicated that it was not entirely the coxswain's fault. Rick felt that as stroke he did not need to intercede in that situation. The practice was stopped, however, and the boat was returned to the dock.

George made the point that the remedy should have been to replace the coxswain in the seat and continue the practice.

Gary feels that strokes should speak up if a less experienced coxswain is breaking proper procedure.

Hudson 4+: Veronique Ooman reopened a discussion of the name for the Hudson 4+. Karen said we had left the question in August with the decision of renaming the boat. One of the issues is that we have not decided what kind of name is appropriate.

Veronique suggested three categories:

- a) Unrelated to rowing, but significant to the club (Eagle, 1985, Small Triumph)
- b) Related to Rowing (Open Water)
- c) Honoring a person

Possible names in consideration: The Eagle, Jersey Fresh, Dinky.

It was decided that the naming of the boat will be deferred to a future meeting.

Competition Committee: Margery Mark reported that The Head of the Housatonic was held in beautiful weather and several of our boats did well.

The Head of the Charles will be this weekend in Boston. Coach Tom has arranged for four of our male members to row in an eight with a Schuylkill Navy entry at the HOCR.

Sandi Chu will again cox the women's 50+ eight. Michael Tallarico will cox the 40+ four.

Princeton has offered to let us use Princeton oars in Boston. They are taking our 4+, and the eight will be used by both Princeton and CLRA.

We won't be able to take oars to the Charles to have Concept2 change the handles.

Hutchinson Cup sign-up has been extended. We are still one short for a women's eight.

Head of Schuylkill is coming up, Oct 29.

Learn to Row: Pat Lyons and Rose Ford

The group is coming along. They are now practicing with the support of a single experienced rower in each boat. Learn to Row is not a place for inexperienced coxswains to learn. Coxswain volunteers should be those with considerable experience so they can help with the training process.

Pat requested that race boats launch by 5:25 AM or else wait for the LTR's to launch. The Charles boats have been informed to arrive early.

Roger is doing the boatings for the LTR.

Three Mile Chase: Tom Heebink reported that the size is the same as in the past. More volunteers are needed for shirt production. Todd Rossi and Leslie Crawford will supervise the production that will be again take place in the sun porch.

In order to maintain competitive nature of the event, not all schools were accepted to participate in the Chase: schools had to have a small footprint and a friendly traditional relationship with Princeton.

Budget: George Carcagno – Laker Regatta truncated; it was a break even, no profit. Contributions are high – almost \$900 over the budgeted \$1000. Seat fees are on track. LTR membership income is a little low. Expenses are on track. The club now has approximately \$45,000 on hand. Coaching costs are up since we now have three each morning. Karen and Gary informed the coaches that once inside for winter training, we can only pay two a day.

Membership: Tom reported the current membership is up from last year, we now have 198 members. Several new experienced rowers have recently joined.

Ali reported that Nancy Schoffelen is looking to buy a light single and asked if the club could make the Ziva available for her during the day, the board agreed. She will be notified that she can use it if she goes out with another person.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Submitted by Barbara Hogan for Barbara Heck, Secretary

