

Spartan Alumni Rowing Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2015

I. Call to Order

- a. Doug Rathburn called to order the regular meeting of the Spartan Alumni Rowing Association (S.A.R.A.) at 11:19AM on April 18, 2015 at the Cleveland Rowing Foundation Boathouse, 1003 British Street, Cleveland, Ohio

II. Roll Call

- a. The following persons were present: Tom Attenweiler, Caitlin Bowerman, Nate Uber, Laura Kruse, Meg Grady, Doug Brubaker, Doug Rathburn, Tim Marcovy, Mike Krofcheck, Trisha Krofcheck, and Jeff Chin. Fraser Hewson, Lauren Boucher, Dan Bachmann Tom Hudak and Chris Shoemaker participated via teleconference. Chris Sheridan provided her proxy to Doug Rathburn for the 2015 AGM.

III. Presidents Report – Doug Rathburn

- a. Donations & Endowment
 - i. Donations to SARA were \$24,113.20 in 2014 and \$4943 in 2015 YTD.
 1. Largest donors were Doug Rathburn, Dan Bachmann, Rachel Liu & Carol Brubaker
 2. Ten donations \geq \$500
 3. No major campaigns this year so donations are excellent at this level
 - ii. Endowment is currently at \$64,457
 1. Distribution amount unknown for 2014
 2. Still difficult to get specific inflow and outflow information since the money does not flow through SARA.
 3. Better information about current balance. No endowment report was published at the university level in 2014.
- b. Equipment and Other Fundraising
 - i. Replacement for the Peinert 26 (*Capt. Rando*) was delivered and christened at the 2014 Head of the Cuyahoga as the *sachem*.
 - ii. We sold the *Survival 1x* to CRF for \$500 to adorn the lobby of the boathouse. The shell was rarely used by the team and we paid annual rack rent. The boat was hand built by a WRRRA member and they donated it to us in 2009.
 - iii. This year's coach's wish list garnered a lot of support with almost everything donated.
 1. Donations included: a set of new Croker oars, a survival suit, lactate tester, safety lights, wrenches, boat straps and some nutritional items for the team.
 2. All in almost \$7000 was raised by the wish list!
 3. Any ideas for next year's list or how to communicate better/differently?
 - iv. I anticipate needed to help fund a bigger boat (i.e. 4+ or 8+) in the next year or so.
- c. Coaching

- i. The university continues to support the paid coaching position and appears to be working well. Funds located in an expendable account (no interest) and an endowment account (earns interest) all to be used to pay coaching for the team.
 - ii. Aaron has had a number of meeting with the new Athletic Director and the alumni office. Relationship with the school and coaching staff is improving markedly.
 - iii. The expendable account resides at the university and is managed by the students with oversight from the Sport Club director. The corpus of the account was provided by Paul with a few thousand added each year from the endowment. This should provide sufficient funds for a \$10,000 base salary plus travel expense for the head coach through the 2017 Dad Vails.
 - iv. After 2017 our options are:
 - 1. Raise more expendable funds to pay directly
 - 2. Increase the Endowment to about \$200,000 to cover ~\$10k annually
 - 3. Have the students chip in from their own fundraising
 - 4. A mixture of the above.
 - v. Aaron will provide a nice “State of the Team” presentation at tonight’s alumni dinner.
- d. Tanks & Boathouse Investigation
- i. Tanks are still in storage. Ken Klika was handling the arrangements for storing the tanks. Since his passing we will manage the storage. There was even some local interest in possibly purchasing the parts from us.
 - ii. New boathouse sites are under constant investigation. We have had discussions about two suitable sites, and the new boathouse (The Foundry) project has approached us to join their effort.
 - iii. The Foundry group will present to this meeting. It is a multi-million dollar investment in a new facility just upriver from the current site (where Lolly the Trolley was based).
 - iv. Based on the success of the Aurora Lake Sprints, we may also look into infrastructure improvements there in order to host better/larger events.
- e. Other items
- i. Our second alumni dinner is tonight at the Flat Iron Grill at 6pm
 - 1. Thanks to the students for organizing
 - 2. We’re hoping to build the dinner up to something special in 2016, which will be the team’s 25th anniversary year! Maybe special speakers, etc.
- f. Motion by Tim to approve Presidents Report. Second by Nate. Unanimously approved.

