

LRC Meeting Minutes 8-9-2010

Present: Byron Drachman, Ed Tim, Cassie Alley, Dave Trumpie, Tim Fisher, Melissa Kaltenbach

Absent: Bill Lovis

Call to order by President Drachman

Agenda – accepted as written

Minutes – 6-14-2010 meeting minutes approved (July board meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.)

Old business - None

New business:

1. Use of our equipment by MSU Crew Club during spring and fall.

The following members attended this meeting for the purpose of discussing this issue:

Dan Joslyn	George Benson	Jodene Fine
Kristin Peterson	Glenn Till	Sarah Greene
Ann Thorsen	Deb Traxinger	

The following members expressed their opinion via email, which were read at the meeting:

William MacMillan	Kelly Salchow-MacArthur	Kellie Willson
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Emails from concerned members were read first then each attending member expressed their opinion on whether our club should allow use of our equipment by the MSU Crew Club. While the Board believes that it is very important to maintain our great relationship with the MSU Crew Club, the majority of those listed above agreed that it was not a good idea for the MSU Crew to have open access to our boathouse as they did last school year. Some, of the concerns raised were:

- a. LRC needs more boats for its own members, and unfortunately does not have enough boats to share with another club. It would be an inconvenience to our members to resort to a reservation system since our members often find some free time at the last minute and come down for a row and it would be annoying to come down and discover the boat usually used was being used by Crew Club or that our boats and oars have been taken away for extended periods of training at other locations.
- b. LRC members pay dues to cover costs of the club while the Crew Club kids have access to our equipment without paying. Without ownership in our club, lack of respect for our boathouse and equipment could be an issue. It was said that it is their club's

responsibility to provide equipment for their shift to sculling. It was said that it is a problem that they do not have sculling boats, but that does not mean their problem has to become our problem to solve. We are separate clubs. It should be possible to maintain a cordial relationship with MSU Crew Club and offer support in other ways but still say no to their request to use our equipment. Even if they offer a payment for use of boats, it is unlikely to cover the cost of repairs and replacements.

- c. Students have access to the key to our boathouse without supervision. Our boathouse has been left open by Crew Club members who had opened our boathouse and their own. When they left they closed up their own boathouse but left ours open. This has made some boat owners angry to have their property unsecured. Also, MSU Crew Club members have used, probably unintentionally, privately owned equipment without permission.
- d. Damage and lost parts such as seats are not always reported. With the large number of members of the MSU Crew Club, there will be wear and tear in addition to observable damage to our small, aging fleet. For example, the White Lightning has been heavily used by MSU Crew and it shows. Three of our older Maas boats won't last much longer under heavy use. Some of our older Julliene boats are developing cracks, and will deteriorate more quickly under heavier use, especially by younger, stronger rowers. The Blue Heron, Double Trouble, and the Murray will last for many more years, in spite of the fact that the wood is old and brittle and the riggers are not strong, if used exclusively as learn to row and LRC club boats.
- e. Traffic jams occur on our dock in the mornings when our members need free access in order to make it to work on time. A secondary issue was brought up so Ann gave a historical recount of the Crew Clubs agreement to pay for half of our dock which was built to accommodate the two clubs and their reason for pulling out the agreement. We had no written agreement for that arrangement so our club absorbed the full cost. This issue continues to cause ill feelings by members of our club especially in light of their using our dock exclusively last year.
- f. At one time MSU Crew Club and LOAPC shared facilities. LOAPC spent \$20,000 to help build the MSU Crew Club boat house so that each club could each focus on our own mission, maintain friendly relations, and avoid the problems caused by sharing equipment and facilities.

Also discussed were the benefits of our relationship with the Crew club such as:

- a. Our clubs desire to advance sculling for youth.
- b. We have used their 4's and 8's for learn to row in past years though it's recognized that our club paid their coach.
- c. Their Club has transported boats for us and provided us with coaching and maintenance.

Some suggestions made to deal with these issues were:

Develop a formal agreement of rules and responsibilities for use of keys, boat use, and damage reporting. Consider requiring membership fees and ask that they set up their own dock to relieve congestion on our dock.

It was decided that we would form a committee to meet with Coach Bailey with the intent of having him to write a proposal for their use of our equipment so we can be clear on what he's requesting of our club. It would be used as a basis for a recommendation to our Board of whether our club has the capacity to accommodate their use of our equipment. George Benson, Ann Thorsen and Tim Fisher agreed to staff this committee. Tim agreed to make contact with Coach Bailey to set up a meeting right away since their club returns from summer break soon.

2. Financial report – The Financial report was reviewed and found to be healthy. Dave answered questions from members about our costs and bills.
3. Fundraising – Cassie reported that Laurel Winkel has had a “full plate” this summer and has not had time to focus on helping us with fundraising. She had asked Cassie to make contact with Coach Bailey about fundraising at the Head of the Grand. Coach Bailey agreed that we could fundraise. Cassie made a motion to nominate Bill Lovis to head our fundraising committee. Multiple board members seconded the motion. Melissa Kaltenbach agreed to assist Bill with this committee and agreed to contact him to let him know of his new duty. Cassie said she presumed that we would work in conjunction with the Crew Club on the fundraising. Cassie reported that MSU Crew would again like our club to assist with volunteer staffing of the Head of the Grand. Head of the Grand is scheduled on October 17th.
4. T-shirts – (This item was taken out of order because Cassie had to leave prior to the end of the meeting). Cassie reported that she ordered 12 club t-shirts and sold all but one. The profit was minimal since the majority of them were sold at cost to regatta participants. She will put out an email to membership soon for an order of t-shirts where members will be able to choose the color and size of their t-shirts. The t-shirts will have two logos, front and back, and the cost will be \$20.00. The Board agreed that the club would pay for the cost of the t-shirts rather than Cassie paying out of pocket, as she did for the first order.
5. Learn to Row review and suggestions for next year—There was a consensus that our learn to row course was a resounding success as evidenced by the large number of students who joined after the course ended. LRC now has a sweep boat so next year those students who are interested will have the opportunity to do some sweep rowing.
6. Open rowing review and suggestions—open rowing has been well attended this year. Melissa raised the possibility of including Saturday open rowing sessions provided we could find enough volunteers to run the additional sessions.

Pending

1. Safety - Get a no wake zone at least from MLK to the Michigan Princess—Melissa or Tim
2. Plans to form a fund raising committee
3. Discuss priorities. Do we buy more oars or boats?

FUTURE VISION OF THE CLUB – Suggestions Received

- *Club Oars* - Label club oars as club owned and organize oars in racks according to type for example, small grips, heavy/light load. Apply new tape identifying pairs.
- *Donation Box* – Add one for guest rowers to contribute to LRC.
- *Water* - Run water to the boat house
- *Floor* - Put a concrete floor in the boat house

Next Board Meeting scheduled for Monday September 13, 2010 at the Dispatch Lounge.