

**VIRGINIA SCHOLASTIC ROWING ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 23042 Alexandria, VA 22304

**MINUTES of the BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING January 10,2012**

I. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the President, Mike Mutter, at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson HSST. Thirty-three voting members were present as follows:

<u>Officer Members</u>			
<b>President</b>	Mike Mutter	<b>Vice President</b>	John White
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mark Peterson	<b>Secretary</b>	Fran Phoenix

<u>At-Large and Team Members</u>			
<b>Past President</b>	Rob Ittig	<b>Mount Vernon</b>	Lisa Schneider
<b>At-Large</b>	Ryz Obuchowicz	<b>NCS / St Albans</b>	Mark LaViolette
<b>At-Large</b>	Ric Thomas	<b>Oakton</b>	Mike Mulreany
<b>At Large</b>	Shirley von Rinteln	<b>Potomac</b>	Dorothy Lazor
<b>At Large</b>	Mary King		(proxy)
<b>Briar Woods</b>	-----	<b>Robinson</b>	Robert Clark
<b>Christchurch (Associate)</b>	-----	<b>Sidwell Friends</b>	Kate Laguarda
<b>Episcopal (Associate)</b>	-----	<b>South County</b>	Adale Tourtellott
<b>Fairfax</b>	Julia Treiber	<b>St Stephens/ Ste Agnes</b>	Courtney Baldrige
<b>Forest Park</b>	Curtis Hoagland	<b>T C Williams</b>	Ed Emblom
<b>Gar-Field</b>	-----	<b>Thomas Jefferson</b>	Dave Applin
<b>Georgetown Visitation</b>	Charles McNamara	<b>W T Woodson</b>	Mark Ramage
<b>Gloucester (Associate)</b>	-----	<b>Wakefield</b>	-----
<b>Hylton</b>	Dorothy Lazor	<b>Washington-Lee</b>	Tim Aiken
<b>J E B Stuart</b>	Jenny Kusmik	<b>West Potomac</b>	Mick McKeown
<b>James Madison</b>	Ronald Marx	<b>West Springfield</b>	-----
<b>Lake Braddock</b>	Cynthia Maltenfort	<b>Western Albemarle(Asso)</b>	-----
<b>Langley</b>	Bill Talamantes	<b>Westfield</b>	Craig Trumbull
<b>Mathews (Associate)</b>	-----	<b>Woodbridge</b>	Tony Wilks
<b>McLean</b>	Doug Hale	<b>Yorktown</b>	Joanne Stump

Non-voting Members:

Coordinators

<b>Course Master</b>	-----	<b>Trophies</b>	Mike Stilwell
<b>LOC</b>	Ryz Obuchowicz	<b>Web Master</b>	-----
<b>Charlie Butt Dir</b>	-----		
<b>Personnel</b>	Shirley von Rinteln		

Committees

<b>Bylaws</b>	John White	<b>Grievance</b>	-----
<b>Coaches</b>	Mary King	<b>Historian</b>	TBD
<b>Coach Develop</b>	Ryz Obuchowicz	<b>Nominations</b>	TBD
		<b>Publicity</b>	-----

Representatives

<b>Sandy Run Park</b>	-----	<b>Crew Council</b>	-----
		<b>USRA Referees</b>	Ryz Obuchowicz

II. Secretary Report. Fran Phoenix:

- A. The Minutes of the January 10, 2010 Board meeting were read and approved as amended. The motion to accept was made by Hal Johnson (Woodbridge) and seconded by Dave Applin (Thomas Jefferson). The motion passed unanimously.

III. President's Report. Mike Mutter:

- A. Mike reminded that this was a special meeting called to discuss strategic planning and where VASRA wants to be in five to ten years. He envisioned that the result of the discussion could be a Mission Statement which could be revised periodically (some increment of 2-5 years).
- B. A suggestion came from Mike Mulreany (Oakton) that we go through Mike's four questions in his letter to the membership:
1. Should we continue to pursue the current proposed level of expenditure at the Occoquan? If not how should we change?
  2. Should we pursue the growth of our regatta sites generally including an attempt to establish additional sites? Bear in mind the additional sites would represent costs that might improve VASRA and increase its growth and the fees it collects. However, there would be likely additional costs incurred in the establishment of such additional venues in the short term.
  3. Should we continue to accept the growth in the Northern Virginia Area, and how do we accommodate that growth? If not, how do we eliminate growth?
  4. What about Virginia schools outside the Northern Virginia Area? Is it beneficial to include them as a part of VASRA? Should VASRA evolve into a statewide organization? Do we establish Regional Chapters of VASRA? How do we fairly share the regatta load (both economic and volunteer) with schools outside Northern Virginia.
- C. It was also suggested that we concentrate on the Sandy Run site where most of our regattas are.
- D. Rob Ittig will spearhead getting bids for the Finish Line Tower.
- E. The discussion continued with many and varied topics covered including:
- VASRA's present charge is to administer regattas, promote scholastic rowing and distribute information to the membership.
  - Regattas are close to maximum capacity.
  - Teams are expanding and more teams are being created as more schools are built.
  - Same type of growth in the Tidewater, Richmond, and Charlottesville areas.
  - VASRA and the Virginia State Championship?
  - People keep going to Stotesbury even though the rates keep going up.
  - SRAA's...many at-large slots.
  - VSRC...all schools can come. Do we still want to do this?
  - Are we exclusionary or do we want to develop more sites?
  - We could have the VSRC as a single regatta at two sites. Problem: Boats and parents with kids rowing in different places.
  - Devise a system of qualifying races. How do we decide who qualifies?
  - Could do "districts" like they do in some other sports.
  - Get suggestions from the coaches about this (qualifying races procedure).
  - Triple row?
  - Two day regatta is a problem as far as travel is concerned.
  - Maybe have a long term vision: 2 day event by 2015.

