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MRRA Meeting Minutes

09-MAY-06

Action Items for ALL MEMBERS are in RED.

MINUTES

Date	09 May, 2006, 7:00 pm
Place	Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell, MA
Attendees	LizA, PaulaK, McKennaS, McKennaM, KenS, Ash, BobS, Molly, JohnB, AnnB, JoeL, CarlP, KarenS, Chur, BobB, JohnW, EdP, KentS, Ginny, Jay (20)
1. Boathouse Status	Joe reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Use Permit was granted to the MRRA for 2006• NO USER FEE to be paid to the State• Deadbolt on front door is to be unlocked at the beginning of the day's rowing session and locked by the last person to leave.
2. Keys	LizA reported on keys and boathouse accessibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALL MEMBERS -- SEND YOUR PREFERRED ROWING HOURS TO LIZ. This is so that she can best dole out the keys to insure the best possible coverage. Email her at ecalbert@juno.com• We are looking for people with a commitment to opening the boathouse during the morning hours on certain days.• An unofficial discussion took place on how to use creative ways to insure key access. A small group will pursue this (Jay, Liz, Carl, Joe).
3. Docks	Dock report by Joe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welch Welding did a good job on repairing or replacing parts for the docks.• The crane is still on for Thursday to insert. Jay is looking for helpers to be available.

[Editor's note: Docks went in as scheduled and are being stress tested by the river this weekend. A Big thank you to Jay, Joe, Paula, Molly, Brad Narvus of UML, Peggy L, who spent the entire day Thursday putting in the docks. And Bob S., Liz A. who also helped.].

4. Membership

CarlP reported on the 2006 membership drive.

- Renewals are running behind last year's pace. There are about 40 renewed registrations, and paperwork has been received for half of them.
- CarlP encourages all members who are planning to renew to do so as soon as possible so we can rebuild the master club mailing list and cut down on the undeliverables.
- The "non-rowing family member" is a new membership classification this year, designed to encourage participation by family members while at the same time giving us an accurate roster size for competitive purposes.
- Discussion on "LTR Memberships". JohnB and Jay pointed out that new USRA insurance requirements suggest that LTR students should be considered MRRA members during the course of the LTR programs.
MOTION by Jay to formalize LTR students as members: All LTR applicants must register through the standard MRRA application and become members of the club. Second by JohnB, approved unanimously.

[Editor's note: The on-line application system has been slightly modified to allow LTR students to register.

Tim/David/Ken should review the on-line application to see if it's satisfactory].

5. COMMUNITY ROWING

The topics of things like LTR, Sweep Camp, Accessibility, etc, are now grouped under the umbrella term called **Community Rowing** -- This phraseology needs to become a part of the MRRA lexicon. Use that phrase early and often in your travels on behalf of the MRRA.

--- LTR ---

KenS reported on LTR on behalf of the LTR administrators:

- June 10 is National LTR day. Always looking for volunteers to help staff the event.
- Joe is going to make arrangements to have the barge available.
- We will place an ad in the Lowell Sun [Editor's Note: See the PR department on this -- we want a PR piece, not a paid ad].
- Banners and collateral info from USRA were delivered to Ken.
- **SIGN UP TO STAFF THE NORMAL LTR CLASSES WHICH BEGIN ON JUNE 5. Sign up sheet at the desk, or write to ltr@merrimackrowing.org for best results.**
- JohnW is going to survey the ocean Aldens to see if they may be worthy successors to the Charlie boat.

--- SWEEP CAMP ---

Joe chirped up about a Community Rowing sweep camp. Discussion about staffing, paid coaching, rotating/paid cox and other requirements. Pricing, etc.

MOTION by Joe: MRRA should run a Community Rowing Sweep Camp with the following attributes:

- **July 10 through 13, 4:30p to 6p each day,**
- **\$60/person**
- **1 youth boat, 1 open boat. Total capacity for 18 campers**
- **Paid cox from UML/LHS**
- **Paid coaching**
- **Campers must fill in an on-line MRRA application and become club members for the duration of the camp.**

MOTION was PASSED 19-1.

[Editor's Note: There is a COMMUNITY ROWING forum on the bulletin board. Take your implementation discussions there to get this sweep camp on track]

--- ACCESSIBILITY ---

Molly to report back at the next meeting about current year plans. Too many things up in the air to define a program for accessible rowing at this time.

6. FESTIVAL REGATTA

JimG reports that most committees are staffed with a chair, but the following are not:

- Medals
- Boathouse
- Concessions
- Communications
- Launches

Fees: Jim has floated an analysis of the current fee structure and a proposal for 2006 FR fees.

Event Schedule: The Event Schedule needs to be contemplated and finalized.

MEETING: There will be a specific Festival meeting THIS TUESDAY 16-MAY at the Boathouse, 7PM.

7. NON-PROFIT GRANTS

Molly reports that we may be writing a grant to get funds for safety-related items. If any member or regatta chair can think of safety item needs, get them to Molly asap.

Ashely is looking at some options:

- Boathouse use and upkeep grants for "underserved" communities
- Sponsorships: Coca-Cola, etc.
- Youth obesity (UTECH sp?)

[Editor's Note: There is a GRANTS & DEVELOPMENT forum on the bulletin board. Take your ideas there for growing this aspect of the club. Molly and Ash are forum moderators.]

8. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

BobS reports:

- Okay to row club singles, limits: docks to Tyng inlet.
- Wet launch bow out
- Joe pointed out it's not safe to row under the inner *ahches*. The secretary found a translator, and it was determined Joe was talking about the bridge. Molly agreed to write a grant to get funds to that Joe could take an ESL class.
- All launches are up and running.
- Liz thought it would be a good idea to have an informal Launch Camp some Sat morning so that we can all learn how to operate a launch. A launch is a critical safety item and as such we should all know how to operate them.

[Editor's note: Since the meeting, the docks have been inserted, so there is no need to wet launch. Also, as of today 14-May, there is water up to the wazoo and rowing has been suspended until further notice.]

9. Student Liasons

Secretary Carl reports that Ash, SeanM and MarkM have agreed to act as Student Liasons who will greet and indoctrinate incoming summer student members. The intent is to offload some of the Captain's load when dealing with new members.

MOTION to adjourn was made, seconded and approved around 9:30pm.

Submitted by Secretary Carl, Carl@merrimackrowing.org.

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