

Spartan Alumni Rowing Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2016

I. Call to Order

- a. Doug Rathburn called to order the regular meeting of the Spartan Alumni Rowing Association (S.A.R.A.) at 5:15PM on April 23, 2016 at the Thwing Center on the Campus of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio

II. Roll Call

- a. The following persons were present: Nate Uber, Doug Brubaker, Doug Rathburn, Mike Krofcheck, Trisha Krofcheck, Dan Bachmann, Tom Hudak, Evan Halprin, Brandy Halprin, Lauren Boucher, Nina Ma, Katie Menosky and Katherine Allen. Fraser Hewson and Brian Chorney participated via teleconference. Guests from the student rowing club included Liam Hoye, Jess Powell and David Fulton.

III. Presidents Report – Doug Rathburn

- a. Donations & Endowment
 - i. Donations to SARA were \$43,000 in 2015 and \$15,500 in 2016 YTD.
 1. Largest donors were Doug Rathburn, Dan Bachmann, Tom Hudak, Rachel Liu, the Vroege Family, the Hoye Family, John Balint and Dan Burval.
 2. There was a large increase in the number of donations \geq \$500
 3. A big driver of gifts was the campaign for the three 8's that were purchased for \$20k
 - ii. Endowment is currently at approximately \$85,851
 1. Distribution amount for 2015 was \$3,219 vs. \$2,782 in 2014
 2. \$10,891 is sitting in the income side of the fund ready for dispersing to the team as needed
 3. Communication with Gary Pillar at the university is excellent, and the university is publishing endowment reports in a more timely fashion this year.
- b. Equipment and Other Fundraising
 - i. We acquired three 8's last fall. A 2007 Pocock for the women from Ithaca College and two 1999 Resolute for the men from Cornell. All three shells are used daily, and we'll most likely need more for next fall given the size of the team.
 - ii. This year's coach's wish list garnered a lot of support with almost everything donated.
 1. Donations included: some NK gear, more survival suits, boat straps and a number of gifts to the endowment.
 2. All in almost \$8,000 was raised by the wish list!
 3. Any ideas for next year's list or how to communicate better/differently?
 - iii. I anticipate needing to help fund another women's 8+ and a men's heavy 4+ next year.
- 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. The original money Paul provided for coaching will be exhausted this year. The athletic department has been providing money to the head coach on a net basis. So to hit the \$10k salary they have been withdrawing just over \$13k to cover taxes. To cover this year we will need to dip into the endowment income account.
 - iii. We will need to continue looking for ways to fund the head coach salary on an ongoing basis through use of the endowment and annual giving.
 - iv. Aaron has had a number of meetings with the new Athletic Director and the alumni office. Relationship with the school and coaching staff is good, yet steady. No headway on further support from the school. Although discussions are progressing on securing PE credit for Aaron to “teach” rowing and include crew in the course catalog.
 - v. Aaron will provide a nice “State of the Team” presentation at tonight’s alumni dinner.
- d. Infrastructure – Boathouse, Tanks, Etc.
- i. Tanks are still in storage. Since Ken’s passing there is no torch bearer for the project. Plus the Foundry is building the best tanks on the planet.
 - 1. It is technically feasible to convert the tank pieces into a barge. The Foundry is interested in acquiring the pieces for a barge. CRF also reached out to see if they could acquire the pieces (i.e. we donate them) for use as a tank.
 - ii. The Foundry has approached SARA to move across the street. The decision is tricky due to SARA/Paul’s previous commitment to CRF and also potential leverage opportunities with the university. We have communicated “not at this time,” but “we may be interested in the future.”
 - iii. We acquired three 8’s last fall. A 2007 Pocock for the women from Ithaca College and two 1999 Resolute for the men from Cornell. All three shells are used daily, and we’ll most likely need more for next fall given the size of the team.
 - iv. We continue to build the relationship with the Aurora Lake Association. Last year’s Aurora Lake Sprints and this year’s Home Schools + Alumni Regatta prove the venue is a tremendous resource for small regattas. We will engage the Association over the summer and Fall to see how we can cement/formalize our relationship further.
 - v. The team was running three/four shifts on the ergs this winter and often traveled to the boathouse to erg as a full squad. We’ve investigated options for more space and more ergs on or near campus (e.g. GVSU has off campus rental the rowing team pays for).
- e. 25th Anniversary
- i. Book
 - 1. Tim Marcovy spearheaded the creation of a gorgeous 198-page history of Case Crew. The compilation is written in sections by the head coach of each era with recollections of rowers from that era.
 - 2. Meg Attenweiler spent countless hours editing the work and making it gorgeous.
 - 3. Thank you to both for your dedication and excellent book!
 - ii. Regatta & Dinner
 - 1. Dinner to be held on campus for first time
 - 2. Regatta held in conjunction with Home Schools. Feedback?

