

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2009
DMS Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jen Friend, Paul Gross, Dick Grossman, Brenda Sirovich, Liz Marshall, Karen Sluzenski, Bob Haynes, Elizabeth Glenshaw

Board Members Absent: Dartmouth Rep, Buzz Congram, Peter Davenport, Deb Dufty, Heidi Lange, Win Piper

Call to order: 5:50 PM

1. **Executive Committee report.** None. The Executive Committee did not meet since the previous Board Meeting. The Nominating Committee met and full content was discussed at the present Board Meeting.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes from the November 9 were moved by Elizabeth, seconded by Jen, and unanimously approved, except for an abstention by Bob Haynes, who had not been present at the previous meeting).
3. **Nominations.** The Board was reminded that formal notification to the membership of the date of the Annual Meeting is required by the By Laws at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. That notification may – and will – go out by email. Board members agreed that the advisory email will not be sent to those who have specifically requested to receive no emails from the Club. Notice of the Annual Meeting and meeting agenda, when available, will be posted on the club website.

Issue of possible new board position for sculling programming. Board members, upon recommendation of the Programming Committee, agreed make the programming committee into joint a sculling and sweep programming. Elizabeth Glenshaw reported that Carin Reynolds volunteered to be on the Programming Committee. Leslie Sonder is now also formally a member of the Programming Committee. We have not yet created a new Board position of Sculling Programming Director; however we will need to identify a point person for sculling programming.

Board Member election process. The Board reviewed the election process – we are not voting for a slate, we are voting for individuals. Currently the By Laws allow for voting by members in advance. Notification of this should be included in the notification of the Annual Meeting. Because new nominees can be nominated from the floor, a member can change their vote at the meeting. We will need a procedure to make sure those who have already voted do not receive a ballot at the annual meeting (unless they retrieve their original ballot in order to change their vote). We also need to make sure advance voters know that voting in advance is not anonymous. Elizabeth will take responsibility for this, and will maintain a spreadsheet of members, whether paid or unpaid (for 2009), and whether they have already voted. Only paid members are entitled to vote. The membership list must include coaches, coxswains, family members, from Ronin – i.e. the full membership list. Liz Marshall will help organize this list. Because it won't include those who elected not to receive emails, Karen S's list, a subset of Liz M's, should be used.

Officer Selection. Officers are elected by the sitting Board at the next meeting after the Annual Meeting. The question arose of whether we could accommodate newly elected members for

officer positions, and how do new members train for jobs. New members could run for officer positions but this would only be in exceptional circumstances. The committee structure should help with 'on the job' training.

New Board Members. Dan Ruml is the only non-Board member who has agreed to run for the Board. There will be one open slot. Specific positions will be assigned at the meeting following the Annual Meeting. (Keeping named positions but possible redistributing jobs among them.) Karen pointed out the need to attract and prepare members for potential Board membership. We should consider starting to look earlier.

4. **Annual Meeting.** First week in February (Wed), Save the Date email to be sent ASAP. One week late – or just after the New Year – formal notification to membership. We will need to grab photos and bios for Annual Meeting from previous nominees. We also need Jen Friend and Dan R. Elizabeth will get bio and photos from Jen and Dan. Elizabeth will also prepare the ballot. The Annual Meeting Agenda will include:

Recap 2009

Finances

Plans for 2010

FOHC – Paul will ask FOHC if they would like to present an update.

Karen brought up the possibility of a potluck to make the meeting more social. This was agreed upon, with UVRF to provide a few main courses for 50 people from the Coop or EBA's (e.g. Lasagna). Also (See below) the idea for a small silent auction to be held before the Annual Meeting was floated and agreed upon.

Also to encourage volunteerism, we should list committee members on the website, and bring specific job descriptions for specific committees. Then committee chairs will need to follow up promptly with volunteers.

5. **Operations Masterplan development update.** Deferred.
6. **Fundraising.** Various fundraising strategies were discussed. It was determined that intellectual property issues and the small target audience made marketing of the UVRF "slideshow" not feasible. Other ideas discussed included sale of UVRF "gear" (hats, totes, e.g.); targeted solicitations. What about an auction at the Annual Meeting? Karen, Liz, Paul, and Elizabeth will make it work. Karen will be in charge. Paul will donate; Dick has oars; Karen has hats, Brenda has bags. Save the date reminder will also include a Silent Auction solicitation. It was also noted that the Board needs to establish a working fundraising committee.
7. **Update on targeting fundraising for a Quad.** Funds are planned to be solicited from scullers with pledges of specific amounts, then once boat is found, another email to those who committed funds. A number of issues were raised regarding such a solicitation and how such a racing quad would be used. It was decided to invite Carin Reynolds, who is organizing the plan, to the next Board meeting.
8. **Equipment.** An inventory list should be posted on the UVRF website. Dick will send this to Karen. We may want to consider developing a tradition of dedicating boats to longstanding or retired members.
9. **Committee Reports.** None.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sirovich
Secretary