

Anchorage Rowing Association | January Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: [1/20/26]

Location: Zoom

Start: 5:32pm

Adjourned: 6:51pm

Attendees: Marietta "Ed" Hall, Izzy Halcomb, Kate Gilling, Terry Carpenter, Sandra Rudd, Stephanie Tasker, Erica French, George Bryson

Guests: Robby Bear, Mike Chriss, Melissa DeVaughn Hall

Absent: Sofie Chisholm

Motion to Approve Agenda: Stephanie, 2nd by Kate

Financials were reported as unchanged from the prior month. Accountants updated entries so underlying financial status matches cash flow; no new changes to report.

Motion to accept the financial report as submitted. Moved by Stephanie, seconded by Izzy

New Business: Mike Chriss - Review of post season coaching survey

Coaching exit interviews began in 2018, expanded in 2019 to include oral interviews, and were last conducted in a limited form in 2020. The process was reinstated this year via written survey.

Key Takeaways:

- Positives: the people, the culture
- Bring back some form of exit interview
- Action > Provide coaching policies and procedures earlier
- Action > Coaching Orientation and Resources
 - Quick Coach Guide exists, needs updating

Areas for Improvement/Focus:

- Need for ongoing education (especially for new rowers)
- Improve communication with coaches and new rowers
- Increase familiarity with rowers' skill levels, experience
- Expand coaching committee
- Resource documents each rower's availability and individual skill

Action: Mike to send out report and questions

Action: Culture of Care and Skills Assessment to be sent to Mike

Discussion: George noted improved communication as the main theme, suggested creating a historical list of coaches over the past 15 years as an institutional resource and part of a longer club history. This could also live on website.

New Business: Robby Bear - Update on coach search committee

Reference email from Robby on 1/19/26

Update on Coach Search

Coach Search Committee

Robbie, Mike, Chris, Jessica, Sandra, Jenny, Sophie, and George.

- Advertisement posted December 1 and renewed January 2; plan to renew again February 1
- Stop taking applications 2/15
- Looking to interview week of 2/22
- Recommendations for hire expected by early March.
- 5 applicants currently

Old Business:

1. Sandra - No updates on donation tracking in Boathouse Connect
2. Izzy: Continuing to research donor gifts
 - Higher value items may be better suited as team merchandise with markup rather than donor gifts.
 - Prices appear higher across vendors; quality items often \$30 to \$40 each.
 - Example pricing found included coasters around \$4 each and tumblers around \$13 with minimum order quantities.
 - Vendors mentioned included Pens for drinkware and Custom Ink for apparel and branded items.
 - 4imprint was recommended as an additional bulk vendor resource.
3. Coaching Coffee:
 - Great opportunity
 - Get the word out sooner, 8 ppl showed up
 - Put coxswain resources on website
 - Include the videos, and a brief write-up
4. Budget, Planning Items, and Fundraising Committee Discussion
 - Several items in progress including draft coxswain documentation, draft skills proficiency documentation
 - And upcoming review of the team management plan and final budget next month.
 - Ed and Izzy will coordinate on any proposed fee changes.
 - A fundraising or capital campaign committee was discussed, ideally including Sandra, to support both the boathouse campaign and equipment purchases

Boat Purchase:

Proposal summary: Purchase includes a used Vespoli eight and two quads.

- Updated quote: \$73,675 after rigger changes
- Financing discussed as 7% over 5 years, with a goal of paying off sooner if possible.
- Vespoli will include new tracks and wheels and provide shoe sizes as specified.

Transport coordination discussion:

- Steve Full expressed interest in sharing trailer costs by adding additional boats for shipment.
- Vespoli noted interest in shipping open water singles to Alaska and may contribute to trailer costs.
- The board discussed delivery options not tied to a regatta and the need for qualified drivers.

Fundraising status: Initial pledge noted: \$10,000 plus \$1,000 per year for three years.

- A fundraising or capital campaign committee was discussed, ideally including Sandra, to support both the boathouse campaign and equipment purchases.

Motion to Approve purchase of the Vespoli boat package:

- Moved: George
- Seconded: unclear
- Boat purchase is approved, no opposing

Team Manager Discussion (Melissa)

Melissa introduced herself and noted that a coach resource document would be helpful for team manager duties.

Discussion

- Boathouse Connect reaches current active members while Mailchimp reaches a broader historical list and provides an unsubscribe option.
- No concerns were raised about redundancy.
- Winter cadence recommendation was monthly, with separate messages for major initiatives such as boat purchases or fundraising calls.
- Event reminders should go out earlier than one week in advance with a follow up reminder closer to the date, and short text style notifications where possible within platform limits.

Discussion on next Coffee Chat about outside racing:

- February's coffee chat on February 14th will be about 2025 and 2026 racing opportunities.
- Check your calendar for some of the following potential travel opportunities
 - RowFest USRowing Youth National Championships July 11-14, 2025 in Ypsilanti Ann Arbor MI
 - RowFest USRowing Masters Championships July 15-17, 2025 in Ypsilanti Ann Arbor MI
 - Greenlake Extravagansa (great for novice and juniors but open to all) August 1, 2025 Seattle WA
 - World Masters Games Kansai Japan May 14-30, 2027

All other ideas are welcome - come to start the discussion about racing and athlete fundraising/costs.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Moved: Stephanie
- Seconded: Izzy

- Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.