- F. Mike reiterated it all comes down to what we want to become and then move on. The two main problems are full regattas and the VSRC size. Can we build a second course? Can we develop Brambleton/Beaverdam Creek? We need a planning committee to talk with the Regional Park Authority.
- G. Courtney Baldrige (St. Stephen/Ste. Agnes) summarized the conversation as “What does VASRA what it wants to be when it grows up?” She was asked to write her proposals down in the form of a motion for consideration at the February meeting.

IV. Ad hoc Budget Committee: Curt Hoagland (Forest Park) presented the report which had been sent out earlier in the week to the membership. Doug Hale (McLean) made a motion to accept the recommendations of the ad hoc Budget Committee and withdrew the motion.

Courtney Baldrige suggested that “we accept the Ad hoc Budget Committee’s Option A that there be no revenue sharing, that profits from concessions are earmarked for the capital improvement fund, and that the per rower capital improvement assessment is eliminated”.

Also included were the bullets on the next page of the report:

- The creation of a permanent Budget Committee to examine all aspects of the VASRA Budget accounts and make recommendations to the BOD for adoption.
- The Budget Committee will evaluate on a yearly basis the various regatta fees- entry, concession and parking- and the recommend adjustments as appropriate.
- No allocations or disbursements will be made for items from the Capital Equipment Plan or Building Fund, that exceeds \$5,000.00 per line item.
- The condition of the finish line tower will be assessed and minimal repairs, as deemed necessary, will be carried out prior to the commencement of the 2012 season. The cost of any such repairs are not to exceed \$5,000.00 per line item without the approval of the BOD.

Curt Hoagland moved this suggestion, seconded by Robin Cowan (Potomac). The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business:

- A. John White reported that the Rules Committee has been re-established by the Crew Council with Barbara Mahony, Assistant DSA, West Potomac as Chair
- B. The rules changes discussed in December were approved by the Crew Council.
- C. Men’s lightweight limit will remain at 155 for our regattas this season.
- D. We need your athlete numbers as soon as possible.
- E. John White was recently awarded the Jack Franklin Award and Ruth McNamara was awarded the Joan Zandbergen Award. Congratulations!

VI. New Business:

- A. Ric Thomas warned of a move by schools to centralize school booster funds. He suggested that each program make sure that their 501(c)(3) status is in order so as to protect crew property and funds.
- B. Stone Bridge in Loudon County has applied for membership in VASRA. We will vote on their application in February.
- C. Robinson is encountering difficulty with the IRS classifying their coaches as independent contractors. Fairfax High School will find out how they were able to correct this situation and report back in February.
- D. Mike Stillwell would like to collect trophies in March. Twenty-three different schools have at least one trophy.
- E. Fairfax High School and JEB Stuart are looking for coaches.

F. Mid-Atlantic Erg sprints are Feb 4<sup>th</sup>.

VII. Announcements:

1. Jan- US Rowing Organizational Membership dues are due for the 2012 calendar year.
2. Jan 14- Coaches Committee meeting, 10 am, South County High School.
3. Jan 24- Volunteer Coordinator Meeting, TJHSST Cafeteria, 7:30 pm.
4. Jan 24- Crew Council Meeting, 10 am, Freedom HS. Rule Book approval.
5. Jan 31- Publish the Safety Plan update on the VASRA web site.
6. Feb 13-Lightweight programs initiated (six weeks prior to the first regatta).
7. Feb 18-Coxswain Training Clinic, 9 am -1 pm, Location TBD.
8. Feb 20- First day of on water practice.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Mike Mutter at 9:23 pm. The next meeting is Tuesday February 7, 2012 in the TJHSST Cafeteria.

*Fran Phoenix*

VASRA Secretary  
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