

VASHON SEALS BOARD MINUTES-November 5, 2009

Present:

Shari Arnesen

Julie Danzer

Jill Dziko

Bruce Jackson

Lisa MacLeod

Niamh Prince

Hanh Shaw

Travis Shaw

Beth Tuttle

Call to order: 7:12pm

Approval of minutes from October 1, 2009 meeting

Motioned by Hanh

Seconded by Julie

Review of Action Items:

Most of the action items from last month's meeting were completed

Outstanding action items:

- Travis and Shari will research another accountant, not needed until the first quarter
- Lisa will develop an implementation policy to inform parents and swimmers of team policies-Lisa will have policy for next board meeting

Discussion and Lines of Communication with the Parks District:

Discussion by Travis regarding the chain of command for board communication with the Parks District and who should be "officially" communicating with the Parks District.

Travis noted it is in the Swim team's contract with the Parks District the chain of communication should be the Registrar first and then the President. However, there are circumstances in which different people may be talking with the Parks District, i.e. financial discussions by the treasurer.

Travis is concerned about someone on the board or at the Parks District being left behind and not receiving important information or for information to be given to someone who should not be privileged to certain information. Travis reminded the Board there is a need for everyone involved with the aquatics program to be mindful of who they are talking with and who they should be talking with as well as the need for point person who is responsible for the dissemination of information.

Discussion about the Vashon Aquatic Club's identity:

Travis also brought up the concern, voiced by some, about the Vashon Aquatic Club having a unique identity that is recognizable and separate from the Vashon Athletic Club. Travis brought up the issue of living in a small community and having to exist with other

swim teams and the importance of working together as a community of swimmers to get what we need. Travis asked that we keep in mind the end goal which is to have a covered community pool and everyone has to work together in order to achieve this goal. Travis spoke to the fact that everyone in the community understands the dynamics and politics of the situation and the importance of taking the “high road” and working our hardest to include everyone in the process. Travis feels the Parks District will appoint someone who is fair to oversee the transition of the county pool to the city. Travis feels the goal is to be inclusive and help the community, as a whole, to understand the importance of the public pool. Travis is currently on the committee to work on covering the public pool.

Coach’s report:

- Lisa had a meeting last night with the other coaches to discuss a couple of on-deck issues. The outcome of the meeting was:
 - The coaches are managing the practices differently and have created 4 lanes with an extra “dry land” lane
 - Lisa had two meetings with parents and have implemented a behavior plan with one swimmer
 - Working with another swimmer to overcome some issues
 - Lisa and Randy have split up the team and Randy will work with an All-star team who are able to concentrate and work on their swimming while Lisa will work with the part of the team who have a bit more difficulty focusing
- Tazi and Jessica are back swimming and did a trial run to see how the extra bodies worked in the pool. Lisa feels the extra bodies are fine.
- Lisa will work with the Park District to figure out how to pro-rate their fee
- Lisa’s son is also back in the pool, he’s fee will also be pro-rated
- Lisa says practice is going very well and the swimmers are working hard
- Lisa is planning to run a safety drill at the next practice so the kids know what to do in the case of a head or neck injury.
 - Lisa wants to make sure the swimmers know how to behave if there is an injury
 - The primary objective is to get the swimmers to take it seriously when they are told to get out of the pool
 - Lisa was to make sure all swimmers are able to get out of the pool and sit with their back against the wall until told to move by the coaches
 - The swimmers who are life guard trained will be asked to watch the younger swimmers but will not have life guard duties.

Safety chair:

- Bruce discussed the safety chair position and two possible scenarios for the position:
 - The first scenario is to have a medical professional who can tell others what to do
 - The other scenario is to have someone who is very concerned about safety and can choose the proper people to handle safety issues and concerns

- The board agreed having someone who is concerned about safety, knows about safety and can implement the proper safety policies is preferable to a medical profession who simply gives directions

Treasure's report:

- The Board discussed the issue of coaches trading hours and the fact they are salaried employees. The Board consensus was, it is important the coaches understand they salaried employees and they need to talk with Lisa before the make arrangements to trade hours
- The Board agreed we need to build into the budget leave time for the coaches for sick days. This needs to be in the budget so Lisa can pull someone in when another coach is needed
- Currently there are 6 hours/month in the budget to pull someone in when an extra coach is needed so at this point the Board felt no changes to the budget are necessary.
- If a coach needs to take time off for whatever reason they are expected to trade hours with another coach unless they are ill for an extended period of time.
- Travis will clarify trading of hours and salary with Lu-Ann and Randy when he presents them with their offer letters.
- The coaches need to talk with Lisa about a replacement if they are going to be out

Budget:

- Ended the year very well with an increased budget due to increased enrollment over the summer
- The Parks District is currently working on a policy to deal with families who are not paying their enrollment fees which are currently being paid through the reduced fee fund
- Shari will begin sending out a monthly report to the Board which will provide specifics about what monies the team is paying so the Board will have a better understanding of team finances
- Shari spoke with Dana Muller and Mary Van Egmond who have agreed to conduct the financial and operations audit. They will also create a master sheet of all the items that need to be taken care of the board, i.e. license renewals
- Discussion of creating a master calendar for the Board to make sure we are meeting all target dates
- On November 11th the Parks District will vote on a change to the reduced fee program. The change will affect their process for handling families in the reduced fee program. If the proposal goes through the Parks District will reduce the amount the support each family will receive as well as reduce the amount they reimburse the Aquatics Club. The maximum they will pay any individual for all programs will be \$300. This could potentially have a huge effect on the Aquatics club. If it passes this policy will take effect in January
- Travis will attend the November 11th Parks District meeting and discuss how the Aquatics Club fundraises and gives back to the Parks District and how we would be penalized because we have to pay to rent facilities and coaches unlike the other Parks District activities.

- If the Club has limited funds for reduce fee swimmers how do we prioritize which swimmers when we register swimmers?
- Discussion of ways to provide scholarships to help kids who cannot afford the fees
- Further discussion is tabled until the next board meeting after Parks District vote

Volunteer Report:

- Everyone read, approved and accepted into the minutes Laurie's volunteer report

Action items:

1. Jill will continue to work on long-term off island practice and will have a report at the December meeting
2. Niamh will contact Beth regarding PNS forms
3. Lisa will follow up with Bainbridge pool about other time options for the Jingle Bell meet
4. Hanh will present an update about the January challenge at the next Board meeting

Meeting adjourned: 9:20pm