3. The Krofchecks are helping organize a raffle fundraiser during the dinner. They created a cool quilt with old Case Crew t-shirts. Thank you Trisha and Mike!
- f. Other items
 - i. Our third alumni dinner is tonight at the Tinkham Veale Student Center on Campus at 6pm
 1. Thanks to the students for organizing
 2. It will be awesome!!!
 - ii. The SARA will sponsor an alumni tent at Vails this year. Alumni and parents are encouraged to visit the tent and pre-register.
- g. Motion by Brubaker to approve Presidents Report. Second by Hudak. Unanimously approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Fraser Hewson

- a. SARA assets are \$41,687 as of Dec 31, 2015.
- b. Total cash and bank accounts is \$9850 as of April 23, 2016.
 - i. All equipment is paid off
 - ii. Cash balance is 0.2% vs. previous year
 - iii. 2016 donations so far \$23,730 (\$16,000 to the Marcovy Coaching Endowment).
 - iv. Major outflows for calendar year 2015:
 1. \$23,972 for equipment purchases including three used 8's
 2. \$2,915 for insurance
 3. \$324 for equipment & parts
 4. \$5,552 for Rack Rent to CRF
 5. \$2,250 for tank storage
 6. \$1,801 for marketing
 7. \$2,439 for clothing
 8. \$2,156 regatta support costs
 9. \$575 for professional fees
 - v. Only remaining liabilities are about ~\$3406 for 2nd half of 2016 rack rent. Rack rent remained stable on a per boat basis this year after significant increases in the previous years. Overall our rack rent increased due to the purchase of the new eights. 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 2015 information for tax purposes:
- d. Net income \$19,431: total income \$42,816 vs. total expenses \$23,384.
 - i. Donations in 2015 were \$36,168
 - ii. Revenue from Amazon was \$2,364, Google was \$224, other was \$60
 - iii. Cash at end of year \$10,057.
 - iv. Total assets \$42,340.
- e. Looking at ways to forecast expenses and generate continuous income. Pledges, auto payroll deductions, etc.
- f. Reminder -- SARA membership fees are \$5/year
- g. Motion by Bachmann to approve Treasurer's Report. Second by Uber. Unanimously approved.

V. Coach's Update – Aaron Marcovy

- a. Significant growth in team size this year. Spring Roster size:
 - i. 5 coxswains
 - ii. 2 Women's Eights
 - iii. 2 Men's Eights plus a Men's Four
 - iv. 37 athletes plus coxswains
- b. Performance based training plans developed over years of experience
 - i. Lactate testing
 - ii. Personalized heart rate training
 - iii. Weight regimen
 - iv. Visualization exercises / guided meditation
 - v. Nutrition planning & guidance
- c. Report on Traditional Races
 - i. WV4 claimed first-ever requalification spot for team boat at the Charles
 - ii. Every boat medaled at the Cuyahoga
 - iii. Cleaned up at the Hammer
 - iv. Claimed Women's and Men's points trophies at URAs. First time for either achievement.
 - v. Cleaned up at Home Schools
 - vi. Onward to MACRAs and Vails
- d. New regattas – new challenges
 - i. Head of the Genesee
 - 1. WV4+ won!
 - ii. Head of the Hooch – second largest head race in the world
 - 1. MV8 – 5th
 - 2. WV8 – 4th
 - iii. Don Lubber's Cup – invite only for top tier programs in Midwest
 - 1. Excellent performance led to re-invite for 2017
 - 2. MN4+ won their event
- e. New equipment
 - i. Secured three new racing eights.
 - ii. Women's 8 from Ithaca, two matching eights from Cornell for the men.
- f. Spring Training held at the Olympic Course in Gainesville, Georgia
- g. Thank you alumni! We couldn't have come this far without your support.

VI. 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 Attenweiler, and Lauren Boucher
- b. Motion by Mike Krofcheck, second by Trisha Krofcheck to approve board
- c. No opposed, by acclamation Board passed unanimously

VII. New business from the membership

- a. General Feedback from membership
 - i. None noted

- b. Mike Krofcheck 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, Trisha Krofcheck seconded and the motion passed unanimously by the membership.

VIII. Date of Annual Meeting in 2017

- a. Date & location to coincide, with proper notification, with the 2017 alumni regatta.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Evan Halprin moved to adjourn AGM, second by Boucher. None opposed.
- b. Doug Rathburn adjourned the meeting at 5:55 PM – 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 5:59 PM on April 23, 2016
- b. Board of Directors present: Doug Rathburn, Dan Bachmann, Tom Hudak and Lauren Boucher. Fraser Hewson, and Brian Chorney participated via teleconference. Quorum present.
- c. Officers: Doug Rathburn (President), Dan Bachmann (Vice President), Fraser Hewson (Treasurer), and Brian Chorney (Secretary)
- d. Boucher moved to re-nominate slate, Hudak seconded. Passed unanimously.
- e. New Business
 - i. None noted
- f. Rathburn moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Boucher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM

Minutes submitted by: Doug Rathburn

May 16, 2016