March 9th, 2022

Robinson Crew Booster Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order 7:03 PM

**President, Matt Mattice**

Our season is moving forward – a month ago, the team was still in winter conditioning. Now rowers are on the water; next up, regattas. We have a full agenda tonight.

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

* Practice was a little chilly today. Affects coaches and coxswains more than the rowers. Remember to dress in layers. Weather will warm up soon.
* Starting next week practices will end at 6:45. Daylight Savings gives later light and more water time.
* US Rowing – rowers must be current members through the Spring season to compete in regattas. If unsure if your rower is registered, contact myself or Mark Davis.
* SafeSport – still a few rowers turning 18 who must complete the online training. Mark and I are tracking.
* Spring Break – Practice will be at the normal time (4PM). Regattas scheduled Saturdays on either end of that week (4/2 and 4/9). This is a big piece of the season. Please try not to miss these events or practices.
* Regattas Schedule– Most are “regular season” with names like Regional Park, Al Urquia, etc. We have 7 events at Sandy Run. The first is the Polar Bear Regatta, 3/19. Regular season finishes end of April, followed by States. States is a 2-day regatta, scheduled May 7th and 14th. We will know closer which events are scheduled for which weekend. After States, about half the team will attend Stotesbury, an invitational regatta held in Philadelphia. Who will attend and costs will be announced closer to that event.
* Regatta logistics -
  + Parking is limited at Sandy Run. There is parking at satellite location (local elementary school) with shuttle buses to the park. Parents can drop and pick up rowers at Sandy Run. If you choose to park at Sandy Run, there is a hefty fee. On site is the back lot on the right and the further Loisdale lot; must walk through woods from the latter.
  + Live Streaming – Last season regattas had livestreaming. Current plan this year is to live stream States only (not regular season events). Will share updates.
  + Grandstands – Spectators go to the grandstands to watch the races. There are bathrooms and concessions. You can walk there but be aware the trail is hilly and not paved. There is a shuttle bus which runs to the grandstands from the upper parking area for a small fee. In general, coaches, rowers and volunteers only at the boathouse but you can see your rower there if necessary.
* Slack – Different ways to use. Can DM questions to individuals, use an appropriate channel for specific topic (e.g. carpool) or post something for all in general. However, please don’t put everything in general. Choose as appropriate.

***Regatta Discussion***

* *Parking - Shuttle is highly recommended. Lots of people and traffic on regatta days. Don’t drive into the park if you can help it.*
* *Grandstands – This is where to watch the races (binoculars recommended). Nothing is visible from the boathouse. If you are unable to walk the trail, use the shuttle bus (small fee). Otherwise, wear your hiking boots and carry your gear. Grandstands are a fun environment; concessions, vendors and bathrooms located there.*
* *Please direct regatta questions to the Board, not the coaches.*

* Practice Parking/Drop Off/ Pick Up – Remind rowers to park in upper lots (C & D). If dropping or picking up, go to closer lots and head to the right. Loop around counterclockwise and be efficient. Usually park has marked traffic flow pattern but hasn’t this year. Lots of traffic, still pretty dark. Be safe.

**Treasurer, Kim Metzger**

* Accounts reconciled through January. Approximately $67,000 in the accounts at that time. February currently in process. Approximately $100,000 in accounts at present.
* Program/Membership Fee Installments – 4th installment due tomorrow; 40 families still owe. 1st installment has 3 outstanding payments; 2nd installment has 4 outstanding payments; 3rd installment has 5 outstanding payments. Check your email/spam for QuickBook invoice. We will be reaching out via Slack DMs and emails to those with outstanding payments. If you have financial issues, we will work with you.
* Expenses - Payroll for coaches, ERGs, shell rentals (2), upcoming regatta fees, new coxswain equipment.

