

Minutes of 10/18 ANCM Board meeting

at 11:02 AM Dave Harmon called the meeting to order. Dave passed out copies of the agenda and referenced budget documents and minutes he sent around by e-mail. He proposed that we approve the minutes from the 2014 meeting. Cathy Gainor made the motion and Nanci Sundel seconded. All voted for the approval without revisions.

Dave next moved on to reviewing board position descriptions and nomination of officers. John Pugh has left the board and Nanci Sundel said she is stepping down as Vice President. Holly Donnelly is leaving the social committee. Cathy Gainor was nominated for Vice President. Dave proposed a three-person social committee, with a person for each of our major social events: the fall picnic, the Albatross Social and the holiday party. George Humbert, Nanci Sundel and Lili Peng volunteered to be nominated. Trish Clegg agreed to be nominated as assistant newsletter editor/web master. Dave offered to check with the current at large members to see if they wanted to continue. Holly Donnelly and Kara Permisohn (who was not present) were nominated as Albatross Meet Directors. All the other positions will remain the same as last year.

Pam Blumenthal presented the Registrar's Report: in 2014, there were 269 USMS registrants who selected ANCM, but only 181 who paid ANCM dues. In 2015, when the ANCM fee is included in the USMS registration, there are 256 members, and all paid ANCM dues. There are 63 new members. Pam pointed out that not all swimmers register for each of the three sessions with Montgomery County.

Next on the agenda was the financial statements. Last year, the team made \$2300, which increases team assets by that amount. The income was about the same, most of the difference was a decrease in Albatross expenses related to the social. We also made a little more on sales of team gear. Pam Blumenthal made a motion to approve them. Dave Cheney seconded. All were in favor.

Dottie Buchhagen gave an update on the newsletter and web site. The opt-in policy for a paper newsletter (where only people who notify Dottie get a mailed paper copy) saved a lot of money on postage and printing. She was over budget a bit because one issue went out before she could implement the opt-in policy. Postage decreased from \$475 to \$55 per issue. The web site domain is registered through 2024. There was some confusion on the new server migration (USMS) about making mailing lists for members, but she's got it figured out now. Trish is happy to help with these issues as the new backup for web and newsletter issues.

We next turned to social issues. Dave Harmon suggested that we put social documents up on the web site. *We have "lessons learned" notes from previous socials as well as the picnic task list that has been updated over the many years we have had picnics. Dave thought it would be a good idea to have these in a central known location where they could be updated and kept as reference for members of the social committee.* Holiday party locations mentioned were Holly Donnelly's house and Kenmont Pool, where George is on the board. The social committee will decide the location and date, in January 2016.

Pam Blumenthal and Trish Clegg suggested we consider a different date for the fall picnic next year. Holiday weekends and Saturdays are hard for some people. Some people suggested a picnic right after practice. Attendance was down this year compared to past years. The board decided to also leave this decision to the social committee.

For the Albatross Social, the group seemed to want to reinstate the catered/restaurant social, even if it cost more. One idea is to start the meet earlier, making it easier to get officials and timers. If the meet will start earlier, which may drive better attendance at the social. George asked whether the start would be one or two hours earlier. Holly said that if the pool is available, we should try to start at noon. Dave Harmon pointed out that the proposed budget has \$2800 for social costs. Cathy Gainor suggested that the swimmer's portion of the cost should be a round number for easier time collecting. The social committee will determine the place and food for the social and the cost for swimmers.

The Albatross meet date will be March 5. Pam is going to get a contract together. Cathy strongly suggested an organizational meeting in November. Tom Denes said that we need an agenda approved early. Dave Harmon said we need a meet announcement by November. Cathy noted that USMS sanctioning will take two weeks. Jeff will arrange the block of rooms at the Marriott. Dave mentioned that we might need a new version of the meet software. Nanci made a motion and Pam seconded it to approve the expense. All voted to approve. The group agreed that warm-ups could start at 12 and the meet at 1. Trish made the motion, and Nanci seconded it, then everyone voted to approve.

There was some discussion of eliminating some relays, or rotating them every other year to reduce the time of the meet. The consensus was that, with the meet starting earlier, this would not be necessary. Pam and Trish motioned and the motion carried.

The next topic was whether swimmers who transfer mid-year should have to pay ANCM dues. The group felt this was not worth the trouble, as there is no easy mechanism for collection and the person did already pay dues elsewhere. Tom Denes made a motion and Cathy seconded and the motion carried.

Pam Blumenthal asked if she should give out e-mails for team members upon request. She thought maybe she should offer to send the requester's e-mail address to the requestee, rather than give out the information. Trish asked whether we could put this in a policy document. Trish said she would write it up. She made a motion and Nanci seconded, all voted in favor.

Holly left at noon. Pam Blumenthal took over minutes.

