

# ***Spartan Alumni Rowing Association***

## ***Annual General Meeting Minutes***

December 7, 2024

### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Doug Rathburn called to order the regular meeting of the Spartan Alumni Rowing Association (S.A.R.A.) at 9:05 AM on December 7, 2024 via Zoom teleconference.

### **II. Roll Call**

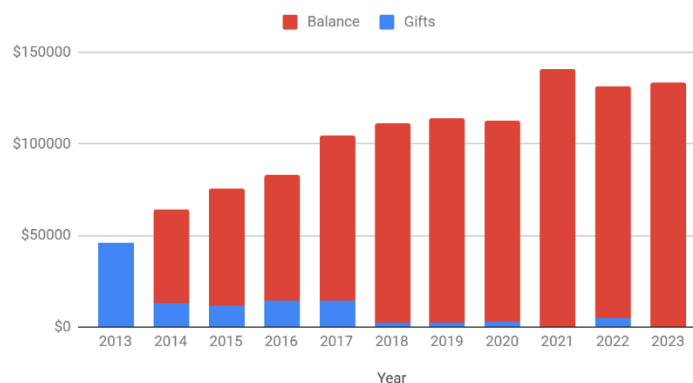
- a. All persons participated via Zoom teleconference: Dan Bachmann, Chris Shoemaker, Lauren Boucher, Tom Hudak, Tom Attenweiler, Tim Marcovy, Liam Ryan, Mike Krofcheck, Nate Shoemaker, Spencer McClung, Serena Lai, Doug Brubaker, Aaron Marcovy, Fraser Hewson, Samuel Diener, and Doug Rathburn. Guests 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 \$41,518 in 2024 YTD.
  1. Largest donors were: Tom Hudak, 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, 2023) was \$133,565
  1. Distribution amount for 2023 was \$5,645 (~5% distribution) vs. \$5,294 in 2022
  2. We have not received the FY24 report from the university yet.

SARA Coaching Endowment Trend



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.
- iii. We have setup a Schwab account so supporters can now donate appreciated shares. Depending

on your tax filing status this is a very efficient method to donate to SARA. If you have stock/shares, if you sell them first then donate the cash you can have a big capital gains hit. Donating the shares can avoid the capital gains tax and you get the full value for your tax donation.

b. Equipment and Other Fundraising

- i. We acquired a 2004 Resolute 8+ in April from Alexandria Crew Boosters. It still needs a name, who's going to step up!
- ii. We acquired a Stillwater Solo wakeless launch from Canada via online auction with Tim and Aaron transporting home from St Catherines. (I'll let Aaron cover that one).
- iii. We have kicked off the Welcome Home Campaign for the new boathouse. We need significant alumni and parent donations to make the inside of the boathouse nice for the team – lockers, bathrooms, work out facilities & ergs, coaches offices, etc. It will be a multi-year endeavor, but worth it for the future of the team. The dedicated campaign page is [HERE](#).

c. Coaching

- i. Head coaches Nate Shoemaker and Katie Tolles led the charge coaching the team with support from Ellie Townsend and Doug Brubaker for the novice squad + a number of other volunteer coaches including Tim Marcovy, 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. The shell fleet is aging and we need to refresh shells, but be prudent with the needs of the boathouse fit out. With certainty around occupying ZRL coming into view, we need to solidify the business plan around potential income sources (corporate sponsors, kayakers, scullers, etc) ASAP.

e. Other items

- i. The team had a huge novice class (35 athletes which encompasses 50% of the full team size), and is targeting a full regatta season with many medals ahead
- 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 Fraser Hewson to approve the President's Report. Second by Tim Marcovy. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Fraser Hewson**

- o Last Year 2023 (Jan-Dec)
  - i. Profit and Loss (Accrual basis)

# Spartan Alumni Rowing Association

## Profit Loss Last Year

January - December 2023

	<b>TOTAL</b>
▶ Revenue	\$127,978.59
GROSS PROFIT	\$127,978.59
▶ Expenditures	\$80,537.64
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$47,440.95
NET REVENUE	\$47,440.95

