Conibear Rowing Club Business Meeting

March 22, 2012

7:00 – 8:30 pm

**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Karen Johnson, Merida Scully, Beth Upton, Eleanor McElvaine, Sara Lopez, Polly Meyer, Jennifer Helgeson, Nancy George, Gail Eshom, Catherine Reid, Ellie Horsnell, Susan Stocking, Presha Sparling, Ronda King, Martha Goodlett, Becky Brown, Kristi Skanderup, Sarah Smith

Karen Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes from October 13 and December 3 meetings were presented. Presha Sparling moved to approve them, Ellie Horsnell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**2012 Budget**

Merida Scully passed out two documents for the group’s review: the *2012 CRC Special Purposes Fund* and the *2011/2012 Income/Expenses Comparison*. She explained that 2011 was a particularly good year for the club financially; with the online auction proceeds 2012 started with over $14,000 in the account. In addition to the auction success, this was due to the high number of fee-paying members as well as the money brought in by the novice class. Merida and Sara are still hashing out the details but at this time do not expect the 2012 Recession Relief Fund to be as flush as the 2011 Fund was, since it will not have the initial seed money nor do we have the same number of active rowers whose absences will feed the account. Owing to some confusion about how the Fund is listed on the projected 2012 budget, it may be moved to its own budget line and out of the income category. How the Recession Relief Fund will evolve in the future also warrants further club discussion.

Merida and Sara Lopez answered questions from the floor.

There was some confusion about the 2011 gift granted from Conibear to the Mount Baker Boating & Advisory Council for scholarship money. The subcommittee for the scholarship planning needs to clarify whether:

the $1,500 check we issued covered a scholarship gift of $1,200 and $150 apiece to one female and one male youth rower as a leadership award

or

the $1,500 check we issued was the scholarship gift and we still need to provide an additional $300 for two leadership awards.

Either way, the Special Purposes Fund will provide the gift/s.

Merida stated that our club’s expenses have been increasing faster than our annual dues have been raised, and to really cover Conibear’s operating costs the dues should be almost doubled. It costs about $9,500 annually to run the club. Our average number of dues-paying members is +/- 25. We are, however, making a little money from the new practice fee structure. The annual dues for 2012 are proposed at $225; Merida moved to set the dues at this cost. Club discussion followed, after which Kristi Skanderup moved to set the 2012 annual dues at $250. The motion received multiple seconds and passed unanimously.

Merida noted that she would like that the club to seriously consider creating a reserve fund of $10,000 to cover up to one year of operation expenses.

**Auction Update**

Kristi provided a quick recap of the 2011 online auction. It was great fun to put organize it – she asked for feedback from the donors. The goal was $4,000 and the proceeds exceeded $7,000 so it was a resounding success financially. The group discussed when to best time the 2012 auction so it doesn’t compete with Mt Baker’s fundraising push. September was agreed upon as a good timeframe, and special consideration will be given to how we notify Mt. Baker about it. Presha volunteered to assist Kristi and Tara with the work involved with hosting, updating and monitoring this year’s auction. Closer to the date the club will also really identify the audience for the auction so donors have a better sense of who the winning bidders might be and what to offer.

**Website Overhaul**

Tara Morgan has revamped the website and it looks spectacular. It is also integrated with the online auction site for even greater convenience. The group was treated to a quick visual overview of the new site to see what revisions and improvements have been made.

**Regattas**

The surveys helped winnow down the list of regattas for the upcoming season. Each event will still be scheduled on BigTent and require final RSVPs from participants.

The surveys showed that the club is interested in hosting a 2012 novice class as well as a Return to Row opportunity. Sara lobbied for the club to only offer one of these in addition to sculling camp and the group agreed that the Return to Row opportunity will stay on the calendar. Mt. Baker will offer a sculling camp modeled on ours, and Sara has worked with Peggy Tosdal to allow members from each club to fill any open spaces in the other’s camp. Conibear’s sculling camp is currently scheduled for July 1-3 and Mt. Baker will host theirs July 8-10.

Beth Upton provided a quick update on Row for the Cure. Due to the Komen Foundation’s well-publicized decision about Planned Parenthood funding, Komen is sending out representatives to talk directly with Row for the Cure participants about involvement with the regatta and fundraising. Beth noted that all funds from the Seattle Row for the Cure stay with the local chapter, who have publicly stated their disappointment in the national office’s grant making choice, and the funds raised do not go to the national Komen office. Beth personally still advocates for Conibear to participate in Row for the Cure, and will make arrangements for the Club to hear from a Komen representative.

**Scholarship Fund**

As noted in the budget report, clarification is needed about Conibear’s 2011 financial gift to Mt. Baker for scholarships. Susan Stocking agreed to head up the scholarship committee for 2012 and Eleanor McElvaine volunteered her help as well. They will determine an appropriate timeline for this year’s donation.

**Gear**

Ronda distributed literature showing clothing options available from Kotis. She still needs to clarify their pricing structure and would like to hear from the club on their preferences for the priority gear list.

**Equipment**

Karen Johnson and Eleanor presented the equipment update on Randy Pratt’s behalf.

The sculling blades are all stripped and sanded. The next step is any repairs with epoxy filler. Following the repairs they will be primed and painted – this should take two or three Saturdays.

The white oars need quick buff sanding, then priming, followed by two painting steps (yellow background followed by the chevrons).

Oars that need sanding can be brought to regattas no matter the weather – a great way to use any available down time.

Saturdays are the only days Randy is available to oversee this project. A sign-up sheet will be circulated so everyone can arrange to help at least one of the Saturdays scheduled.

**Los Ninos**

Beth reminded the group of the prenatal yoga class scheduled for March 29 as a baby celebration for Avery Shinneman and Polly Meyer. The class will be at the Mount Baker Community Club and will be followed with a bite to eat at Mio Posto.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.