IV. Treasurer’s Report – Fraser Hewson

- a. SARA assets are \$40,153 as of Dec 31, 2014.
- b. Total cash and bank accounts is \$14,811 as of April 17, 2015.
 - i. All equipment is paid off
 - ii. Cash balance in up vs. previous years
 - iii. 2015 donations so far \$4,943.
 - iv. Major outflows:
 - 1. \$2,570 for insurance
 - 2. \$1550 for boat maintenance
 - 3. \$1795 for equipment & parts
 - 4. \$4110 for Rack Rent to CRF

- 5. \$554 for marketing
- 6. \$575 for professional fees
- v. Only remaining liabilities are about ~\$2,000 for 2nd half of 2015 rack rent. Rack rent remained stable this year after significant increases in the previous two years. The CRF decided to alter the mix of revenue to shift burden away from individual members and increase rack rents; thus, SARA is negatively affected because it has no rowers.
- c. Calendar 2014 information for tax purposes:
 - i. Net income \$15,054: total income \$27,096 vs. total expenses \$12,042.
 - 1. Donations in 2014 were \$24,113
 - 2. Revenue from Amazon was \$2,532, Google was \$380, other was \$20
 - ii. Cash at end of year \$14,598.
 - iii. Total assets \$35,513.
- d. Looking at ways to forecast expenses and generate continuous income. Pledges, auto payroll deductions, etc.
- e. Motion by Tom to approve Treasurer's Report. Second by Nate. Unanimously approved.

V. Coach's Update – Aaron Marcovy

- a. School is considering varsity status for crew. Almost a zero percent chance. AD said she will not cut another program to create budget room for crew. And she does not anticipate there being budget to add the sport. But she promised the topic would be raised over the summer with the administration. High level alumni support (i.e. with the official alumni orgs, not just SARA) to support varsity crew.
 - i. CSU is also considering varsity status for the women's team
- b. The CWRU Alumni Association will sponsor an alumni tent at Vails this year. Alumni and parents are encouraged to visit the tent and pre-register. The alumni office was excited to have 22 people pre-register already.
- c. Aurora Lake Sprints was a success. It has real potential to provide a wonderful "home 2000m course" for the team. The fact that the university provided event insurance was what made the event possible with the lake association. Aaron reported that the process to obtain the insurance from the university was straightforward and painless.

VI. Update on SARA Strategic Plan – Doug Rathburn

- a. The SARA Board authorized the creation of a sub-committee in 2013 to begin working on a strategic plan. The current progress to date has been fairly ad hoc, and a strategic plan is seen as a step towards a more professional approach and greater buy-in to our mission from the wider alumni, parent and friend population.
- b. The sub-committee consists of: Dan Bachmann, Brian Chorney, Meg Grady, Fraser Hewson, Doug Rathburn and Patty Travis
- c. Goal of the sub-committee is to develop a recommended strategic plan to be adopted by the Board.
- d. Subcommittee created a draft plan, but it has been on hold for the balance of the year as Doug moved back to the US and a potential boathouse site became available. The availability of the site put many initiatives on hold. We may re-energize efforts to formalize and adopt the plan this year.

VII. Election of the Board of Directors

- a. Proposed Board of Directors: Tom Hudak, Tim Marcovy, Chris Sheridan, Dan Bachmann, Brian Chorney, Fraser Hewson, Doug Rathburn, Meg Grady, and Lauren Boucher
- b. Motion by Trisha, second by Nate to approve board
- c. No opposed, by acclamation Board passed unanimously

VIII. New business from the membership

- a. General Feedback from membership
 - i. Tim provided general information about the assessment situation for member clubs from the Cleveland Rowing Foundation (CRF). CRF wanted to change the mix of revenue to place less emphasis on individual members to space consumed in the boathouse via rack rents. The goal was to keep the plan revenue neutral and shift the mix over 5 years. CRF made significant changes the previous two years, but kept things flat (i.e. no additional shifting) for this year.
- b. Tim Marcovy motioned to ratify and approve the actions of the officers and SARA Board of Directors since the last Annual General Meeting. Nate Uber moved to pass motion, Mike Krofcheck seconded and the motion passed unanimously by the membership.

IX. Date of Annual Meeting in 2016

- a. Date to coincide, with proper notification, with the 2016 alumni regatta in Cleveland, Ohio

X. Adjournment

- a. Trisha moved to adjourn AGM, second by Tom. None opposed.
- b. Doug Rathburn adjourned the meeting at 12:03PM – See you tonight at the alumni dinner!

Immediately following the SARA Annual General Meeting (AGM), the newly elected Board of Directors met to elect Officers.

I. Election of SARA Officers

- a. SARA Board of Directors meeting called to order at 12:06PM on April 18, 2015
- b. Board of Directors present: Doug Rathburn, Meg Grady and Tim Marcovy. Fraser Hewson, Lauren Boucher, Dan Bachmann Tom Hudak and Chris Shoemaker participated via teleconference. Quorum present.
- c. Officers: Doug Rathburn (President), Dan Bachmann (Vice President), Fraser Hewson (Treasurer), and Brian Chorney (Secretary)
- d. Tim moved to re-nominate slate, Meg seconded. Passes unanimously.
- e. New Business
 - i. Discussion to identify an alumni liaison to the student executive committee. Doesn't necessarily need to be a SARA Board member. Doug asked to send out request via email list. Tim motioned, Meg seconded and passed unanimously.
- f. Lauren moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Meg seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:10PM

Minutes submitted by: Doug Rathburn

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