1. Total income: \$127,978
  2. Total Expense: \$80,537
  3. Net Income (loss): \$47,440
- ii. Cash Flow
1. Net cash provided by operations: \$47,440
  2. Combined with depreciation -18,544
  3. Leaving us with a cash balance of \$87,291 at the end of the year.
- iii. Expenses for the year: \$27,018

### Major Items:

Legal-Prof Fees	45,695.37
Zaclon	10,512.00
Insurance	8,069.30
Coaching Salary	7,000.00
Rack Rent	4,808.50
Storage	1,800.00
Clothing	1,510.71
Equipment Expense	847.82
Tax	234.00

### iv. Donations and other Income:

▼ Donation Received	12,349.30
Boat House	100,000.00
PayPal Giving Fund	13,905.00
Dues	15.00
<b>Total Donation Received</b>	<b>126,269.30</b>
Other Inc	1,000.00
▼ Fund Raising Income	0.00
Amazon	485.03
Google	224.26
<b>Total Fund Raising Income</b>	<b>709.29</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$127,978.59</b>

v. Balances compared to the previous year

	TOTAL		
	AS OF DEC 31, 2023	AS OF DEC 31, 2022 (PP)	% CHANGE
▼ ASSETS			
▶ Current Assets	\$87,261.15	\$40,074.61	117.75 %
▶ Fixed Assets	\$0.00	\$28,053.43	-100.00 %
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$87,261.15</b>	<b>\$68,128.04</b>	<b>28.08 %</b>

o 2024 Year-to-date (Jan-Dec)

## Spartan Alumni Rowing Association

### Profit Loss Year-to-date

January 1 - December 7, 2024

	TOTAL		
	JAN 1 - DEC 7, 2024	JAN 1 - DEC 7, 2023 (PY)	% CHANGE
▼ Revenue			
▼ Donation Received	20,313.10	11,649.11	74.37 %
Boat House	11,000.00	100,000.00	-89.00 %
Dues	5.00	15.00	-66.67 %
PayPal Giving Fund	10,200.00	11,905.00	-14.32 %
<b>Total Donation Received</b>	<b>41,518.10</b>	<b>123,569.11</b>	<b>-66.40 %</b>
▶ Fund Raising Income	305.62	709.29	-56.91 %
Gain on Fixed Asset Disposal	566.62	0.00	
Other Inc	0.00	1,000.00	-100.00 %
Payment Received	0.00	0.00	
Zaclon Grant Received	325,705.92	0.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$368,096.26</b>	<b>\$125,278.40</b>	<b>193.82 %</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$368,096.26	\$125,278.40	193.82 %
▶ Expenditures	\$103,520.81	\$80,387.64	28.78 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$264,575.45	\$44,890.76	489.38 %
▶ Other Expenditures	\$840.80	\$0.00	0.00%
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -840.80	\$0.00	0.00%
NET REVENUE	\$263,734.65	\$44,890.76	487.50 %

i. Fundraising and Donations

1. We have raised \$41,518 in donations. For the first time we processed a donation of appreciated stock. This amounted to \$9,604.
2. We have received \$368,069 in grants to fund the development of the Zaclon River Landing.
3. Fund-raising activities through Amazon and Google have brought in \$305, which is down from \$709 last year.
4. Keep an eye out for companies you are already spending with that have commission opportunities for nonprofits like SARA.