There was discussion on providing caps to team members. Latex caps cost \$3 each. People have expressed interest in silicon caps, which cost \$9 each. A proposal was made to offer each member a free latex cap, but if they wanted a silicon cap, we would only charge \$6 or \$7 for the cap, giving them essentially a credit for the latex cap. Clay made a motion to accept this proposal, Trish seconded and the

motion passed. Someone then suggested black caps, but since the yellow doesn't come out right on those caps, we agreed to stick with yellow.

Clay noted that the white boards are no longer available at the MAC. Some discussion followed on availability of white boards at MLK and Olney. Cathy offered to check with Leon, Pat and Ed to see if white boards were needed at the other facilities. Dave H. made a motion that we include \$100 in the budget for white boards and markers. Trish seconded and the motion passed.

TO DO: Cathy to confirm white boards at Olney and MLK. Then someone needs to order the appropriate number of boards and markers (if not included with the boards).

NEW BUSINESS

The by-laws require that the team hold its annual meeting by October 15. Dave H. noted that this is difficult with many team members participating in triathlons and running and swimming events in Sept and Oct and proposed that we amend the bylaws to require the meeting to occur by November 15. He also suggested moving the accounting period so that the fiscal year for the team ends Sept 30 rather than Aug 31. There was some discussion on why the bylaws included a date, is a specific date required, why shift the fiscal year.

Cathy made a motion to amend the by-laws to state that the annual meeting must occur by November 15 rather than October 15. Clay seconded and the motion passed.

TO DO: Trish is going to download the PDF of the bylaws and try to have Adobe convert it into a word document so we can amend the bylaws now and in the future.

Cathy and Tom raised the issue of requests they had received to allow professionals to offer services to the team members. A discussion followed on advertisers, sponsors, and the many professionals among the team who may want to offer their services. Discussion included the possibility of a "bulletin" space on the website where professionals offered their services. The consensus was that this created a lot of potential problems.

Trish offered to look into sponsors, opportunities to raise money for the team within the team mission. A discussion followed on the use of such funds, including clinics for team members. The issue was raised of using funds for "scholarships" for people who wanted to participate in Masters but can't afford it. Clay said that individuals could talk to the County and find out if they could get reduced fees. Nanci noted a model where members can pay extra into a fund that can then be used for reduced fee memberships. Concerns were raised about managing that process, who would qualify, documentation, etc. The agreement was that Clay would check with Montgomery County to see if it had a process. If it does, we would include this on the FAQ document (e.g.: Q: I want to join masters but can't afford the fees; A: the County offers x, y, z). Additionally, Trish agreed to look into sponsorship and other fundraising opportunities (e.g., becoming qualified to be part of the Combined Federal Campaign).

Dave noted that at a recent PVMC meeting, the main barrier to young people joining Masters was the cost, not the lack of social events.

To deal with the question of professionals having expertise about which team members don't know, Dave C. recommended a membership directory or a LinkedIn page. People were responsive to the LinkedIn idea. Lili noted that the team has a Facebook page but it doesn't have much content or activity. Clay is the administrator. The discussion included the value of recognizing team mates achievements and learning about team mates activities.

A discussion followed about twitter, but Lili doesn't do twitter, so we'll focus on Facebook for now. Lili will provide some of the content to Dottie to consider for the newsletter in the "lane chat" section.

A proposal was made to not provide professionals with access to team members. Pam made the motion. Nanci seconded and the motion passed.

A proposal was made that Dave C. would establish a LinkedIn page for the Ancient Mariners. Pam made the motion. Clay seconded and the motion passed.

A proposal was made that Trish explore sponsorship to raise money in support of the team's mission and report back at the next meeting. Tom made the motion. Dave H. seconded and the motion passed.

A proposal was made that Lili take on responsibility for social media for the team. Dave made the motion. Tom seconded and the motion passed.

Dave C raised the question of the fast lane disappearing and wondered if our membership was declining. Clay noted that membership numbers are high, but attendance is low. A discussion of creating more community, activities, relays ensued. Some social activities exist but are not well-known, like going out on Friday evenings after practice or Sunday brunch. A more active Facebook page may help inform team members of these opportunities.

Clay asked whether the team needed or wanted additional equipment, particularly buoys or paddles. After some discussion, agreement was reached that keeping track of and storing more equipment would not be a good idea.

Dave H noted the need to approve the budget and reviewed the changes to the budget: increasing income by charging \$25 rather than \$20 for the Albatross social; adding \$100 for white boards; and merging the local outings and camping into one entry, local outings, for \$200.

Trish proposed accepting the budget with the three adjustments. Nanci seconded and the motion passed.

The final item on the agenda was to vote for the officers. Dave H. reviewed the changes: VP would be Cathy Gainor. Assistant webmaster/newsletter editor would be Patricia Clegg.

New at-large board members would be: Dave Cheney, Patricia Cleg, and Lili Peng

The Social Committee would consist of Nanci Sundel, George Humbert, and Lili Peng.

Nancy made a motion was made to approve the slate. Tom seconded and the motion passed.

Dave H made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trish seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned (about 12:45?)