

Spartan Alumni Rowing Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2022

I. Call to Order

- a. Doug Rathburn called to order the regular meeting of the Spartan Alumni Rowing Association (S.A.R.A.) at 6:08 PM on December 16, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

II. Roll Call

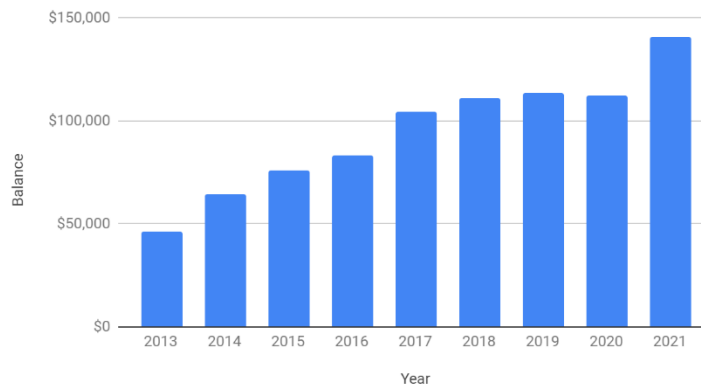
- a. All persons participated via Zoom teleconference: Dan Bachmann, Chris Shoemaker, Lauren Boucher, Tom Hudak, Tom Attenweiler, Tim Marcovy, Meg Attenweiler, Liam Ryan, Mike Krofcheck, Nate Uber, Aaron Marcovy and Doug Rathburn. Guests from the student rowing club included David Kraus (club president) & Emma (Treasurer).

III. Presidents Report – Doug Rathburn

a. Donations & Endowment

- i. Donations and fundraising to SARA were limited in 2022 YTD.
 1. Largest donors were: the Rathburns and an anonymous donor.
 2. We typically get the endowment report for the previous university fiscal year (June 30) in November or December. Though the report seems to come later and later each year.
- ii. Endowment balance at the university's fiscal year end (June 30, 2021) was \$140,814
 1. Distribution amount for 2021 was \$5,491 (~5% distribution) vs. \$5,217 in 2020
 2. We have not received the FY22 report from the university yet.

SARA Endowment Balance



3. The head and assistant coach's salary this year was partially paid for from accrued endowment distributions, balances paid via previous alumni donations, and directly from SARA.
4. Due to the additional funding required for salaries (benefits, etc) required in excess of the salary amount, we're planning on not directing new funds to this endowment. Our focus in the near term will be to set up another, more general purpose, endowment to support the team. A new endowment will require a minimum of \$25,000.

b. Equipment and Other Fundraising

- i. No major equipment purchases in 2022.
 - ii. We did not do a “big” fundraising campaign in 2022 due to COVID-19 and waiting for the boathouse project ramp up. We do anticipate a big push for funds and capital needs in 2023!
- c. Coaching
 - i. Head coach Nate Shoemaker and assistant Katie Williams led the charge coaching the team with support from a number of other volunteer coaches including Tim Marcovy, Rachel Stanley, Kate Kregel, and Aaron Marcovy. The team is in constant need of coaching so please continue to sell the virtues of CWRU rowing as THE program to coach in CLE.
 - ii. The funding plan will be SARA provides \$5000 per year for the coach’s salary with the balance coming from the student’s account (either endowment or student fundraising).
- d. Infrastructure – Boathouse, Tanks, Etc.
 - i. Tanks are still in storage. Since Ken’s passing there is no torch bearer for the project. Need to sell them, use them, or move them to ZRL.
 - ii. Separate boathouse update to be provided.
 - iii. No immediate need for major equipment purchases. We funded the refurbishment of the 2nd wakeless coach’s launch this year to further it’s lifespan.
- e. Other items
 - i. The team fully back on the water after the COVID-19 hiatus of 2020 and early 2021
 - ii. Alumni list is well over 600 people with ~550 good email addresses.
 - iii. Join the Concept2 January Virtual Team Challenge to get your t-shirt and hat!
- f. Motion by Tim Marcovy to approve the President’s Report. Second by Meg Grady. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Fraser Hewson

- a. Presentation and approval of the treasurer’s report is tabled until Fraser can complete. Will circulate via email to participants for approval at a later date.

II. Coach’s Update – Nate Shoemaker

- a. Team Statistics
 - i. ~39 Athletes
 - ii. Attended 5 regattas Fall 2022: Cuyahoga, Ohio, OSU/MSU Scrimmage, Carnegie Mellon Scrimmage, Charles, Speakmon & Hooch
- b. CWRU Rowing Club Coaching Staff:
 - i. Coaches: Nate Shoemaker, Katie Williams.
 - ii. Plus a deep bench of support staff: Aaron Marcovy, Tim Marcovy, Kate Kregel, Rachel Stanley
- c. Team Highlights:
 - i. Getting the opportunity to race again.
 - ii. Strong showings at Head of the Cuyahoga, Head of the Ohio and the Speakmon Regatta.
 - iii. Highlights from the Head of the Hooch:
 - 1. Men’s Varsity 4+ placed 15th out of 46
 - 2. Women's Varsity 4+ placed 8th out of 44.
 - iv. Winter plans: winter conditioning at Cleveland Rowing Foundation 5 mornings a week.
 - v. Spring plans: Spring break in Tennessee. Looking forward to a normal racing season, including MACRA.

