

Minutes for CRF Meeting May 25, 2006
FINAL Version

Officers Present:	Mark Silverstein	Anna Chanakas	Absent: Vicci Simpkins
Members Present	Doug Carlson Russ Eckles	Denny Matheou Tom Newman	Bob Valerian Dave Werner
Members Absent:	Mary Jo Cotner	Drew Forhan	Phil O'Bryon Werner Minshal

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- ◆ Minutes were approved as presented

II. BUSINESS REPORTS:

Financial: *Vicci Simpkins (Treasurer)*

- ◆ Vicci was not in attendance but Russ distributed the May 14 financials. Vicci is keeping track of the financials using Quicken for not-for-profits. Russ indicated that the financials are consistent with were we were this time last year.
- ◆ *Assessment:* Assessment invoices were sent to all CRF programs, except for WRRRA. WRRRA will be billed on July 1 because they need more time to get their books in order. Rack invoices were sent out to about 30 owners of singles

Operations Monthly Report:

Phillips Electric space: *Mark Silverstein*

- ◆ We started moving equipment into the Phillips Electric space last weekend. We've put the kayaks in one bay. Singles in the other 3 bays. Keys to singles. Need to get the racks into the space.
- ◆ CRF will be leasing the space for \$1 per month for the next six months. When we negotiate the lease on the entire boathouse, we will discuss how much Forest City wants for the space.

CRF Forest City Lease: *Russ Eckles*

- ◆ We want to finalize the boathouse lease in the next 30 days.
- ◆ This past Monday night the gate to the parking lot was left open. Stickney saw someone dumping something into the space so they cut the lock and put a new lock on the fence. We believe it was the construction people who were dumping things. Stickney wasn't aware that the agreement that stated that we had the right to use the parking lot space, was in the mail. We need to be aware that we do have to lock the gate because of the possibility of people dumping things into the lot. We should have the space as long as the city is working on the retaining wall.
- ◆ We could also look into taking with the owners of the parking lot across the river—we may be able to get a drastically discounted rate. It's also safer than parking in the Stickney lot.

New Building:

- ◆ The cement has been poured for the floor, but has to cure before they start working on the structure. We estimate that they will probably begin around June 1. It will probably take another month, so it *should* be completed by around July 1.
- ◆ Paul Delbane is looking around for another 6-pack for the launches to keep them off of the floor. Russ indicated that we might not want to get another 6-pack because of safety.
- ◆ Now that we have the entire structure, we may want to name or number the bays so we can keep them straight.
- ◆ We may want to organize a boathouse opening/ribbon cutting ceremony. We could invite Stickney, Forest City, and the press for some publicity. We've come a long way in a year.

Retaining wall:

- ◆ Strengthening the retaining wall is about a 30-day process. They will be working on the wall from the Conrail building to the street. In addition to the vertical poles, they will add a 2" by 12" Lattice to create a fence-like structure.

Conrail: Mark Silverstein

- ◆ Mark had a meeting last Wednesday with Brad Whitehead of the Gund Foundation. People we want to get involved in rowing. We want to get people from different foundations or other organizations (e.g. Gund, Cleveland Foundation, Law firms who make grants) to come to the boathouse and give them a better understanding of our space and the Conrail building.
- ◆ CRF sponsored a free LTR to the Council of Economic Development; and want to organize another one next Friday with a few people from the Gund Foundation.
- ◆ Public Trust: People are coming to Cleveland to attend a 3-day conference. We could bring them to the boathouse; give them a tour of the Conrail building. We want them to donate grant monies to fix the Conrail building. We don't have the \$ to spend on Conrail building, so we want to take our time to do it right.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OPERATIONS/SAFETY:

- ◆ The SOM and SQL tests still have outdated information relating to the fence and the wooden boathouse, which are no longer there. Russ has taken these issues out of the SOM and the SQL-tests and review them with Jim Mack and Tim Marcovy.
- ◆ We will review the SOM at the coaches meeting on June 13.

