

## **MRRA Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of MRRA**

- Thanks and Kudos to Ginny Lafreniere and Karen Scammell for a great party. Over 70 folks attended including the original Pawtucket rowers and signers in 1984.

### **Report from Veronika (Provided by Jay Feenan)**

- Docks coming out on Saturday, Nov 21, and will need help taking out the docks. Last day to row is Friday, Nov. 20.
- Erg sessions will be offered out of the UML Rec Center, two nights per week. Details on schedule and fees are forthcoming.

### **December 8<sup>th</sup> Social Event & Annual Meeting**

- Want party to have fun and to get people there for the annual meeting, enough for quorum. What is our affordability post the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration? Urgent board meeting with financials is needed to decide. The goal is to come up with a social event following the annual meeting that does not require members to pay to come.
- Discussion on rules for nominations – Member can nominate anyone. A valid nomination must have been accepted by the nominated person.
  - Liz: “Don’t know in advance who is running for office.” Agreed to send out names of nominees ahead of the annual meeting.
  - JayF mentioned that for the past 3-4 years an online nomination system was in place and the voting was moved to the beginning of the meeting so that people could vote prior to socializing.
  - Liz: “List time for start of annual meeting.” Agreed to list start times for the Annual Meeting and the Social time so that members can plan accordingly.
- According to the MRRA bylaws, members need to be present to vote for the slate of nominees. All Regular Members are eligible to vote...All Regular members are eligible for election to a Club office...the election of Officers and Directors for the Club shall take place at the Annual Meeting.
- The board will meet in regards to the annual meeting and ensure the standard nomination system is in place for the membership.

### **LTS Equipment Discussion – Jay Feenan**

- Jay’s email of November 9 to all MRRA members set the stage for this discussion.
- Jay opened the floor for suggestions and feedback:
  - Ginny recommended Wintech Explorer 21 with step-in seat deck
  - Several recommended Maas Aero/24 due to experience with this boat at Craftsbury
  - Who is heading up this subcommittee? Jay pointed out that the group handling this is the LTR people + the boat captain in past years. Others are welcome to get involved and can send email to that group. Jay has been heading it up since others have not had time. Polcari and Grigglesstone have been heading up LTR.

- Jay F pointed out that indoor storage will not be impacted. Put not-used-as-often boats on outdoor rack space is being considered per Jay F.
- Look at progression of boats as people progress in sculling experience.
- Per Jay F, - Two key issues have been roadblocks to proposals like this and both should be removed before next season:
  - Rack space – indoor and outdoor
  - Dock accessibility needs to addressed with regard to outdoor storage.

**Committees:** Joe L suggested committees to lessen the load on a few members. Proposals should be worked on by subcommittee and presented to the membership. Discussion surrounded the previous failed attempts at using Google Groups and message boards to have these types of suggestions. Jay F indicated that throughout the rowing year all requests for help usually were answered by the same collection of members.

### **Subcommittees:**

**Bylaw documents:** Due to the discussion on voting protocol and social membership. Joe L agreed to work on a committee if it was formed or delayed until the 2010 board is formed. There are many parts to the constitution/bylaws that are dated for the organization [e.g. crew representative was discussed].

**Equipment replacement:** Jay F asked for anyone interested in joining a committee to analyze ‘equipment replacement’ in conjunction with the ‘LTS proposal’ to send email. Paula K volunteered at the meeting.

**Boathouse User Meetings:** Jay F mentioned to the attendees one item that has come out of the boathouse user group meetings is better cooperation with LHS as well as new groups such as National Parks. During the winter we will be working on in house boat racks to solve some current problems as well as the outdoor storage solution for expansion.

### **New Business**

- **Safety:** Ginny: “Safety Committee” is needed so that members understand safety rules and adhere to the MRRA safety rules. Motion was made by Joe L ,seconded by Jay F and agreed to by the entire club: “ to form a Safety Committee that monitors adherence to the MRRA safety policy and procedures for the entire year with Education, Adherence and Dissemination of the information as key elements of this committee.” Formation of this committee is due by the Annual meeting.

- **Dock Removal and Boat Wash Day– Help is needed on Nov 21.** Boat maintenance is also planned on this day. Launches will be stored outside and not inside between the boat bays as in previous years.

- **Social Membership** was discussed briefly as an effective way to keep friends of

rowing connected and help with regattas. Jay F had brought this up at the Anniversary party and at the meeting to find out if the membership thought it was a good idea. Joe Lafreniere agreed to work on a proposal. All members present agreed that this was good idea to pursue.

**- Sivigny #3 at Silver Skiff (Torino IT) - Check this website:**

<http://www.worldrowing.com/display/modules/news/dspNews.php?newid=324760>

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Breiland, MRRA Secretary