

## Draft Minutes of 2014 Ancient Mariners Board Meeting

November 9, 2014 at 4530 Everett St.

(Tom & Cathy's house)

### Attendees:

David Harmon, Nanci Sundel, Holly Donnelly, Dottie Buchagen, John Pugh, Tom Denes, Clay Britt, Pam Blumenthal, Dan Blumenthal, Cathy Gainor, Brent Peacock, Debbie Kelsey, George Humbert, John McCaffrey, Peter Johnson

### David Harmon called the meeting to order at 11:17.

He thanked the board for its efforts over the past year and for making possible the many activities and improvements over the year: the new clock and kickboards, the Albatross, the Holiday Social and the team picnic, the large team presence at Summer Nationals.

Dave moved immediately into the **nomination of officers**. All the officers agreed to serve again in the same roles, except that Donna Minha and David Friedland were no longer available to serve as at large board members. Dave also needed to check with Greta Ober on her willingness to serve.

Dave asked for someone to shadow Cathy as Albatross Meet Director. He suggested that we have a new Social Director position on the board to coordinate the Albatross social, the holiday party and the picnic. George Humbert and Holly Donnelly jointly agreed to take on the new position.

Next on the agenda was the **finance** discussion. Dave asked registrar Pam to give a report on revenue from registrations. Pam's report showed:

264 swimmers registered ANCM with USMS;

181 swimmers registered and paid ANCM dues of \$12;

632 people are on the listserv.

She noted that the large number on the listserv was reasonable because of past swimmers who wish to keep in the loop. Also, she gets regular requests to drop listserv members. Dave then directed the group's attention to the balance sheet. The club spent \$6282.92 more than it collected in FY 2014, partly because of capital purchases (clock and kickboards) and an approved budget with a planned deficit to whittle down some of the accumulated funds in the ANCM account.

Compared to the FY 2012 budget, expenses were within trends, Dave noted. Dues collections were down slightly, and, at \$1,849, less than projected. Cathy noted that receipts from the Albatross were

down \$400. Dave noted that net income was down more, partly because of the cost of subsidizing the social. Clay noted that many meets have moved to a flat registration fee, rather than charging for each event. Dave noted that this might make revenue decline more from the meet since most swimmer swim multiple events. Several people noted that the social is expensive and that not many swimmers come. George Humbert suggested that we could just have a designated restaurant or bar where people could go after the meet and pay for their own food & drinks. Cathy noted that only 30 swimmers pre-paid for the social, and that an additional 15 bought tickets at the event. This is not a large percentage of the meet participants.

Tom Denes made a motion to not have a social this year. Nanci Sundel seconded the motion. Some members felt it would be nice to have some sort of an event for those who want to get together. Tom modified his motion to allow \$500 in the budget towards rental of a private room for a social after the meet where swimmers could gather and purchase their own food and beverages. George and Holly said that they would explore venues. Nanci seconded the amended motion, and all were in favor.

The next agenda item under finances was **a proposal to raise the dues to \$15**. Pam noted that 17 members have already signed up for 2015 and paid the \$12 dues for the year. This year, she noted, USMS collects the dues through its web site when swimmers pay USMS dues. USMS keeps \$2.65 of the \$12 as its fee. Dave noted that, despite the USMS processing fee, revenue will still be up because more members will pay the ANCM fee. Dave quoted Jeff Roddin's recommendation that ANCM hold its board meeting sooner to decide the fee structure in future before 2015 sign-ups are available (Registration starts Nov. 1 for the next year.)

There was some discussion of whether the increased profit from the Albatross (because of less cost for the social) would add enough profit to prevent a dues increase. The group also discussed cutting postage costs by distributing ANCM caps in person, or only to Albatross swimmers and new members. Pam agreed that the registrar could e-mail the welcome letter from the President that goes out with the caps in the mail. Tom made a motion that we only distribute caps to Albatross swimmers and new members. George seconded and the motion passed.

