**Newport Sea Base Rowing Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 20, 2022 – 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

Candace Long-Lerno - Events

Kc Campbell - Fundraising Chair

Lisa Fox - Equipment Chair

Ian Simpson - Director of Rowing

James Long-Lerno – Sea Base Director

Lacey Shelton – Rowing Director

**Proceedings**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion Notes and Next Steps** |
| **OCBSA Update**  | **Staffing**: OCBSA is still struggling with staffing shortages – though not at Sea Base. **Finance and Budget:** We are expecting an overall financial loss at Sea Base this year – though it is in the budget, and we are actually still ahead of our budget projection. OCBSA in general is doing well, however, and James reports that there is broad support at the Board level for our programs. The OEC is doing well as in-person programming returns. We are expecting charter schools to return in the fall to our program which should help improve revenue**ACA Accreditation:** Sea Base has passed round one of ACA accreditation. Final accreditation date is August 8 for an in-person visit.  |
| **Youth Rowing Report** | **Summer Camps:** To date, Lacey reports that there are 56 sign-ups for levels 1 – 3. Lisa mentioned that we have not been in the City of Newport publications which advertise youth programs. We need to start early next time – as we are too late for this year. We are buying advertising to try to improve sign-ups. The Newsletter went out last night and we hope that will spur sign-ups.**Collegiate Rowers:** This summer we are going to have some collegiate rowers training. New fees have been created in iCrew.**Middle School Program:** We are looking to re-structure middle school next year to include both competitive and recreational rowing. Ian wants us to increase middle school enrollment and retention so that we can see more of the younger kids stay on and row with the high school program.  |
| **Previous Races** | **Regionals:** It was a good trip. Kids were well-behaved. Logistics went well. Except for race cancellations at the end, the results were very positive. This kind of race was new for 90% of our kids. Only 4 of the 53 kids had been to this race before. It was good for them to see our level of rowing and that we are very competitive. Girls placed 12th out of 25 programs; boys placed 8th out of 28 programs. And we would have done better had the end races not been cancelled. **Gold Rush:** Success in many ways. Six boats finished top 3. Several last-minute scratches created challenges. But the squad adapted well.  |
| **Future Races** | **Nationals:** June 6 – 12 in Sarasota. 3 boats have directly qualified; 4 other boats are waiting for bids to come through. We are looking at taking 27 rowers and 4 coaches. **Nationals Costs and Funding:** Cost is high: $48,500. It will be about $1700 per participant. Our goal is to cap it at $1500 per person. We are planning a corporate LTR to partially offset the costs. There is a Good Sea Scout fundraiser event upcoming and we are requesting four scholarships to be used to fund athletes to nationals. Coaches have advised all parents of the likely cost and, to date, none has indicated that their child cannot attend. **Trials:** We have four boys who will remain in Sarasota following Youth Nationals for National Team trials.  |
| **Facilities and Equipment**  | **Erg Maintenance Day:** May 22 at 6:30 am. We intend to select the best 30 ergs and then sell the rest (9). **Oar Racks:** We are working on two more quad slots for oars. Marcio has materials now. **Wood Instead of Metal:** We are looking at using wood instead of metal for the new boat racks. This would reduce costs substantially. James informs us that there is a donor who has made a substantial commitment o help with funding.  |
| **Fundraising** | Kc Still has not received any final info on our 501c3 status which will enable us to move forward with her grant application.  |
| **Membership** | No report |
| **Upcoming Events**  | **Banquet:** Some kids will miss because of their prom. Masters turnout is a bit small. A number of activities are set up including photos and games. We have 112 confirmed attendees. **Corporate Learn to Row Event:** A date and volunteers were set, but the client needed to make a date change. Kristen Chadwell is working with them to re-schedule. She has a group of volunteers ready to facilitate. Funds raised will be used to offset some of the cost of Youth Nationals.  |
| **Roundtable** | **Advisory Committee**Next Meeting: June 24. Robert Cunard to circulate the agenda; Patricia will be away.Kristen Chadwell has agreed to be the new chair. Robert Cunard has agreed to serve as vice chair. Patricia Robbins will continue on for a year as an At Large member. Lisa Fox would like to serve in a marketing capacity, putting her career skills to work on behalf of our programs. Ian will be approaching others soon.  |

**Next Meeting: June 24, 2022**