February 9th, 2022

Robinson Crew Booster Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order 7:00 PM

**President, Matt Mattice**

Tonight’s agenda is posted at the top of chat. Please post your rower’s name so you receive credit for attending. Thank you to parents and rowers for your fundraising support. The team has been extremely successful considering impact of both Covid and weather. A few more fundraisers still – information will be presented tonight.

**Program Director, Stefan Koch (sakoch@fcps.edu)**

* Workday is this Saturday, February 12th. First water day is February 21st.
* Practice days at the river: First 3 weeks will be 4 – 6:30 PM. Beginning March 14th, practices will shift to 4 – 6:45 PM due to longer evening sunlight.
* What to expect at water practice: Team will meet at the RSS boathouse. Brief land warm up (dynamic exercises) followed by prepping boats and oars for launch. Athletes on the water for about 1.5 hours. Approximately 6:30 PM, return to docks and put away boats and oars. Rowers are in carbon fiber shells; coaches follow in small boats (9.9 hp motors) giving instruction and direction. Sandy Run Regional Park is approximately 11 miles from RSS in Fairfax Station. If inclimate weather, might ERG at school but mostly at boathouse or cancelled. Watch general and squad channels for information on bad weather days.
* Facility – Sandy Run is beautiful but rustic. Bathrooms are portapotties. Rowers must bring water, especially since on-site water is off for the first part of the season to prevent freezing. It will be crowded – 10 HS teams practice on a typical day. Don’t bring cash or expensive items in the boats.
* Saturday AMs – Practice heldl the first four weeks prior to regattas. Timing is either 8 – 10:30 AM or 9 – 11:30 ASM. The coaches will set the time and inform athletes.
* Regattas – Events similar to track and swim with lots of events throughout the day. Race is 1500 meters. Normally rowers race one event, possibly twice (heats and finals). Earliest arrival is 7 or 8 AM but may be later depending on regatta schedule. Regattas last a long time; coaches and volunteers may be there all day. Drop your rower at Sandy Run, park and go to the grandstands. Coaches, rowers, volunteers report to boathouse.
* Participation – Must be at school for half the day to attend practice that day. Racing eligibility requires enrollment in and passing grades (5 credit courses).
* Covid – 2 FCPS changed vaccination policy. Beginning 2/21 it is not required but encouraged. Weekly testing for non-vaccinated athletes ends as well.
* Clothing – Warm hat suggested, then a ball cap with warmer, sunny weather. Synthetic layers of clothing is good. No cotton as it gets cold and clammy. Wool also good. Ask your coaches if you have questions re: what to wear for water practice.
* Logistical information will be released in March as VASRA updates guidelines for Covid, shuttle buses, etc.

**Treasurer, Kim Metzger**

* Accounts reconciled through December. No major expenses. Approximately $73,000 in the accounts.
* January expenses: shoes for shells, insurance policy, website annual fee, duffle bags, boat storage fees, payroll for coaches.
* Program/Membership Fee Installments – 1st installment has 4 outstanding payments; 2nd installment has 9 outstanding payments. 3rd installment due tomorrow and 53 need to pay (over half the team). Check your email/spam for QuickBook invoice.
* Coaches will have a list of unpaid rowers. If not paid, no water practice. Board can help with a payment plan if necessary. All 4 installments must be paid to row as they are used for regatta entry fees. Do not burden the coaches with questions regarding fees; email Matt or Kim or message via Slack.

**Membership, Mark Davis**

* Membership – Currently 88 rowers registered.
* Swim Test –2nd test this past Sunday. Majority of Novices all set with requirement.
* Volunteer Hours – Tracker updated. Deadline is 2/15. Requirement restarts 2/16. Returning rowers/families required to earn 75 hours but you have a year. Please check the tracker to confirm your hours and contact Mark if you have questions. Supporting regattas gives lots of opportunities to earn the 75.

**VP Operations, Paul Schulwitz**

* Saturday, February 12th Work Day – Time is 10AM – noon. A few more slots have been added to the Sign Up. We may be doing more than putting boats and motors in the water; will let you know that day.

**Carpool, Jackie Beck**

* At the end of the school day, rowers need to go from RSS to Sandy Run. The majority are transported by volunteers; drivers can be parents, grandparents, nannies. This is a one-way trip to the boathouse and is awarded 2 service hours per trip. 5 trips/week = 10 hours per week = great way to get your hours. Carpool begins at 3:15 PM; drivers and riders sign up on the Carpool SUG. If you have changes to your sign up, Jackie’s contact information is listed there. Please reach out.
* Driver registration information is with registration online. You can update your insurance and driver’s license there. Information must be current to participate in carpool as driver/rider.
* Carpool information will be included with Quick Catch, emailed and posted on the website.

**Ways and Means, Ryan Novotny**

* Fundraiser Update: Bridal Show - $1,565

Bundt Cakes - $3,200

TAG DAY - $11,600

 Bridal Show smaller than in years past (1/2 the number of vendors) but we still earned a lot. Thank you to all who supported and kept the connection for RSS Crew. Usually, we earn more money but this is good for what it was. TAG Day was down ½ day due to weather but the money brought in is similar to pre-Covid; we’ll still get checks in the mail. Bundt Cakes had 40% team participation and we made a lot more than anticipated. Will definitely be a repeat.

* Letter Writing Campaign is all online via email. Rowers reach out to family and friends not necessarily in the area. Last year it raised $3,200 with 31% of rowers participating. Response rate 25% with an average $65 donation.

For 2022, participation is mandatory. 10 emails per rower, 1 service hour for every extra 2 emails. Program is simple – just copy and paste. Can be done in under 15 minutes. Email goes into a database so we can see who sends them and income generated. Send them now if you need hours now or wait until 2/16 to earn hours for next year.

3 easy steps to complete. Use the drop down box to select the rower. Use your personal email (not fcps) that your friend or family will recognize. Personalize your message in the potential donor area (this can be copied and pasted into subsequent emails). Then “submit another response” for next email.

FAQ Answers

* Yes, checks can be mailed.
* Donor information will be deleted. They will receive a thank you with a 501c3 receipt.
* Online payments are safe/secure with Stripe / SSL encryption.
* Rower name missing from drop down? Contact robinsoncrewfundraiser@gmail.com
* Make sure all sections of the form have data for completion (fill in your answer)
* Use the same message over and over

**Discussion**

* Break Out Room for Carpool Questions – approximately a dozen participated
* Fundraising – Team budget is posted on the website. Lots of fundraisers recently raised approximately $17,000. What does this support?
	+ Materials and maintenance for boat repairs.
	+ Team is saving to replace boats and upgrade equipment. A new boat costs $45-50,000. Last summer we paid off a loan for a boat.
	+ Regatta registration (costly)
	+ Insurance and payroll costs
	+ Boat rentals for the spring season to accommodate our growing team

Please reach out with your questions regarding team funds.

Meeting adjourned 7:56 PM

See you on the water!