**Ridgewood Crew Board Minutes for March 2, 2016**

In attendance: Gene Callagan, Susan Caltavaturo, Brendan Caltavaturo, Don Dexter, MarySue Dwyer, Liz Lavin, Olivia Lavin, Terry Witmaack, Diana Young, Katie Vogt-Saladucha, Boris Rocque, Vicky Walton-Roth

**New Member Intro** – Gene introduced new board members and their positions to current board members.

**On Water Season** – President of PRAA hoping to install the docks on 3/6/2016, Sunday at high tide as opposed to the following week of 3/13/2016. Liz spoke of timing at 5:45 am and of logistics of rowers to arrive on Sunday at 10:00 am to load in the boats. Boris noted that rowers are eager to get on the river. Also discussed was de-rigging of the boats and no practice if the boats were loaded.

**Bussing**– Busing needs to be confirmed but tentative start to busses on 3/8/2016. Confirmation will be upon dock placement on Sunday. Also noted was lack of bus chaperones for opening weeks. Determined that Coach Jacky will be on board so only one chaperone needed each day. It was questioned whether seniors are able to be chaperones, as Brendan C is over 18. Boris concerned about rowers not having to be responsible if no parent chaperone, but Brendan is going to Dartmouth, so uh, while he is responsible, maybe other rowers not? No definitive answer. Emails will be sent out as reminders for parents to sign up for bus duty, and if the slots are not filled, those not already signed-up will be assigned dates.

**Student board liaisons** – Brendan talked about newly obtained bulletin board for the Ridgewood Crew team at RHS, and it’s opportunity to create more awareness of the sport and the team. Brendan offered to talk to Mr. Bizutto regarding something, but I’m not sure what it was, as this is my first rodeo ; ), but it probably has something to do with Crew. He also spoke about putting the trophies RC has accrued in the trophy case for more visibility. Discussed also was more ways to gain greater visibility and if sport can become varsity one. Principal Gorman very amenable to Ridgewood crew support and visibility.

**Team notes** – Boris talked about switching the returning girls to last session for practice with other groups going first session including freshman boys. More clarification needed for final schedule. Boris spoke of adding the MYSO regatta on April 9th, and that it should be added to the calendar.

**Fundraising** – The Parkwood Deli RC night raised $256. The wine tasting fundraiser which is usually held in June was discussed and best timing for it was determined to be in the fall as too many events in June. Also discussed was perhaps doing a fund raising event at Pinot’s Pallet, although no date determined. The plant fundraiser is found to be conflicting with the plant sale that the Orchestra does too and sourcing Goeffle Brook Farm was discussed however, not date or Saturday morning pick-up confirmed. Mary Sue mentioned Shred day as a viable fund-raiser. Noted was that the town provides that service for free twice a year, and that she would look into the feasibility of it further. Also discussed was “Shop with Scrips” as if they had at least 20 families to buy from various vendors it would be another revenue stream. Putting the RC mission on masthead and fundraising literature discussed to explain why RC is not tax-exempt and additionally putting this on the web site as well. Will also look into the Foundation Center to see if any available grants for RC. Vicki talked about grocery card program, with $575 proceeds from participating families. With $130 raised per month with a total of $1100 by end of year. Other options may include buying cards and selling at regattas? Discussed was which stores participate and which ones had the lowest minimum. Perhaps Stop and Shop should be card of choice as has the lowest minimum purchase. No definitive decision made.

**Communications** – Tara introduced the new initiative to set times of rower communications, i.e. Sunday night deadline with rowing info and wrap up twice a week. This info would also be posted to a new facebook page which would highlight any current news regarding any RC news. Additionally, discussed was the need to define the message for marketing and the need to refine and increase RC marketing presence. For example, it would be great to have someone on the team write about his or her experience of opening day on the water, and anything else that would be newsworthy. Communications is still trying to figure out parent reps and their respective assignments. New members of board were introduced and the need to fill remaining spots on the board brought up.

**Finance** – Eileen spoke of new boat purchase and that while approved for loan with TD bank, the bank is lagging with funds, and that movement is needed as the due date for the purchase of the boat is March 20, 2016. Discussed was a plan B, with option of RC paying for the boat with cash and then once loan received, RC is paid back with loan check. Regarding the upcoming Row-a-rhon fundraiser, Terry directed everyone to have their RAT funds dropped off at his house, or they could give to him during the event, or even after if more funds being received. The printing was completed for all of the donors and was ready for the event. Terry noted that from estimates, it looks as though there will be at least $20,000 in donations through the row-a-thon. Woo hoo!

**Bussing** – Discussed was the need for only one bus for the first regatta but no confirmation.

**Tent** – Mary Sue announced that the new tent has been ordered and will wait until after the row-a-thon to have parent sign-ups for the various cooking time slots available during the regattas. Also, she would be selling shirts at the row-a-thon (48 were ordered). Also, each family would get 2 lanyards with a picture of their rower.

**Equipment** – Discussed was the option of moving the fence to expand the space available for the boats stored at PRAA. Also noted was a ripped corner on a row boat, which would need repair, and the need for new ID stickers and a new roof for the shed. Boris mentioned that PRAA was interested in buying one of the boats for $6000, so maybe it would enable the purchase of a quad for RC?

**Misc** – The banquet date was discussed and was determined to keep it for Tuesday eh 7th of June. Noted was that qualifications for the Mid-Atlantics is the 7th and 8th, but will know for sure if any rower conflicts. Determined to keep carwash for the following week the12th.

Also discussed logistics of getting ergs to Van Neste park, banner placement, and setting up the bake sale and donor place cards and play lists for the rowers.

Board members were reminded to bring an appetizer to the upcoming Parent social at the home of the Binks.

Team dinner at Stots is set, but parent dinner to be determined.

GO WOOD CREW!

With warmest regards,

Katie Vogt-Saladucha. Submitted March 14. 2016