

Minutes for the October 9th, 2006 Water Rats Parents Club Board Meeting

Attendees: Bonnie Strittmatter, Stephanie Belleveau, Cheryl Smiley, Barbara Wiederecht, Andrea Boissevain, Jeanne Bowles, David Blansfield, Ellen Johnston, Ron Nardozi, Bill Krumm & Drummond Grinalds.

Convening of the Meeting

The meeting of the Water Rats Parents' Club convened on October 9th, 2006 in the Breslin Room of the Westport Weston Family Y at 7:33 pm. Co-President Bonnie Strittmatter presided over the meeting.

The minutes for the September 6th, 2006 Water Rats Parents' Club Board meeting were reviewed. The motion to approve the minutes was passed.

Treasurer's Financial Report

Chuck Katter was not present but made available the monthly financial report for September 2006. Drummond read the Budget Variance and Cash Flow statements.

Budget Variance – Year-to-date profit is \$3,900 ahead of budget. There are several more swimmers than had been budgeted and Pet WRAT fees are accordingly higher, and \$3,500 in volunteer non-compliance fees were collected from families who did not achieve their volunteer commitments during last season.

Cash Flow – Our cash balance at the end of September was \$98,515, up from \$49,000 in August. Sources of funds were Pet WRAT fees of \$57,155 and Volunteer Non-Compliance fees of \$3,781; grocery coupons were purchased for \$11,875.

Bonnie noted that Car Wash receipts from the recent National Team event should be recorded.

Motion to accept the September Treasurer's report was passed.

Conservation Announcement

Rosemary Halstead made an announcement about the Conservation Commission meeting tomorrow Tuesday October 10th, 2006. It is important to have people attend wearing shirts. There are significant implications for WRAT swim team. Need to talk up what is going on to the Swim Team and to parents. Yellow T-Shirts are available. Jeanne and Bill said kids can speak....it makes a positive impression. Barbara Wiederecht suggested a letter writing campaign be started.

**Minutes for the October 9th, 2006
Water Rats Parents Club Board Meeting**

Others made comments on this and it was decided to have major points provided to simplify the campaign...also, swimmers will be encouraged to write.

USA Swimming Summary

Barbara noted that \$44,493.50 was collected at the Expo. Account balance as of 10/9/05 was \$57,558.22. There are just a few accounts now that are being settled. USA swimming registrations go out on Wednesday, October 11th.

PET-WRAT Report

Website is operational; over 50% of families have signed up with id's and pw's. Some families still need to pay registration fees and non-compliance fees.

Coaches' Report

The coaches thanked the Parents' Club for making the Registration/EXPO a huge success with special thanks to Jeanne Bowles for securing Christ & Holy Trinity Church for the event.

We have 216 swimmers registered representing 175 families. The team is full and 30 new swimmers and 20 new families have joined the team. The team is completing the 2007 USA Swimming registration process. We had 90% retention from swimmers on the team within the last calendar year.

We will hold parent & swimmers meeting for all practice groups. The Bedford Room at the Y is now a dance center and unavailable for meetings. Senior team already met.

We have established e-mail distribution lists for the team by practice group. These lists will be used periodically to get out important information. Heather Friel has created a weekly Water Rat Report to be emailed every Wednesday.

We have hired a new coach recently. Kate Larson has joined the staff of the Y as a Water Rat coach.

WRAT sponsored events for October: Citrus Sale

WRAT hosted meets this season: Freestyle Frenzy – Oct. 21-22, 2006

WRAT vs GYWD Dual – Nov. 21, 2006

Age Group Qualifier – Dec. 2-3, 2006

**Minutes for the October 9th, 2006
Water Rats Parents Club Board Meeting**

WRAT vs NCY Dual – Dec. 9, 2006

Pentathlon – Feb. 2-3, 2007

The meet schedule and the team roster are up on the website. Other additions recently are the Citrus Sale and Online Store tabs. Also we upgraded to a newer version of the Volunteer Program called "SuperMeets". Parents' Club minutes are now also posted.

Forty seven Water Rat Swimmers have been invited to attend the Connecticut Swimming's Awards Banquet on Sunday, November 5th at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. Swimmers needed to be listed in the top 16 in CT for their individual events for the year, both short course and long course. Reservations were due October 4th. Also, five Water Rat Swimmers were selected as CT Swimming 2006 Scholar Athletes. Three of those swimmers also were selected as USA Swimming Academic All-Americans.

Coach Bill Krumm has been selected to be the Head Manager for the USA Swimming Boys National Select Camp. The camp will be held at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. from November 15-19, 2006. Some discussion on the money raising by coaches. Jeanne said Parents' Club might be able to help.

Co-President's Report

Need to come up with a strategic planning process for the WRATs should the Y @ Mahackeno fail. Many people don't know how serious this is. David made the point that PR has not been as aggressive as the risks of no YMCA in Westport suggest it should be. Jeanne suggests that kids wear buttons saying "Save the Y."

Cupcakes were eaten in honor of Bill's birthday. Bill was observed to have left the meeting with approximately half a dozen uneaten cupcakes.

The Parents' Club will give \$250 in support of sports in Guatemala by way of Heather Hightower, a former Water Rat.

On line store is up and running...shirts, towels, shorts and caps. Proceeds will go to the Parents' Club.

New Parents will be counseled by the appropriate reps. Bill will give new family names and contact info to the appropriate reps.

Minutes for the October 9th, 2006
Water Rats Parents Club Board Meeting

Need to come up with a Parent Social date. Bill will check on the date. Others suggested having two Socials – one in Fall and one in Spring.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on November 2nd, 2006.