

## **5/12/25 Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Start Time: 7:02 PM**

**Attendees:** Kristy Balwinski, Sonia McAvoy, Courtney Sieger, Kristi Griffiths, Dan Passarella, Trevor Barry, Melanie McCowen, Anne Anderson

Read previous board meeting minutes. Moved to approve by Sonia, seconded by Kristy, all approved.

### **Coaches:**

Dan has requested team events during crew season to be moved from Friday nights to Wednesday or Thursday nights. Fridays before regattas are being used for last minute practice and loading shells.

Dan would like to replace all carbon fiber backstays (currently 2 8s) with aluminum ones. He had to replace 8 backstays this season at \$135 each. Aluminum backstays are \$170 each, but much more durable.

Dan also needs to replace 2 sets of shoes.

Dan would like to rent the black Vespoli again next season.

Attendance remains the biggest concern for Dan and Trevor. Trevor recorded 262 absences for 65 practices. This will be addressed next year.

Dan stated that while the flu was bad this year, club and extracurricular activities played a huge part.

There was wholehearted agreement that we should adhere to LCPS policy – 4 unexcused absences are an automatic dismissal from team.

Spring Break will be mandatory for experienced rowers. Dan's goal is to compete in the regatta before Spring Break and the one after Spring Break. It's a huge help to have the equipment parked there and there are a lot of great schools who compete in those regattas.

Trevor stated that the girls were good at communicating absences. He takes attendance.

Next year, boats won't go out if there is an absence.

Both Dan and Trevor say that GroupMe worked well and that they will continue to use it. TeamLinkt is working well. The newsletter is well liked.

Kristy heard from some parents that the kids were not on the water enough during spring training. Dan stated that he needs more paid coaches. He can only comfortably take 2 boats out at a time at Sandy Run due to the traffic.

Dan wants to add in other regattas during the spring season. Trevor mentioned the St. Andrews Invitational in Delaware. Dan mentioned the Manny Flick regatta in Philadelphia.

Our reserve is what was projected at the start of the season. We have built it back up and Nicole and Kristy are looking into CDs and high yield accounts to help grow those funds.

Algonkian is still not providing a dumpster. Dan suggested we rent one so our 2 8s can be dismantled and cleared out. Our area needs to be tidied up to look better compared to what has been left behind by the other schools.

Dan returned the rented Vespoli with the new shoes he purchased.

Going forward, we will have 2 buses for each regatta and bus riding will be mandatory for all rowers.

Dan and Trevor maintain that there is no need for captains. They said that they did not ask anything of either captain this year. Trevor stated that he likes the shared responsibility approach.

They don't want coxswains as captains, but they want coxswains to assume leadership roles. They should be the only team members talking to the refs.

Dan intimated that this was a pretty low drama season. The flu hurt attendance and impacted consistent line-ups.

Sonia asked about the Polar Bear regatta for the experienced rowers while the novices attend to spectate. Dan and Trevor feel it's too early in the season to compete at their best.

Krisit Griffiths inquired about Stotesbury for next year. The wild card is prom and is it on a Friday next year? In addition, we don't know what the status will be with US Rowing. We can get a regatta pass if we are not US Rowing affiliated. Trevor wants more clarity with LCPS's stance since we are complying with US Rowing's policies with the pass.

Stotesbury's attendance is down by about 25% due to US Rowing's stance.

Dorothy and VASRA are operating well without US Rowing.

Scrimmages with Fairfax schools was floated.

Transporting Potomac Falls went well. They did well for their first year.

Looking to schedule weight training at Riverside. Trevor will follow up with Oblas.

Dan would like to participate in Club Day again to recruit new rowers.

### **Coaches left at 8:07**

### **Fundraising**

End of year letter writing campaign. The letter can be emailed or printed and mailed to relatives, friends, businesses. The kids can add their season highlights and goals going forward. Donations can be made through our PayPal. Info for this will be put in the newsletter.

We will do the Tag Day event again next season.

### **Banquet**

Julie Pinches and Kristi Griffiths are organizing. Kristy mentioned inviting the Brights and Carriers.

It was also discussed to invite Mr. Anderson and Matt Oblas to the banquet. Perhaps Thomas and Giada can extend the invitation?

### **Maverick**

Summer session contract agreed on. The contract was streamlined this year. Maverick will donate to Riverside crew for the use of the shells and launches. Joe will be signing going forward to keep Dan separate.

### **Miscellaneous**

Erin Dimanno contacted Kristy to see if we keep up with our alumni who row. There are watch parties when competitions are televised. It was agreed that we should be following our alumni rowers and posting their successes on our socials.

**Meeting ended at 8:53 PM**