- vi. Team's post-covid rebuilding is on-track with numbers, off-track with performance. The team will assess if Dad Vail / ACRA races in "postseason" would be appropriate and competitive. Full slate of scrimmages and races throughout the spring.
- d. Thank you for the support, alumni.

III. Zaclon River Landing Update – Aaron Marcovy & Doug Rathburn

- a. We entered into an agreement in September 2021 with the West Creek Conservancy (WCC) to acquire a parcel of land and industrial building on the Cuyahoga.
- b. The site will be called Zaclon River Landing
- c. West Creek provided the funds to acquire the property, and SARA will have to reimburse WCC at some point in the future. Having an extended timeline allows us to identify public grant/loan sources to reimburse WCC and also for site re-development funds.
- d. Partnering with WCC has been tremendously beneficial. Depending on the grant source, it has allowed us to choose which entity applies – WCC or SARA.
- e. To-date we've applied for numerous public and foundation grants:
 - i. We were granted a Ohio Brownfield Remediation Grant Cleanup/Remediation Program grant for \$811,338
 - ii. We were granted a forgivable loan from the Cuyahoga County Brownfield Match Program for \$131,537.22
 - iii. We have applied (and have high hopes for) a Clean Ohio grant of about \$600,000. The City of Cleveland City Council passed a resolution in support of this grant on behalf of West Creek.
 - 1. We should know in early January if this \$600,000 will be awarded.
 - iv. As part of our public grant application process we have garnered tremendous letters of support from the likes of: Flats Forward, Cleveland Council Member McCormack, Callahan Foundation, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, OHM Advisors (Vision for the Valley), Zaclon LLC, Cuyahoga Valley Coalition.
 - v. We have also applied for a number of local foundation grants, but have not been awarded any yet. Groups often have to apply and go through a funding cycle to become "known" to the foundation. The most promising seems to be with the Cleveland Cliffs Foundation and Gund Foundation.
 - vi. Pro bono legal services being provided to SARA from law firm Meyers Roman to help facilitate sale agreements and lease. We then secured them at a favorable rate for easement work.
 - vii. Fundraising from the alumni base is currently on hold until we figure out how much we get from the public grants. We've secured two, and if we get the third (Clean Ohio) for a total of about \$1.5M we will be able to remediate the site, clean out the building, install the dock and pay back West Creek. We'd essentially have a "clean shell" to occupy as a functioning boathouse. As a result any fundraising plea to alumni would be 100% dedicated to rowing-specific uses within the clean shell!
- f. The site is landlocked. We are working with Zaclon to secure a permanent easement to the south of the property from the Norfolk & Southern railroad. We also have a longer term option to the north. Plan is to get the not-as-optimal easement to the south secured then work longer term (probably with the city) to secure a northern easement/road access.
- g. We prospectively bought 200 feet of dock from the Schuykill Navy for \$18,000. The dock is currently on site and waiting. Aside from building and ground remediation, we'll need to build a ramp down to the floating dock. We don't have a boathouse unless we have a dock so this is the major expenditure ahead

before we can activate rowing/kayak/water sport operations.

IV. Election of the Board of Directors

- a. Proposed Board of Directors: Tom Hudak, Tim Marcovy, Chris Sheridan, Dan Bachmann, Brian Chorney, Fraser Hewson, Doug Rathburn, Chris Shoemaker, Meg Attenweiler, and Lauren Boucher
- b. Motion by Tom Attenweiler, second by Nate Uber to approve board
- c. None opposed, by acclamation Board passed unanimously

V. New business from the membership

- a. General Feedback from membership
 - i. Date of next alumni regatta/event to coincide with the 2023 Head of the Cuyahoga assuming a large participation event can continue to be held next year due to the ongoing global pandemic.
- b. Stay active on social, share work outs on Strava, do an alumni/student erg challenge, weekly alumni team work out during VTC...
- c. Cronin runs the SARA Insta account and Chester Spartan FB page. Message him if you'd like anything featured.
- d. Tim Marcovy motioned to ratify and approve the actions of the officers and SARA Board of Directors since the last Annual General Meeting. Tom Hudak moved to pass motion, Lauren Boucher seconded and the motion passed unanimously by the membership.

VI. Date of Annual Meeting in 2023

- a. Date & location to coincide, with proper notification, with an available time in the fall or winter via teleconference.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Tom Hudak moved to adjourn AGM, second by Tim Marcovy. None opposed.
- b. Doug Rathburn adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.

Immediately following the SARA Annual General Meeting (AGM), the newly elected Board of Directors met to elect Officers.

I. Election of SARA Officers

- a. SARA Board of Directors meeting called to order at 6:50 PM on December 16, 2022
- b. Board of Directors present via Zoom teleconference: Doug Rathburn, Meg Attenweiler, Lauren Boucher, Tim Marcovy, Tom Hudak, Dan Bachmann and Chris Shoemaker. Quorum present.
- c. Officers: Doug Rathburn (President), Dan Bachmann (Vice President), Fraser Hewson (Treasurer), and Brian Chorney (Secretary)
- d. Meg moved to re-nominate slate, Tom seconded. Passed unanimously.
- e. New Business
 - i. Discussion on the boathouse project continued...
 - ii. If we get Clean Ohio, focus will be on designing the inside of the boathouse. Will need to hire an architect immediately.
- f. Meg moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Tim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM

Minutes submitted by: Doug Rathburn

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