Brent made a motion that we stop sending paper copies of the newsletter to save postage. John McCaffrey and Cathy said they liked getting hard copies. Dottie suggested that, instead of having people opt out of the paper copy, we could have people opt in. She would only send paper copies to swimmers who requested paper. This would drop printing costs also. The total newsletter cost would drop to \$300. Pam made a motion to accept this proposal, Tom seconded and the motion passed.

Dave asked that the board weigh in on the proposal to raise the dues from \$12 to \$15. Cathy noted that the last increase in dues was more than 10 years ago. Clay noted it was nice to have funds to buy kickboards and clocks. Brent suggested that we raise the dues starting January 1, and send out a message to let the team know. This would encourage more timely registrations. Pam reminded the board that USMS offers members who register in September and October discounted rates; they are only getting two months' worth of membership. Pam made a motion to switch to the \$15 dues starting

January 1, with a \$7 rate for members who register in September/October. Tom seconded and the motion passed.

Dave agreed to make adjustments to the proposed budget and send it out to the board for approval.

Brent pointed out a problem with drop-in registration. Once you purchase one drop-in session, the Montgomery County RecWeb site won't let you purchase another single session. Clay suggested that the team add a two session drop in option. Clay agreed to work with the County to address this issue.

**Newsletter/web site/ bulletin board.** Dottie updated the board on the newsletter and thanked everyone for their contributions. She also thanked Tom and, for the past 10 years, Cathy for proofing the newsletter over the past 17 years. She introduced John Pugh. John helped to edit articles and format the last newsletter and has agreed to serve as assistant newsletter editor. Dottie updated the board on developments with the web site. She's updated it regarding the new registration policy on the Registration page and the Bulletin Board. She changed the logo to the new one we are using on the t-shirts. She asked for some assistance with the web site, especially with adding photos, posting Meet Results, and keeping the Event Calendar updated. Tom updated the board on the bulletin board – he recently put up a new set of photos.

**Next agenda item was the Holiday party.** Kathy Kirmeyer is not able to offer her home as a venue this year. Dave thanked her for her past hosting. He offered the town hall at his community. Nanci Sundel offered her house, subject to spousal approval. Cathy asked about dates. The group consensus was that January 10 was the best date. Holly made a motion that we have the party January 10 at Nanci's house. Nanci seconded and the motion carried. The group agreed that Dave's town hall was a reasonable alternative if necessary.

**The Albatross meet** was next up for discussion. Dave said he had a verbal agreement from Pam Ambrose to reserve the pool for March 21. Jeff arranged a \$99 room rate with Marriott. There was no desire to change the limit on the number of swimmers. Dave asked for approval to purchase Adobe software to assist him in displaying the entries for the meet. The board asked for more information and a cost estimate.

**Old business was next on the agenda.** The board discussed getting another person authorized to sign ANCM checks so that reimbursements could proceed when Mauricio is out of the country. Dave will check with the bank to see how we can accomplish this. The board approved having the President and VP with signing authority. Tom suggested that the Treasurer send out a quarterly budget. Dave countered that a midyear budget might be better, since most significant expenses come around the Albatross. Tom made a motion that the Treasurer send a budget report June 1. John McCaffrey seconded and the motion passed.

A question was also raised about check signing. Currently Mauricio is the only one to sign checks. There was a consensus from the board that the President and Vice-President be given check signing privileges.

Dave opened the floor to any additional old business. Pam mentioned that there are 6 swimmers registered with the County that aren't USMS members. Tom asked that Pam distribute those names to the coaches. Clay said he would get their e-mail addresses from the county so the team could remind them to register with USMS.

Dave summarized the decisions from the meeting:

- Caps will only go to new members and Albatross swimmers;
- Newsletter will only go out in hard copy to swimmers who request one;
- ANCM dues will go up to \$15 January 1. Dave will send an e-mail to members about the change in dues to \$15 starting in January.
- The treasurer will send a financial report in June;
- The Team will e-mail welcome letters to new members.

There was some discussion of moving the annual meeting earlier in the year. The general consensus was that it be held the first week of October. No one felt there had to be a motion since it is already stated in the by-laws that the meeting take place before October 15.

Pam moved to approve the slate of officers. Cathy seconded and the motion passed. Cathy moved to adjourn and Tom seconded at 12:44.