PROGRAMS:

HOTC: Sept 17

- ◆ Bob Valerian suggested that we should equally distribute all of the responsibilities related to running the HOTC across all CRF member organizations. The HOTC is an inherent part of CRF and all organizations participate in the event so they should all have a part in running it, rather than having the responsibility rest on only a few people. More people would be willing to chip in and we would automatically develop expertise. We can group some of the smaller organizations together (e.g. Baldwin Wallace with CSU). We will also rotate the different responsibilities each year.
 - ◆ **Action:** Bob will develop a chart with responsibilities & rotations and work with Russ to communicate them out to the CRF members.

Tall Ships: July

- ◆ CRF will be supporting Tall Ships. However the party on the William G. Mather will not be happening. Great Lakes Science center has offered to use their patio for a party, but we would have to use their catering company, which would end up costing about \$20/per person.

DEVELOPMENT:

Boathouse Recovery fund

- ◆ We will be purchasing two Alden Star's at a 25-30% discount over retail price, and two Wintech Voyagers. A letter to the donors was recommended, but Russ hasn't gotten to it yet.

Fund Raising: Northeast Ohio Wine Festival: Voinovich Park (Sept 29-30)

- ◆ CRF will not be participating in the event; the organizers gave it to another charity.

National Learn to Row day: June 10

- ◆ Mark will coordinate this event. We will advertise the event.

River Fest: Whiskey Island

- ◆ We are in conversations with the people at Whiskey Island to help with this event. The event is scheduled for mid-August.

DEVELOPMENT: (Con't.)**Fourth of July Fireworks**

- ◆ CRF will probably do something in conjunction with the 4th of July Fireworks. In the past we ran the Dragon Boat Races, but that cost more money than we brought in. CRF didn't lose money but donors did. The Flats Oxbow Association will help finance an event.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:**Insurance: Russ Eckles**

- ◆ *Property Insurance:* John Neely at Forest City has suggested we carry insurance on the building, but we would also need to discuss this with Stickney. If something were to happen to the building, we would have some capital to re-build in another location. The cost for property insurance would be only \$1,900 per year and is believed to be worth the cost.
- ◆ *Business Personal Property Insurance:* This insures the equipment in the building.
- ◆ *Inland Marine Insurance:* Insurance for all CRF boats, launches and motors owned. The deductible listed is high, but we may be able to get a lower deductible. It may make more sense to insure the shells with Leonard, so we should check to see if the launches could be included on that policy.
- ◆ *Wharf and Dock Insurance:* Each CRF dock cost about \$5,000 plus two-weeks of man-hours to build. We've estimated that our docks cost a total of about \$75,000.
- ◆ *Directors and Officers:* Leave it where it is
- ◆ *Umbrella Policy:* We do have a \$1 million umbrella policy. We will confirm this.
 - **Motion: Bob Valerian moves that we keep the Business Personal Property Insurance, the Wharf and Dock Insurance, and discuss the Building Insurance with Forest City. Second: Dave Werner Motion Passed Unanimously.**

V. NEW BUSINESS:**Team-Building Company: Mark Silverstein**

- ◆ Mark would like to form a team-building company to run corporate LTR programs. He would contract with companies to give employees a complete LTR day as a team-building exercise. He spoke to someone at the Cleveland Clinic and they indicated they have 30 – 60 people who would be interested in participating in this type of program. Mark would rent the CRF common room, equipment, coaches and provide lunch and dinner to participants. The program would handle between 8 to 30 people.
- ◆ Mark doesn't want to create a conflict of interest with CRF. CRF would receive proceeds from boathouse rental, different organizations would benefit from boat rentals; and coaches would be hired. We have the added benefit of people learning the sport of rowing.
- ◆ A couple of years ago CRF sent out e-mails to start a corporate league, but it didn't work.
- ◆ *Discussion:*
 - ◆ The boathouse is pretty congested before and after work, so need to have a get a better idea of the numbers of individuals and the times the program would run. Mark indicated the program would run between 9am and 4pm Mon through Friday.
 - ◆ More details are needed; we need to have a greater understanding of what this program would entail. Mark has the basic plan, marketing materials and information on setting up a corporation, but it was suggested that Mark present numbers to us.
 - ◆ Someone indicated that perhaps we could pay the CRF Executive Director and the Corporate Team-building program would be part of his role. This could fit the business model better if this program runs through CRF, which is a non-profit. There's only so much we can do on a volunteer basis.
 - ◆ We need to make sure that CRF's liability insurance would cover this program. Mark would have to join USRA and the program would be covered.
 - ◆ This could lead to getting a corporate challenge.
 - ◆ We had a public LTR two years ago. About 144 people signed up and 24 ended up rowing in the Fall rowing program.
 - ◆ In general people seem pretty supportive of the idea, but more information is needed.

