

FINAL Minutes for the Annual (June 8th, 2006) Water Rats Parents Club Board Meeting

Attendees: Bill Loftus, Bonnie Strittmatter, Chuck Katter, Barbara Wiederecht, Andrea Boissevain, Stephanie Belleveau, Jeanne Bowles, Suzy Valdes Rodriguez, Roger Parker, Rose DeLuca, Lisa Ball, Maura Marden, Madeline Lee, Drummond Grinalds, David Blansfield, Trudy Denton, Sandy Morrison, Holly Mesavage, Nelly Torres, Oswaldo Torres, Pete Lambo, Ed Dunn, Bill Krumm and Ellen Johnston.

Convening of the Meeting

The meeting of the Water Rats Parents' Club convened on June 8th, 2006 in the Board Room of the Westport Weston Family Y at 7:17 pm. Co-President Bill Loftus presided over the meeting.

The minutes for the May 4th, 2006 Water Rats Parents' Club Board meeting were reviewed. The motion, made to approve the minutes with the changes duly noted, was carried unanimously.

Remarks from Helene Weir, CEO, Westport Weston Family Y

Bill introduced Helene Weir the Y's new CEO and expressed our appreciation for her interest and participation in WRAT events. She shared some revised renderings of the new Y, noting that they were highlighted in a kick-off event last night (6/7/06) at Mitchell's clothing store. Her focus now is to learn how the various programs work and to create a whole vision where the Y is viewed as part of the greater community. She noted that the Y still needs to have the existing programs serviced, while planning for the future. While the Y (and its facility) have a history, it no longer serves the times. She asked that supporters "talk the positive talk" because those with negative thoughts are being heard. She also asked that we chat it up with friends and neighbors and attend the various Town meetings, noting that we have three to four years to go through the permitting and planning process and then the building phase will commence.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Bonnie gave bouquets to outgoing Board Members Matt Heisler (8/U), Suzy Valdes-Rodriguez (Senior Rep), and Maura Marden (Senior Rep) who has served myriad positions from Senior Representative to Co-President. A big round of applause for all!

Election of Officers

In accordance with the Water Rat Parents Club By-Laws – Article IV Section 3 – the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers listed below to fill open positions on the parent-run board 30 days prior to the election. As stated in the by-laws:

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Additional nominations may be made by 10 or more voting members of the Club who present their nomination(s) in writing to the Nominating Committee no later than 20 days before the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall then present such additional nominations to the entire Club membership at least 10 days prior before the Annual Meeting. The election of officers shall take place at the Annual Meeting.

Ellen Johnston, who served as Chair of the Nominating Committee, was listed as the contact person on our website in the event that any member of the Water Rats Parents Club had any interest, need clarification or would like to submit a nomination in accordance with the team by-laws.

Parents Club Board Proposed Slate of Officers:

Co-President	Bonnie Strittmatter
Treasurer	Chuck Katter
Ex-Officio	Pam Koss
Secretary	Drummond Grinalds
Parent Rep – Senior Team	Andrea Boissevain
Parent Rep – Age Group	David Blansfield and Jeanne Bowles
Parent Rep – 8/under	Bridget Lambo

The motion was made to approve all proposed officers and carried unanimously. Welcome aboard! Ellen thanked the Nominating Committee for their work in putting together a fine slate

Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report

Budget Variance

Year-to-date profit is \$18,417 ahead of budget. Non-operating positive variances of \$1979 for the collection of volunteer non-compliance fees and \$1569 for the 55th Reunion supplemented operating positive variances of \$3672 in equipment purchases and service, \$3190 in PET-WRAT fees, \$1949 in PET-WRAT refunds and \$1685 in professional fees (both timing related) and \$1598 for the "Q" meet. Significant unfavorable variances are \$1854 for the Pentathlon, an unbudgeted retirement gift for Bob Knoebel and timing of Senior Spring Invitational activity. Positive timing-related variances which will be eliminated in coming months include equipment purchase and repair of \$4000, PET-WRAT refunds of \$1949 and professional fee expenses of \$500.

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Cash Flow

Our cash balance at the end of April was \$73,704, essentially even from April. Significant receipts included \$15,757 in reimbursements from swimmers for Y-Nationals expenses and \$2,200 in coupon sales receipts. Primary uses of funds were for Y-Nationals expenses, PET-WRAT Refunds and miscellaneous other invoices.

Presentation of the Budget for 2006-2007

Chuck presented details (by account) of the upcoming year's forecast and the accompanying budget, highlighting projected variances and how they are addressed in the proposed 2006-2007 budget.

The forecast net income of \$8800 to original 2005-2006 budget consists of positive favorable performance of fund-raising (largely due to Pam Koss' efforts); coaches' expense that are ahead of planned; and consultants fees that did not get spent. The small unfavorable variances are due to unplanned retirement gift; reduced planned income from the Pentathlon meet; and some other miscellany expenses or reduced planned income. More swimmers translated into more fees, and we had not predicted the income from non-compliance fees.

The 2006-2007 budget is structured to break even. Variances to this year's forecast is \$8800 (carry-over); higher proceeds from meet activities (returning to a more normalized meet income prediction); more PET-WRAT fees; no plans to spend money on equipment; no plans for retirement gift or other charitable contributions. Unfavorable variances from this year's forecast are accounted for by increases in coaches' expense (educational); party for age-group, picnic; no revenue from 50th WRAT Anniversary; not budgeting as much for product sales; non-compliance fees and budgeting for a part-time bookkeeper (about 10 hours per month at about \$30 per hour).

