**Newport Sea Base Rowing Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 23, 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 **(absent)**

Robert Cunard – Vice Chair

Kristen Chadwell – Membership Chair

Candace Long-Lerno - Event Chair **(absent)**

Kc Campbell - Fundraising Chair

Lisa Fox - Equipment Chair

Ian Simpson - Director of Rowing

James Long-Lerno – Rowing Director

Jack Nguyen – Program Director, Sea Base

Michael Oehmke – Director, OCBSA

**Proceedings**

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion Notes and Next Steps** |
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| **OCBSA Update**  Michael Oehmke | Overall the Council’s finances are looking better. Summer camp revenue overall is in the area of $3.3 million. Rowing is financially healthy – which has enabled the organization to make Lacey Shelton a full-time employee, and is affording us some other opportunities to be discussed a little later. |
| **Sea Base Update**  Jack Nguyen | This week the Sea Base will serve 380 enrollments. Last year we saw less than half that number – mostly due to COVID limitations. Squids camp is the largest it has ever been, and Merit Badge classes are getting quite full.  There was a positive COVID test last week for a vaccinated staff member. They are experiencing mild symptoms, have been in isolation, and so far there appears to be no spread of this infection to others.  Jack, Michael, and the rowing staff are in active discussions about how to increase rowing equipment storage space inside the boathouse building. Part of that will involve clearing out and relocating the existing equipment used for non-rowing activities. Corona del Mar High has finally removed their sailing equipment from the Sea base, which will help. |
| **Youth Rowing Report**  James Long-Lerno | Our youth rowing participation is on the upswing. We currently have 24 youth in the summer Learn-to-Row group, and many have already confirmed that they intend to enroll for the fall program. We could be looking at our largest novice group ever.  Overall, James expects that we will have 40 returning rowers in the fall as well as the Learn-to-Row newcomers. |
| **Director’s Report**  Ian Simpson | We need more coaches next year in order to serve all of these rowers. We are advertising on Row2k and are getting very little response. Ian reports that this is the same for rowing programs everywhere right now.  We will be helping Pacifica to re-start its rowing program this fall.  Chapman’s program is not yet clear and Ian will be discussing with the University what it wishes to do.  In addition to the large youth program, we are hitting maximum capacity in our masters program as well. At all levels, it is time to look at how we can become a little more selective in adding people in the future. Lisa Fox offered that she and Nguyet Tran Overby will develop a first draft plan for managing masters membership which they will bring back to Ian and the committee. |
| **Facilities and Equipment**  James Long-Lerno  Lisa Fox | James reported that 7 of our 8 new ergs have arrived, with the 8th expected any day. We will keep 24 ergs total, in service, which will enable us to sell 8 of the older ergs, which will be equipped with PM-3 monitors. They will first be offered to NSBR members.  Four new spin bikes have arrived and are in the process of being set up. We also have two new trap bars ordered and some additional weights.  The two launches we have on order are built and should ship soon. We have a plan to manage the engines we have so that the new launches will be ready to use when they arrive. Additionally, we have a new launch engine on order, but it will take a while for it to arrive.  We are on the verge of getting a new Wintech Quad to replace our existing heavyweight quad keeps breaking down. If approved, the plan is for the boat to be delivered to us at Masters Nationals in Tennessee. We are awaiting final approval from OCBSA.  Wintech is also going to replace the eight which has been away for repair because the gunwales proved too soft to properly repair. As this was a manufacturing issue, Wintech is making good on its guarantee so there should be no additional cost to us.  In terms of the boathouse itself, Jack and Michael have been in discussion with Ian and James and have given their approval for us to develop a plan to clear out the non-rowing equipment in our north boat bay and to design and build new storage racks to better accommodate our fleet. James will be working with Lisa and Bruce (a masters rower with project experience) to develop a design. Once complete, Marcio Troccoli will get that design from paper to CAD and will present a cost and materials proposal. This will take a number of months to go from conception to action. |
| **Annual Banquet Review** | We evaluated the recently-held annual banquet. Overall, Ian stated, the event accomplished what we wanted – which was to recap the year and to give our departing juniors a proper send-off. We noted that masters participation was down from prior years and that we need to do a better job of engaging the masters for future events.  In general the sentiment seemed to be that we would like to see the event back in a more formal setting in the future.  We also discussed the idea of possible doing a couple of separate things: a recognition event (the banquet) as well as a fundraiser involving just the adults. We discussed the idea of a Bay cruise in December or some other event which might get more masters and parents together in support of rowing. James reported that he and Candace have also been thinking along these lines and that they will get back to us in the future to discuss ideas. |