- ii. Our expenses to date are \$103,520. However, we have also invested \$306,680 into shells, launches and the Zaclon Project. Major categorised expenses this year are:

Rack Rent	14,925.50
Coaching Salary	12,500.00
Zaclon	11,463.17
Insurance	10,039.80
Storage	1,650.00
Charity	0.00
Bank Charge	340.58
Depreciation Expense	166.65
Tax, Business	100.00
Auto	65.59
Licenses and Permits	58.00
Office	23.17

- iii. From a cash perspective, we have \$42,880 on hand as of today which is down from \$87,261 at the beginning of the year. Because of the Zaclon project, our available cash has been changing rapidly over the course of the year.
- iv. With the boathouse project in full swing, we need solid support over the next years. The grants we are receiving will cover the renovation of the site, but it will fall to us to convert it into a boathouse.
- v. Reminder -- SARA membership fees are \$5/year. Membership is required to vote at the AGM. Pay via PayPal. <https://bit.ly/sara-dues> or scan the QR Code. As of the writing of this report, the paid-up members are:
- Nimish Mehta
  - Doug Rathburn
  - Liam Ryan
  - Brian Chorney
  - Ian Steiner
  - Fraser Hewson
  - Douglas Brubaker
  - Lauren Boucher
  - Tom Hudak
  - Serena Lai
  - Daniel Bachman
- vi. Donations through PayPal Giving Fund are 100% to SARA. This is the best way to make donations. The links on the SARA website will now go through the PayPal Giving Fund.
- vii. Motion by Tom Hudak to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Doug Brubaker. Unanimously approved.



## II. Coach's Update – Nate Shoemaker and Katie Tolles

- Team Statistics
  - i. ~70 Athletes
  - ii. Attended 3 regattas Fall 2024: Head of the Cuyahoga, Head of the Ohio, Head of the Hooch
- CWRU Rowing Club Coaching Staff:

- i. Varsity Coaches: Nate Shoemaker, Katie Tolles.
- ii. Novice Coaches: Ellie Townsend, Doug Brubaker
- iii. Plus a deep bench of support staff: Aaron Marcovy, Tim Marcovy, Karen Abbot, etc.
- o **Team Highlights:**
  - i. Strong showings at Head of the Cuyahoga, Head of the Ohio and the Head of the Hooch.
  - ii. Highlights from the **Head of the Cuyahoga:**
    - o **Men's Varsity**
      - i. 8+ (2 entries) placed 1st & 7th ([SARA Entry!!!!](#))
      - ii. 4s+ placed (three entries) placed 4th, 5th, 6th
    - o **Women's Varsity**
      - i. 8+ placed 1st
      - ii. 4+s (two entries) placed 4th & 8th
    - o **Men's Novice**
      - i. 8+ placed 1st
    - o **Women's Novice**
      - i. 8+ placed 3rd
  - ii. Highlights from **Head of the Ohio:**
    - o **Men's Varsity**
      - i. 8+ placed 6th
      - ii. 4+s placed 5th & 8th out of 17
      - iii. Lightweight 4+ placed 3rd
      - iv. Pair placed 1st
    - o **Women's Varsity**
      - i. 8+ placed 7th
      - ii. 4+s placed 5th & 8th out of 22
    - o **Men's Novice**
      - i. 8+ placed 5th
      - ii. 4+ placed 4th
    - o **Women's Novice**
      - i. 8+ placed 3rd
      - ii. 4+ placed 7th
  - iii. Highlights from the **Head of the HOOCH:**
    - **Men's Varsity**
      - a. 8+ placed 14th out of 36
      - b. 2nd & 3rd Varsity 4+s (2 entries) placed 21st & 32nd out of 39
    - **Women's Varsity**
      - a. 8+ placed 11th out of 28
      - b. 4+s placed 18th & 19th (2 sec margin) out of 43
    - **Men's Novice**
      - a. 8+ placed 12th out of 30
    - **Women's Novice**
      - a. 8+ placed 7th out of 26
  - iv. **2.5 Weeks post-season voluntary training**  
Roughly 45-50 athletes opting into training and participating in the year-end biathlon on Saturday, November 23rd!

- See [Biathlon Results here](#)
- i. Winter plans: winter conditioning at Cleveland Rowing Foundation 5 mornings a week.
- ii. Spring plans: Spring break in Georgia at Lake Lanier. Looking forward to a normal racing season, including Dad Vail
- Thank you for the support, alumni.