After discussing various points for clarification, a motion was made to approve the budget. Approval for the 2006-2007 budget was unanimous.

USA Swimming Summary

Barbara Weiderecht reviewed the purpose of the escrowed USA Swimming account and the changes made to reduce non-payment issues. Year-to-date meet entry fees collected for short course fees totaled \$56,368, of which \$28,685 have been paid out. An additional \$12,454 is USA Registration fees have been dispersed.

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Balance in the account to date is \$27,075. If anyone would like to see a copy of their swimmer's account, please give Barb a call.

PET-WRAT Report

Stephanie Belleveau presented the PET-WRAT report. One hundred sixty-one (161) families are in our system, not inclusive of new swim families. She noted that between 10 and 15 families have not re-registered for the summer long course. She provided the following statistics:

- 52% or 85 families have completed 100% of their points
- 14% or 22 families have less than 10 points to complete
- 34% or 54 families have more than 10 points to complete
- \$2486 has been paid out in refunds to date
- 179 points unaccounted for some families who are not participating in the Long Course season.

Friendly reminders letters went out late in May to remind people of their volunteer commitment and to find some upcoming opportunities to fulfill the commitment.

Coaches' Report

Bill Krumm presented the following highlights of this past year:

Reunion 2005

- We celebrated our 55th year of competitive swimming at the YMCA in November. The event was great however attendance was a bit low. We believe the retirement party for Bob Knoebel the month before (where many alumni attended) distracted from the event.

Staffing

- Our staff of 14 coaches this year was the largest staff in the history of the team. Many assistant coaches now work a limited number of days per week to allow them to juggle their work and personal schedules. The main change was the Tara Driscoll taking over for Bob Knoebel as the head 8/under coach. New coaches added to the staff this year were Erin Flynn, Kevin Cullinan, Jeff Doornweerd, and Meredith Milliken. Turnover among the assistant coaches remains a constant, but we continue to find quality help.

Facilities

- We have followed nearly the same practice schedule for a number of years. Our reality of a new 50-meter pool is in the works, but we still need to address ways to expand our pool time and allow the team to

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- grow in the interim, since we will remain in the current facilities for a minimum of three years. The use of the high school pool remains a constant question mark. Pool time has been confirmed for this summer.
- It looks like SCSU may be unavailable for outside teams to host events next year due to new State of CT regulations. We will need to explore our options of hosting meets for next year. More home meets may be our only option.

Technology

- The team continues to run the nationally recognized HY-TEK software. We upgraded to the new Meet Manager this year and continue to use Team Manager, Business Manager and Team Manager Online (TMO). The systems worked well this year for our entries and meets, with the meet management connection with our Colorado Timing System. A new Colorado Timing System 6 console was purchased this year.
- The team website continues to get much use and is the main means of communication with our team members. Blast emails have also proven to be a great communication skill.
- We still rely on our website consultant for support since the Y technology support is minimal. Our website consultant has marketed the online volunteer program we created and has had 6 teams purchase the product. We get 3 hours of technical support for each sale.

Program

- The Water Rat Swim Team continues to be very successful. We had a pretty amazing season during the winter with many highlights including a number of new team records and many team titles, including the 10/under boys titles at CT Age Groups and YMCA States and New Englands, and the boy's and combined titles at CT Regionals. The 13 member YMCA National Team finished 22nd out of 225 teams at the YMCA Nationals. Our team remains fairly balanced with the team registering over 200 swimmers for the third year in a row. The balance of girls and boys remains fairly even.
- The team continues to be splitting at the seams and new swimmers are always knocking on the door. Our Senior Team is by far the largest in history.

Parents' Club

- CT Swimming will host a Swimposium on October 7th. Many educational opportunities will be available for no charge. Sessions will include a parents' session, officials' meeting, swimmer's session, and coach's session in the morning. After lunch, a full meeting of all groups will be held with a topic of identifying everyone's role in the sport of swimming. USA Swimming will staff the event.

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- The coaches truly enjoyed working with this year's Board of Directors, and thank them for all their efforts to help make this team so great. We easily have the most volunteers participating among all the programs at the YMCA.

YMCA

- The YMCA is focused on the mission to "Imagine The Possibilities". The plans are to build a new YMCA on the YMCA owned, 30-acre Mahackeno Outdoor Center. We have begun the approval process with the Town of Westport.

Co-President's Message:

Bill Loftus thanked everyone for their volunteer efforts. Four years ago the membership highlighted areas that needed attention: waning volunteerism, spotty communication, and nominal parent education. Over the last three years we have addressed these issues. The website provided a central location for information; the volunteer page provided easy access to pitch in and get credit for volunteering; email blasts helped spread the word about changes in schedules, etc. These are among the many changes we instituted to address those issues. Going forward, our job now is to fine tune each of those areas. To help with that we have created a survey will help us pinpoint areas and strategies that are working, those that are not, and hopefully how we can bolster or change those things that need it. Overall, we are strong financially and our volunteerism has really soared, beginning to debunk the 80/20 rule of volunteering.

He noted some statistics on the large number of people served by the aquatics program: over 600 kids for swim lesson on a quarterly basis; 210 swim team members; 50 swimmers at the Masters' level, 50 people with special needs; 50 participants in the aqua fitness program and at least 50 recreational pool users.

Bonnie Strittmatter announced that there will be no August meeting. Encouraging those who have not taken the survey to please do so, she will share the results of the survey prior to the July meeting where we will discuss them. She has sent out 250 invitations, with 75 surveys completed. She will send out reminder notices to the membership.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on July 13th, 2006.