

Ocean City Crew Boosters, Inc.
MINUTES
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
JUNE 8, 2016

The Annual Board Meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm by Suze DiPietro, President.

Board Members Present:

Suze DiPietro, President
Karen Koptic, Vice President
Kirsten Canuso, Treasurer
Stephen Martinelli, Secretary
Ruthann Meyer, Girls' Liaison
Jane Mack, Boys' Liaison
Dan Dubbs, Past Secretary
Steve Nathan
Lynn Baumgardner, Trustee at Large
Faith Camp-O'Donnell, Trustee at Large
Gail Ping, Trustee at Large

Public Comments:

Cheryl Ann Bartello (parent) asked how long does it take for the minutes to come up on the website? Ruthann Meyer said we have three (3) meeting minutes to approve tonight. They have to be read and reviewed and then approved – they cannot be posted until they are approved. Allison Yoa (parent) asked who reviews the minutes. Stephen Martinelli answered that all Board members are emailed the minutes for review and asked to send any revisions or comments. They are then approved at the next meeting.

Tom Cooper (parent) asked what is the status of the boathouse? Stephen Martinelli answered that they received a letter from the NJDEP yesterday showing the location of where the three osprey nests would have to be placed, the Cape May County Vocational Technical School has been contacted and they are supposedly helping us build the nests. NJDEP has also asked us to narrow one of the docks. I have a good feeling about the dockage, we have permission to build the boathouse, the dockage was the hardest part. We have had a positive response from the Cape May County Open Space department. We have been moving right along, as fast as the State will move. Billy Mack (parent and husband of boys' liaison Jane Mack) I am an assistant boy scout troop leader – it is something that would be perfect for an eagle scout project. It will be sometime around October. Stephen Martinelli said we could potentially start demolition around October. We may not have a building for next year, we have to apply for open space money by August, but we are working on it. Suzanne Hornick (parent) the eagle scout project is great idea.

Suzanne Hornick also asked if there is any chance we can have the banquet somewhere less expensive. Kirsten Canuso said that is something good to discuss for next year; we can address that with our new fundraising chair. Jane Mack said other programs use the school. Bill Love (parent) said the lacrosse banquet fee is \$10, student is free – it is at the school.

Cheryl Ann Bartello said she would like to get her money back for the dinners at Nationals because the bus driver was not back in time. Also, she stated that the tip was included in the driver's fee. Kirsten Canuso said she feels for everyone that paid, but with the time constraint, the boosters had to pay – in a perfect world, we did not know that the delay on the river would effect it. Kirsten Canuso said she is very sorry, but if we humbly request that everyone wait until the matters are researched it would be appreciated. Cheryl Ann Bartello asked if her son went alone, who would have picked him up. No one looked out for the kids without parents there to make sure he got there. Who would have gotten my kid there? Why did we hire a bus if he could not drop them off everywhere? I don't feel that anyone looked after my kid, he would have been left there alone. Suzanne Hornick said Suze DiPietro was putting kids in my car. Heather Williams (parent and past board member) stated that the first night (Thursday), they had no ride – there was a parent caravan on the first night, you knew there would be carpools – the coaches assisted us with getting all the kids to the carpool. Cheryl Ann Bartello was concerned - what did we hire a bus for. Jane Mack said it was not disclosed to the Board that the tip and room was included in his salary. Jane Mack said a parent called the bus company and they were informed that the contract included the tip and dinners. The Board was not informed that this was included. Ruthann Meyer said we will track down the contract, read it and get back to the members. Cheryl Ann Bartello does not like the passive attitude. Heather Williams said that it was known before we left - Jenn Kane (parent) called the bus company and pulled up our contract on the website and she was told that the tip and dinners were included. Ruthann Meyer said that if the contract stated they would be transported to/from events, then it should be addressed. Mary Ann Giardina wanted an answer now. Steve Nathan asked who knew about this? The Board did not have the contract, the school did and neither does Jenn Kane. Dan Dubbs said we did not pay for the bus, so the school has the copy. Kirsten Canuso said we could call the school for the contract. Mary Ann Giardina said that our concerns all along have been dismissed. We were told to be quiet and patronized by Dennis Fisher (parent who arranged for the bus transportation that ultimately the school paid for) and that we were picking things a la carte for the trip. We had our kids ready to room with us in a house we rented because we didn't know about the arrangements already made for Nationals. Our daughter does what the coach tells her to do – we sent her on the bus and she stayed in the hotel room, we did what was asked of us.

