**Ridgewood Crew Board Minutes for September 14, 2016**

In attendance: Gene Callaghan, Tara Callaghan, Don Dexter, Boris Roque, Diana Young, John Young, Terry Whittmack, Katie Vogt-Saladucha, Jeanne Johnson and Nancy Koontz, Claire Callaghan, Charlie Koontz, Jim Gibson, Ann Hida, Vicki Walton Roth

**Season introduction –** Gene opened up the meeting with introducing all board members. He spoke about the “mantra” of “A more positive experience” for the upcoming crew year for the rowers and how the parents and coaches need to be involved working together towards that goal.

**Rower liaisons** – Charlie spoke of the recent club fair held the prior week, and that there were 35 new sign ups. He stated that the poster that they made with the college destinations for alumnae crew members was very effective. It was determined that Liz will send list to administration and Tara suggested that the rower liaisons should be the ones to follow up to the sign-ups and then emails to the parents would follow. Discussion followed on setting up a mentor program for new rowers but no clear path chosen. Claire spoke of visiting Penn state and they had a great program called rent a rower, whereas the rowers do chores and ½ of the proceeds goes to the rower and the other ½ goes to the team. It could be used to offset the dues for the rowers. Boris inquired as to when the tasks would be performed, and consensus it should be year round and not mandatory. Don spoke of upperclassmen driving underclassmen and might not be a great idea for them to do so. Jeanne filled in Charlie and Claire with social media information.

**Board –** New board positions were discussed. Katie + Ann = Liz for administrative duties. Tina and Nancy filled the Clothing position. Still needed to be filled are the grade representative positions and still in need of a person to chair the parent tent position. An email will go out from Tara regarding all open positions.

**Fall Programs** – Gene talked about the upcoming fall session and setting up the post-fall training schedule. 3 days were given to the team to train at the high school, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Boris and Katie will meet with Keith the following week to work out training for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Boris explained that there were 3 regattas for the Fall and that they would be longer races – 4/5K rather than sprints. One regatta was discussed as conflict with PSAT for 10 and 11 grade but Boris was able to move competitors to the afternoon. For the first LTR for the fall there were 12 kids enrolled. Other sessions or times were discussed if all 35 new sign –ups did indeed decide to participate.

**Finance** – Jim spoke about an updated balance sheet where no existed before. He combined both RHC and Maroon Blades in the balance sheet. He noted that cash flow is appx break-even +- $3000. He went through all fixed assets, looked at the depreciation, assets, liabilities and the long term liabilities. He discussed the sheet in detail and gave a very clear picture of current MB/RHS financial status. Don asked about if the dues for each rower were in line with what they should be with the financials and it is to be determined with respect to the amount that is charged each year. Also discussed was rower clothing and if there was some way to order from JL if a rower wanted extra gear, and maybe a profit for the club. Also, a pay pal account would be an effective way to collect dues and fundraise.

**Fundraising** – Dianna Talked about the upcoming wine tasting event for November 21st. Dates for the “souled out” fundraiser were discussed and thinking late January early February as to not conflict with Jamboree. Nonprofit status still working on, but once approved, club can accept fund raising with nonprofit status.

**Marketing** – Jeanne explained that the One town/one book was being pushed back until the Spring. They had booked 2 Olympic rowers to participate but found too hard to coordinate so postponed till a later date. An ad will be put into the local paper for 2nd LTR. Jeanne wanting all info needed for social media and Ann and Jeanne will update the FB page. They also need a new photographer for social media. Don spoke of a yahoo group for past and present members. Katie also brought up the need to compile a list of all past rowers who have gone on to row collegiately and where they went. She will reach out to past members to start to compile the lists.

**Equipment** – Don discussed equipment storage for the upcoming winter and Katie will get him in touch with Dean Vellis for further input, as to if he has room in his warehouse or can recommend another idea, such as a container. Also discussed was tenting PRAA pen somehow. Boris noted that 4 new boats need to have names. Jeanne brought up that maybe the names could be auctioned off or perhaps Valley hospital would be interested in funding the name. The members agreed to think more about the value of naming the boats. It was also noted that we need new oars and $2000 to fix the peeling painting on one of the boats while waiting for the claims adjusters.

**Communications** – Tara noted all good and nothing new to report.

**Misc** – Gene recommends that heart rate monitors favored by Boris should be demoed first before whole team purchase.

Vicky brought up visibility issues with the team uniforms – perhaps sell binoculars at the regattas

**Open items** –

* Rent a rower
* Mentor program for new rowers
* Create pay pal account for dues payment
* Alumni/team forum.
* Compilation of collegiate rowers/alumni
* Turkey row?
* Determine value of naming new boats

Here’s to a great fall season and GO MAROON BLADES!

With warmest regards,

Katie Vogt-Saladucha.

Submitted September 29, 2016