**Membership, Mark Davis**

* Coach Stefan addressed the Safe Sport Training (online) and US Rowing registration. Will continue to work with him to ensure all are up to speed.
* Membership – Currently 88 rowers registered; 47 are Novices. Hoping the Novices continue with the team next season and beyond.
* Bring binoculars to regattas.

**President, Matt Mattice**

* Volunteer Opportunities
  + Nomination committee (3 – 5 parents) needed to submit names for next year’s Board of Directors. Check with current members if they want to continue and find new nominees if necessary. Slate to be presented at next General Membership Meeting for voting, April 13th. Email or DM if you’re interested or post in the Zoom chat. (1 volunteer from chat).
  + Senior Party (no hours awarded) – need families to host an event recognizing the seniors,

**VASRA Rep, Leanne Parente**

Sign Up link for regatta jobs posted on Slack and in Quick Catch. To sign up for shuttle driver, you must be launch boat trained. Do not wear red on the river. You may not bring other children with you. Be prepared for minimal bathroom accessibility if you’re on the course. Bring water, dress to get wet, secure your phone. Be 30 minutes early for your shift to allow travel time to your location. You must sign in at volunteer check-in for service hour credit. Job descriptions found on VASRA website. Concessions will be open for rowers.

**Ways and Means, Ryan Novotny**

* Letter Writing Campaign - Current count shows 1/3 of the team participating; this is a mandatory activity. Current donations total approximately $3,400 (which is more than last year). 55 families still need to send their emails. Average donation is $60. Shout out to the Bellomo family – 29 letters sent.
  + If an email doesn’t go through, there will be an error message.
  + If sending money directly, make checks payable to Robinson Crew Boosters. Checks will be given to Kim via pick up at practice. Date to be announced.

*Discussion*

Letter Writing is a requirement. We all need to participate; it will take 10 minutes to send your messages. Funds cover coaches’ salaries, regatta fees, insurance and equipment. All must be completed by April 13th. Reminders will be sent as date approaches.

**Carpool, Jackie Beck**

* Carpool is going well. No lost rowers.
* You must honor your commitment to drive. If your rower isn’t going to the river and you’re signed up to drive, you still must drive. We are depending on you.
* Rowers must understand they need to get into waiting cars and not complain about splitting up from their friends. All seats are needed. Please tell your kids to get in so drivers can leave.
* Sherry Noud is running Wednesdays and Fridays.
* If there are changes to your sign up (rower or driver), send DM or post on the carpool channel so we have an accurate count.
* When signing up to drive, be sure to tally the maximum number you can fit.
* If your rower is staying after school, have them reach out on the carpool channel. We will hold a car for them.
* If you use carpool, get on Slack and join the carpool channel. This applies to kids and parents. Critical tool for communication.
* No School, Early Release Days = no carpool. No carpool over Spring Break.
* Last call for Driver Paperwork - no later than this Friday, March 11th. Approval takes 1 week. Form is pinned to carpool channel. Jackie needs a paper copy.

**Operations, Paul Schulwitz**

* Launch Boat Training – Once you are Boat US Certified, you must next have on the water training. Lots of responses for driver volunteers this year but less shift availability. If you have more than one shift, please make room for others.

**Discussion**

* Duffle bag embroidery – LeAnne Parente coordinating with local seamstress. Cost is $5. Write name neatly on a piece of paper, zip inside the bag and give bag to Anna at practice or drop at the Parente home. Address will be posted in Slack. Bags to be delivered on Monday or Tuesday to seamstress; expect 1 week turnaround.
* T-shirts from design contest will be distributed at practice tomorrow. No cost for rowers. Extras will be available for parent purchase next week.
* Polar Bear Regatta (3/19) is for returning rowers only. Novice boys invited but optional. Some benefit in seeing a regatta but parking and shuttle present challenges. Other coaches may approach differently; they will let their rowers know expectations re: this event.

See you at the Grandstands. Wear your Crew or Robinson spirit wear.

Meeting adjourned 8:04 PM