

FINAL Minutes for the July 13th, 2006 Water Rats Parents Club Board Meeting

Attendees: Bill Loftus , Bonnie Strittmatter, Chuck Katter, Barbara Wiederecht, Andrea Boissevain, Jeanne Bowles, Bridget Lambo, David Blansfield, Drummond Grinalds, Bill Krumm and Ellen Johnston.

Convening of the Meeting

The meeting of the Water Rats Parents' Club convened on July 13, 2006 in the Board Room of the Westport Weston Family Y at 7:20 pm. Co-President Bonnie Strittmatter presided over the meeting.

The minutes for the June 8th, 2006 Water Rats Parents' Club Board meeting were reviewed. The motion, made to approve the minutes, had to be tabled due to the lack of a quorum. After a short time, several additional people arrived and the motion to approve the minutes was made and carried unanimously with changes duly noted.

Treasurer's Financial Report

Chuck Katter presented the following monthly financial report:

USA Swimming Summary

Barbara Wiederecht reported that fees continue to be collected. Not booked are the large meet fees as she wraps up for the year. Fee refunds still need to be made. A discussion ensued whether to ask if those leaving the program would like to donate their escrow funds due to be refunded. It was suggested that we provide clarification in the EXPO packet.

PET-WRAT Report

Stephanie Belleveau presented the report in absentia, kindness of Bonnie. She reported that 885 volunteer points are still outstanding.

Coaches' Report

Bill presented the following highlights of the coaches' report:

- Thanks to Madeline Lee and Jeanne Bowles for their efforts in managing the Long Course Invitational and the 9/U meet.
- The end-of-season picnic is scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st, 2006 at Compo Beach.

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- Bids have been submitted and we have been awarded the 3 meets we bid on: Freestyle Frenzy October 21-22, 2006; Age Group Qualifier December 2-3, 2006; and Pentathlon February 3-4, 2007.

Co-President's Report

Nominating Committee

Ellen and Jeanne presented that some tracking of information could help and make it more accessible to parents. Committee Chair positions still need to be filled.

WRAT Survey Results

Before discussing survey results, it was announced that the next generation of the Volunteer Website software has been created. While there are some security issues, we agreed to purchase the next version.

A good response rate has prompted us to renew our survey subscription every year allowing us to query our membership.

We reviewed the results starting with question 8.

Volunteerism needs to be reviewed. Stephanie needs to organize some folks to help her re-vamp the point system. Based on people's response that they are aware that certain events take place (especially when a meet page goes up), we should send a new email every time a new event goes up on the volunteer web site so that folks are made aware of volunteer opportunities.

Grocery coupons received a lot of negative comments. One suggestion was to identify reps from each age group who would be responsible for selling coupons at the various meets.

Citrus also received numerous negative coupons. Several comments centered on poor quality of fruit. One suggestion was to offer it every other year; new vendors may be an issue. Feedback on quality. Need to find a Citrus chair. Suzy Valdes Rodriguez offered to get involved in Citrus sales.

Another suggestion to help get the word out is to hold a parent meeting in conjunction with EXPO. Run 4 30-minute sessions to allow parents some time to receive valuable information and learn how the WRAT system works.

Raffle of jobs for first meet at EXPO was proposed as a way of providing greater awareness of meet jobs. Jeanne's buddy system was discussed. It worked in the beginning, but then it fell by the wayside. Some discussion ensued as to how to beef it up.

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Jeanne offered to ask for the Parish Hall to host our EXPO Sunday September 24, 2006. She'll get back to us if that date is open at the Church. Suggestions were made to create a fair-like forum with each of the committee chairs hosting their special area.

Publicity chair needs to be a pro-active person. David Blansfield offered to consider the position

Bonnie encouraged us to review the team roster and identify someone you know whose expertise may be tapped for one of the chairs.

On-line apparel options was discussed. Suits are best purchased at METRO. There are many companies that now do on-demand silk screening for t-shirts, bags, etc. We discussed the option of web portal to METRO. A small committee was formed to review the various options. Apparel committee members are Bill Krumm, Jeanne Bowles, Suzy Valdes-Rodriguez, and Bonnie Strittmatter.

Minutes can easily be made available on line. Andrea will provide pdf formatted files of the past year's minutes that can be posted on the website. Minutes can be presented in a more bulleted item fashion for easier reading, rather a narrative format.

The survey indicated that parents did not feel they know enough about the team. Many glibly commented, "what handbook?". It was suggested that we provide a recurring "feature" on the website called "Team Highlight: Tip of the Month". Andrea Boissevain offered to take the Team Handbook and create monthly features that highlight different topics. Another click-through on the site that we should have is "Directions to other pools".

In our continued efforts to be open and transparent, we will disseminate survey results...that way parents can see what the results were for themselves.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on September 7th 2006.