**Newport Sea Base Rowing Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 19, 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

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

Michael Oehmke – **departing**

**Proceedings**

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion Notes and Next Steps** |
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| **OCBSA Update**  | Michael Oehmke has accepted a new position in Delaware. He is leaving next week. Donovan Leno will be taking over his position. He is already with OCBSA so this will be a re-positioning.Boat Parade events registration has opened up this week. We are aiming for attendance of 200 – down from earlier maximums as a COVID precaution.Rowing’s Dec 18 event is on the calendar and firmly established. Overall, OCBSA revenue is at 96% of goal. Sea Base has exceeded its revenue target. Discover Scouting events are being held to try to bring new people to scouting. These weekend events involve use of kayaks and our dock. Josh is moving into the now-empty apartment as Tom has moved. Jack will be taking over the grant work Tom previously did. |
| **Youth Rowing Report** | Boys: Fall Classic was our first real event and we had good results. Eight did very well in spite of not practicing together prior to the event. Fours also did very well. Younger boys did pretty well as well. Frosh boys were second in the eight. This was an eye opening regatta for the new racers.Girls: A good event. Did well in the double. Quad was impacted by wakes which were present in the later events. Novices and frosh did extremely well. All in all – a successful regatta. Kids did quite well in terms of their loading and unloading work.  |
| **Future Race Plans** | LBRA is asking if we can assist with running the regatta in December by providing some volunteers. We will establish a sign-up process. Parent participation: we discussed who may head up a parent tailgate event in the Long Beach Christmas regatta. We discussed how best to publicize this event in LB to the parents. We have a parent willing to donate for tents/EZ-Ups with NSBR signage. LBRA logistics: We will load our trailer for LBRA on Friday, build our camp in LB on Saturday to claim our space, and set out boats and equipment then.  |
| **Membership Update** | Learn to Row programs are growing our enrollment. We’ll have two sessions of 26 each this next year. Following each LTR, we will conduct a tryout for those interested in joining the novice masters group.  |
| **Facilities and Equipment**  | **Ergs**: The Golf room is now our erg room for the season. We have 22 of 24 ergs set up – indoors. We’ll move ergs back upstairs in the summer. We discussed whether the Donut Club can continue to use the ergs outside. We also discussed that the tennis balls installed below the chains are impacting the ergs. Lisa reported that they should be removed.**Facility Update:** Our proposed changes are nearly committed to drawings. They will be transmitted to Marcio in the next few days – and then he can begin the process of getting them in CAD. Once that is done, we can develop cost estimates. **Equipment:** We know that the Penny is getting to end of its life. The Pocock 8 is down from its rack and is being assessed for middle school use. James is concerned it may be too heavy. Perhaps the Penny could be repurposed as an octuple. Ian and James will look that over. |
| **Fundraising** | Right now, Kc will be pursuing Google award grants, which are the only ones presently available. Grant cycles open in January which is when she expects to be making more applications. With Giving Tuesday soon, we discussed the idea of trying to do something with our social media accounts. Lacey discussed the details of what kind of account should be used for any donations: something using Mobile Cause, or using our general account. We decided to keep this a relatively small effort – since the Ergathon is coming soon - and to use our general fund as the landing place for any donations.  |
| **Upcoming Events**  | So far, we have 42 tickets sold for the Dec 18 event. Most of the sales have been to masters. We’d like to see more junior parents attending. Patricia said that we need some more communication to junior parents about the junior event that precedes the party. We’d like some wine donations from masters rowers. Candice has some good ideas for ways to make the wine donations more fun. Ergathon: We don’t have much progress here right now as our efforts have been focused on the Boat Parade party.  |
| **Roundtable** | **Marketing:** Should we ask at the LBRA event for a parent to join our committee to help with marketing? The consensus is that we should ask for help here. We need to get some more assistance with this area. Ian suggested that we may want to look at a marketing committee rather than a single person since it is so difficult to get one person with the right skills and enough time. **Year End Banquet**: Should we place orders for the oar awards we gave out? Ian thinks that if we like them we should place the order sooner. Candice suggests that we table this until after the boat parade party – which is when she can spend some time getting with the coaching staff to evaluate what they would like for the banquet.**Corporate Learn to Row:** Ian asked if we felt we could host a corporate learn to row. It would be run by an outside entity, but it would require 20 volunteers. Our response: no. We don’t have enough volunteers – and we don’t think that the funds raised would be worth the disruption and impact of the event.  |