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

- 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 – the overall site is called Zaclon River Landing.
- The site is 2.76 acres with over 200 feet of river frontage on the “straightest” part of the Cuyahoga up river in the calm, safer zone of the river. It is an ideal “forever home” location for the team.
- West Creek provided the initial funds to acquire the property, and with the funded grants we’ve received have been repaid.
- Partnering with WCC has been tremendously beneficial. Depending on the grant source, it has allowed us to choose which entity applies for grants – WCC or SARA. Our structure with WCC allows us to renew the lease virtually forever and when things have run their course with the site development sell us the property for \$1. The project really has been a win-win for both SARA and WCC.
- To-date we’ve awarded numerous public and foundation grants totally over \$1.5M:
  - 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 were granted a Clean Ohio grant of about \$600,000.
  - 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. 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.
  - vi. Fundraising from the alumni base has just recently started in earnest. The grants have allowed us to create a “clean shell” – the building is remediated and ready to build out and the dock ramp is almost done. Now all we have to do is build out the inside of the boathouse (not eligible for public grants. The basic organization will be anything on the exterior of the building, including the dock/ramp, will be accessible by the public, but anything inside the building will be reserved for program use (i.e. SARA activities).
- 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 (this topic has been lingering with Zaclon’s lawyers for a couple years now). 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.
- Shell racking for ~12 eights and ~12 smaller boats was delivered on Dec 4.
- Immediate next steps include our dock builder finishing the dock/ramp, developing a plan for the north wall of the building to create bay doors to get shells in/out, finish a bunch of concrete work, setup up the racks, develop a plan for initial facilities like bathrooms – all in order to have the team start rowing out of the facility in the spring 2025!

**IV. Election of the Board of Directors**

- 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
- Motion by Chris Shoemaker, second by Dan Bachmann to approve board
- None opposed, by acclamation Board passed unanimously

**V. New business from the membership**

- General Feedback from membership
  - i. Date of next alumni regatta/event to coincide with the 2025 Head of the Cuyahoga assuming a large participation event can continue to be held next year due to the ongoing global pandemic.
  - ii. CIVIC discussion - it's been very productive for us working with West Creek. We are reviewing creating an organization that's more environmentally/civically oriented as the ultimate owner of ZRL. Working through details of SARA/CIVIC structure with CIVIC focused on the site and SARA focus on the alumni and rowing team. More details to come. Proposed name is Cuyahoga Industrial Valley Improvement Corporation (CIVIC).
- Stay active on social, share work outs on Strava, do an alumni/student erg challenge, weekly alumni team work out during VTC...
- Cronin runs the SARA Insta account and Chester Spartan FB & Insta pages. Message him if you'd like anything featured.
- Tim Marcovy motioned to ratify and approve the actions of the officers and SARA Board of Directors since the last Annual General Meeting. Doug Brubaker moved to pass motion, Fraser Hewson seconded and the motion passed unanimously by the membership.

**VI. Date of Annual Meeting in 2025**

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

**VII. Adjournment**

- Lauren Boucher moved to adjourn AGM, second by Dan Bachmann. None opposed.
- Doug Rathburn adjourned the meeting at 10:21 AM.



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 10:22 AM on December 7, 2024
- b. Board of Directors present via Zoom teleconference: Doug Rathburn, 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. Dan Bachmann moved to re-nominate slate, Lauren Boucher seconded. Passed unanimously.
- e. New Business
  - i. Tim discussed for awareness purposes USRowing regs on coaching staffs - all coaches need Level 1 certification and one of those certified coaches attend all regattas. Students will need championship level membership in order to row in USRowing sanctioned events. The Scholastic Rowing Association announced yesterday they're pulling out of USRowing and may be the start of actions against USRowing by the rowing population. We'll need to stay ahead of developments in order to support the team.
- f. Tim Marcovy moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Dan Bachmann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM

Minutes submitted by: Doug Rathburn

December 7, 2024