

Minutes for CRF Annual Meeting January 13, 2007
Draft Version

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 p.m.

I. Welcome & Call to Order: Russ Eckles

- ◆ The purpose of the annual meeting of the member organizations, which includes the schools and the adult organization/WRRA, is to bring everyone together and let everyone know what's going on and encourage participation in the organizations. This meeting also allows us to elect the CRF directors.
- ◆ Immediately after the Annual meeting will be the CRF Directors meeting--everyone is welcome to come to the Directors' meeting if you choose.
- ◆ About three and one half years ago CRF did not exist. We have had huge changes in the past 3-4 years. We had half of the dock space, one less ramp, no bathrooms and no meeting room. A lot of the changes had a lot to do with everyone in this room, the CRF directors, and contributions to organizations.
- ◆ The CRF mission is to foster growth in rowing in the region, working with community and charities, building the best facility and equipment, for the 1,000+ members on the water. The mission statement can be found on the CRF website.
- ◆ Motion to Accept Feb 18, 2006 CRF Annual meeting minutes: Tim Marcovy Second: Jim Mack

II. Election/Appointment of directors:

- ◆ Russ Eckles, Dave Warner & Werner Minschall's terms expire this year. Tim Marcovy has been nominated to replace Russ Eckles; Becky Osborne will serve out the remaining year for Mary Jo Cotner as the other WRRA delegate. Kevin Roberts has been nominated to be the Scholastic delegate. Kerry Watterson has been nominated to become an at-large delegate. Each of these terms will expire in 2010. CRF will have one open at-large. All new delegates were approved.

III. Old Business:

- ◆ No old business:

IV. MONTHLY BUSINESS REPORTS:

Financial Review

- ◆ Thank you to Vicci who put us on track and organized the CRF finances and paid bills on time. Jim Mack also wanted to give Vicci a special thanks. Chris Mayder will be taking over as the new CRF treasurer.
- ◆ Accounting services: We've never had our books reviewed & audited, so we can give our financial & accounting statements to other organizations and foundations for grants. This way they can feel comfortable giving money to a solvent organization.
- ◆ Budget
 - 2006 Budget: We've really tightened up the financials. We're behind on our payments and we're playing catch-up. We are currently showing a deficit because we had an unusually large number of bills from 2005, that we paid in 2006. We would have ended out the year positive if we weren't playing catch-up.
 - The Board will be reviewing the assessment and what we need to organize the boathouse. CRF owes WRRA 12,000 in 'deferred revenue'
 - *2007 Budget:* There is a line item in the '07 budget for a 'boathouse manager' Many of us spend countless hours at the boathouse. Mark's time is better-served getting involved in getting the word out in the community involved rather than boathouse operations items, such as getting. We're considering a boathouse manager to run the CRF boathouse, this is what we need to do to move forward—the board will discuss this in greater detail, but that is the plan.
 Jim Mack asked about the deposit for the 8+ that is entered in the 2007 budget. Mark said it will come from the 'boathouse fund' but we'll also do some fundraising.
- ◆ Between foundations & donations & grants, we've raised about \$50K in funds.

Facility/Security:

- ◆ Our physical space is great. We are in a beautiful/expanded space and every has helped out. We're working on minor changes and all of the garage doors are now working.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Schedule of Events:

- ◆ **HOTC:** Last year the board passed a motion that the HOTC chairmanship will rotate among the different organizations (Schools & WRRRA). We would proceed in an alphabetical order. Burning River was the first in 2006, CSRA is scheduled for 2007, followed by St. Ignatius, WRRRA, then Burning River again. Burning River set up a guideline book to run the event, so you don't have to re-invent the wheel. Many people re-volunteer for the same tasks, so it's not as daunting. In 2006 Vicci Simpkins was the Regatta Director for the day-of the event . In 2007 Cherry Westover and Team Twist will be the Regatta Director for the day-of event
- ◆ **Public LTR:** On April 14-15 CRF will hold a free, public Learn to Row. CRF will also have another session on May 12. CRF and WRRRA purchased two shells and equipment to convert them into a barge. The Barge will also be available for SRL and other organizations.
- ◆ **Rosie's Girls:** CRF is sponsoring a 3-week event to teach these young women to row. We also have a 4-week program with Cleveland Public Recreation program in the morning.
- ◆ **Dragon Boat Races:** The Flats Oxbow organization would like to run the Dragon Boat Races. CRF will not fund this race this year, but will be available to help run the event for a fee.
- ◆ **Row for the Cure:** The Row for the Cure will be held in the fall in 2007. This is one of the events set us apart from other clubs.

Accomplishments:

- ◆ We need to celebrate our accomplishments. St. Ignatius won men's light 8+. This was also a special year for WRRRA. This is the first year that full WRRRA 4+ won a gold at FISA Worlds in Princeton. Things are progressing.

Safety:

- ◆ Jim Mack and Tim Marcovy re-wrote the Safety Operations Manual (SOM). There are plans to review and re-write the tests.
- ◆ **CPR class:** On February 17 at 9am there will be a CPR class at the boathouse. Coaches are required to attend, all others are also welcome to attend, depending on availability. CRF will pay for the coaches enrollment. If you are not a coach but want to take the CPR class it will cost about \$30. The class is about 2.5 hours, and is good for 2 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ **Bill Braun:** We should be proud of the growth that we've had, but this means increased traffic. We should consider purchasing wakeless launches in 2007, not 2008. This is critical for safety. It's very disruptive for small boats. I would encourage CRF to allocate some resources for wakeless launches. Russ Eckles stated that the delegates will take it into the directors meeting, as a proposal for a request for the '07 budget—it hasn't been approved.
- ◆ **Don Saer:** St. Ignatius runs a hands-on orientation and swim test. We would like to offer this to any organization. I encourage everyone to participate. We place a simulated boat and launch in the water, plus all of the equipment in the launch. We throw a tow-rope and show rowers how to get in and out of the boat. We have used the YMCA. The course is about 45 minutes to an hour. Vicci Simpkins stated that this is critical to High School rowers.

Burning Blade: *Mark Silverstein*

- ◆ Each year since 1995 we have given the Burning Blade award to individuals to have an overall commitment to rowing. Officers or delegates are not eligible for the award.
- ◆ Many people volunteer for the sheer love for the sport, but it is rare when you get a whole group of people who volunteer for tasks. They are here for every event volunteering for the greater good. You want to applaud and celebrate these individuals. It is my great pleasure and honor to present the 2006 CRF Burning Blade award to Team Twist.
 - *Senior member of Team Twist:* About two years ago, a couple of neighbors decided to row. This is quite an honor and we hope we can do more for the club.
 - *Russ Eckles:* There are some people who get intensely involved in rowing and they get intensely involved and do more. A lot of things couldn't happen because of this person, Vicci Simpkins.
 - *Vicci Simpkins:* 10 years ago I came to Cleveland I contacted Russ about rowing. I started coxing Russ, Willie Chessar, John Fowler and Rich VanDemotter. I was at Twist and was talking to some people there and said why don't you get out of the bar and come row. John Kassaris, owner of Twist, has been very generous and has donated over \$2,500 to CRF. Thanks to everyone.

This ends the formal business for the Annual meeting. There is a board meeting immediately, everyone is welcome to join. Motion to Adjourn: Jim Mack Tim Marcovy 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am

Submitted by: Anna Chanakas, CRF Secretary