Clifton Arts Festival: June 17th

- ◆ CRF will have a booth at the Clifton Arts Festival on June 17. Team Twist, an SRL team, donated the space to CRF.

Cleveland Collegiate Summer Rowing Program: Denny Matheou

- ◆ Denny is starting the Cleveland Collegiate Summer Rowing program this weekend. This program is designed for Cleveland rowers who are staying in Cleveland, and for college students who row in other college programs and are in Cleveland for the summer. The program costs \$140, which just covers the costs. All practices will be coached and CSU equipment will be used. Denny has been talking to about 15 collegiate rowers.
- ◆ *Discussion:*
 - ◆ What are the scheduled times for the program? We need to be sensitive of the other summer programs, especially SRL. Denny indicated the program would run, Monday and Thursday 5:30pm, and Saturday 10am.
 - ◆ *CRF Assessment:* All rowers have to be a paid member of an organization and every CRF member has an assessment for rowing through the boathouse; so how would this program work in terms of the Assessment to CRF? Does this have to be run through WRRRA? If we run this program as presented by Denny, then we would have to waive the CRF assessment. It could be run as a college enrichment program of CSU. We could assess Cleveland State a summer assessment, so they could be covered under CSU.
 - ◆ CRF would like to support the program because we would like College members to come back to Cleveland and row.
 - ◆ Denny asked if it were possible for Collegiate rowers to Scull? CRF owns two Wintech singles and the Alden Star training singles and a limited number of CRF oars which would be available to all CRF members including Collegiate rowers. CRF just asks that the collegiate rowers don't monopolize the equipment during their scheduled rowing times.
- ◆ **Motion: Russ moves that CRF support the Collegiate Rowing Program. Existing CRF rowers would not be assessed any additional fees for rowing in the program; out of town rowers in the program would be assessed a nominal \$10 fee payable to CRF. Doug Carlson 2nd Motion Approved Unanimously.**

New Programs:

- ◆ A lot of great ideas have been presented to us at this meeting. However, Bob Valerian suggested that these ideas should be presented to CRF sooner in the process so we can discuss the potential issues with the program, rather than late in the process when the programs are ready to be implemented.

Certified Trainer: Denny Matheou

- ◆ Denny knows of a certified trainer who would like to set up a structured program with a certified trainer :45 min before or after SRL sessions.
 - ◆ *Discussion:*
 - ◆ People would have to pay a fee to a trainer, in addition to their dues.
 - ◆ Since it involves SRL it would have to be presented to WRRRA. Service provided by CRF. CRF suggested that the Trainer send CRF/WRRRA a proposal

Massotherapist: Bob Valerian

- ◆ Bob has a massotherapist friend who may want to come down and offer massotherapy to rowers.
 - ◆ *Discussion:*
 - ◆ The massotherapist could rent the space from CRF, then charge the rowers accordingly.

Coach:

- ◆ The former coach of the University of Virginia has contacted us in search for full-time employment and is seeking an annual salary of \$40,000. He is coming to Cleveland because his wife will be coming to work for Metro General Hospital. Mark, Russ and Doug will be talking with him in early June.

The next CRF meeting will be held on Thursday June 29 at 5:45pm at the CRF boathouse.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Submitted by Anna Chanakas CRF Secretary