**Newport Sea Base Rowing Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2021 – 8:30 am (via Zoom)**

**Mission**

Rowing changes lives. At Newport Sea Base Rowing (NSBR) we are dedicated to fostering a community that is both welcoming and supportive. Under the banner of Rowing for All, we make rowing accessible without regard to individual ability, race, color, background or experience. We seek to raise the standard of rowing programs through internal excellence and to share our knowledge and expertise with others for the advancement of the sport at all levels.

**Committee Members**

Patricia Robbins - Chair

Robert Cunard – Vice Chair

Kristen Chadwell – Membership  **(absent)**

Candace Long-Lerno - Events

Kc Campbell - Fundraising Chair

Lisa Fox - Equipment Chair

Ian Simpson - Director of Rowing

James Long-Lerno – Rowing Director

Lacey Shelton – Coach

Jack Nguyen – Program Director **(absent)**

Michael Oehmke – Director **(absent)**

**Proceedings**

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion Notes and Next Steps** |
| --- | --- |
| **OCBSA Update** | Jack is on paternity leave. Michael is unable to join us today.  James reports that the lawsuit is moving along and that the Board has a plan to proceed – but they are keeping it at their executive level. Either way, it should not have a negative impact on what we do in our rowing program.  Regarding Venturing – we are working on how to get electronic signatures accessible for all members in order to ease the transition to the Venturing model. |
| **Tom Hartman Departure** | Tom’s last day is next Friday, though he will likely remain on site for a few more weeks before making the physical move. He will be moving to New York for a new role similar to Michael’s. We would like to give him a parting gift from rowing. We discussed the idea of naming a boat after Tom. Ian and James and Candice emphasized that Tom has done a lot for rowing. He was the gatekeeper who let rowing in to the Sea Base. We made arrangements to give a gift of a model boat as well as to have a farewell event featuring cake. |
| **Youth Rowing Report** | **Team Parent**: responsible for social events, pre-race pasta feeds, coordinating snacks and supplements. We will also need help coordinating carpooling.  We do have a parent who has indicated she’s willing to do it for the girls squad. We need one for the boys squad. We will solicit for one via the Newsletter. |
| **Prior Race Updates** | **Race for the Cure:** was a useful trial run for rowers and coaches. Good lessons were learned. Everyone managed loading and unloading of the trailer quite well. Ian would recommend doing this race again as a good way to prepare for other races – depending on scheduling.    The **boys race in Newport** was also a good trial run. They did not have the same intensity since the race was in our own back yard. We learned a lot about our fitness. It was a good wake up call and indicator of where we are right now. |
| **Future Race Plans** | **Fall Classic:** All the juniors and competitive masters are going. We discussed arranging carpooling.  **Christmas Regatta:** Everyone will be going to the event in Long Beach. Patricia will begin organizing for food at the LBRA event. |
| **Membership Update** | Kristen Chadwell is in Boston for Head of the Charles. No new updates. |
| **Facilities and Equipment** | Boathouse redesign: We have plans for where we want things to go. We are just about ready for Marcio to do the CAD drawings. We are looking at moving kayak/canoe storage around to improve efficiency.  James reports that our gangway, ramp, and dock is getting concerning. It needs attention. Ours will be first priority with the Scouts.  We are putting together a grant to replace engines for our launches. We plan to add another launch, two engines, and oars. We are also adding another from Wintech eight. Given shipping delays, its arrival time is uncertain. James had hoped it might arrive last week along with the boat for Kristen Chadwell – but it did not.  Before we re-paint oars, we need to do a deep dive into our budget to see if it is still in budget. The purchase of the Defiant drained our equipment budget. |
| **Fundraising** | Kc will be focusing on foundations as a fundraising source moving forward. There has been delayed communication between Kc and Tom. James will set up a meeting between Kc and the OCBSA’s new point person on fundraising. |
| **Upcoming Events** | **Christmas Boat Parade** event will be 12/18. We will do something early to late afternoon for the juniors. Low key holiday party. That evening, we’ll have a nice social/boat parade event for the adults. We will use the Yacht Room for both events. It will involve masters and junior parents. We are intending this to be NICE – and we want masters to attend and have fun. This is not intended as a fundraiser – but more as a fun event to build connection across the rowing programs.  **Ergathon:** We don’t have a date yet. Waiting for coaches to give us one. We want to use this as a families and friends day. Food, yard games, dock boxes to try rowing. Goal: get as many people as possible to the facility to see what we do. We’d love to get two local sponsors for this. Candice and Kc to work together on this. We considered **February 12 or 19**, as a date for the event. We will check the facility calendar for availability.  **Banquet**. Not ready to do anything about it yet. Candice could use volunteers to help her with this. Patricia will seek help from a parent. |
| **Roundtable** | Patricia asked if we want to continue meeting on Zoom or return to in-person meetings. There was consensus to continue on Zoom.  **Next Meeting: November 19, 2021** |