Heather Williams said we want to see the accounting.

Allyson Japzon (parent and wife of vice-president elect Mario Japzon) said we were led to believe that the kids were going to have bus transportation, but it wasn't ready. Suze DiPietro said that St. Augustine Prep had the same situation – it concerns the amount of hours driven. Cheryl Ann Bartello said that the last time nationals was brought up it was only three weeks before they were leaving so why didn't we know about the bus. Steve Nathan said that for every other year, the school provided a bus, this year, the school forgot and said it wasn't in the budget. We pushed and the school recognized that they made a mistake and provided a bus. Cheryl Ann Bartello said that if I were on a committee, this would be a big deal. Cheryl Ann Bartello is now on the nationals committee. Steve Nathan said make sure the committee calls to double check on the bus. Kirsten Canuso said take a step back, maybe due diligence was not taken all the way through and applaud the individual that stepped up, this year has been very bumpy, I understand your frustration. I think everyone has the right to speak their mind.

Allyson Japzon said she is worried about the money being given to the bus driver and not seeing a receipt. Others (sorry, did not get all the names – too many speaking at once) stated that they want proof that Suze gave the tip money to the bus driver. Suze DiPietro said she has a receipt.

Peg Baker (parent) said wow, ok, I am not on the board, my son does not want me to be on the board, everyone is very passionate – there are so many people and so much to be done, you are only a small piece – I am sorry that I did not step up to do this, things can get toxic and there are a lot of questions and everyone does not know how it works, there are always going to be problems, questions but it cannot be toxic – nothing is going to work. When people leave, new people have to get involved.

Becky Greene (parent and Girls' Liaison-elect) said that she would just like to say I understand that there is a lot of emotion and everyone has a lot of questions, this room of adults - it is despicable – if someone has a question, you wait your turn, ask the question and wait for the answer, give them a chance to answer. Joseph Giardnia (parent) made a loud inaudible noises. Becky Greene turned to Joseph Giardina and said I can hear you and you just proved my point about the immaturity and unprofessionalism going on here by the parents. I thought Nationals was great – it was difficult, communication breaks down. If you are accusing someone of doing something, and if I were one of them, I would want you to have some pretty good damn proof, but you need to give them a chance to produce it. I had a good time, it was exciting, it was exhilarating and my kid had a great time. I was glad someone figured it all out. If I wasn't there, I know that they would not let my kid be alone.

Karin Stanks (parent) said that she agrees with Becky (Greene), I was at Nationals – it was fantastic – it was the best of crew, I had complaints along the way, and yes, we had to drive kids, we all worked together. As a parent it was great, kids had a good time and it upsets me that people think it was done poorly. I thank everyone who stepped up and did so much.

Billy Mack – back to the comment about the tip – if there is a contract that contains a tip, we need to go back to the school. Ruthann Meyer said we already stated that we are going to do that.

Mary Jean Majka (parent) said that the hotel (The Baymont) told her that we were the best behaved bunch of school kids that they ever had. I think a lot of the parents deserve praise. Kirsten Canuso said that Eagle Sticks (the golf club where the dinners were held) said the kids were very well behaved.

Jenn Cooper said that the manager of The Baymont said that the Ocean City High School Crew Team impressed the staff. Ruthann Meyer said that she thinks we can learn from this and all this will be addressed, you just have to give us a chance.

Cheryl Ann Bartello said she is upset that the bus driver was not pressed to take the kids back and forth. Ruthann Meyer said that the next time it comes up, we will address this issue. Ruthann Meyer said she was devastated that her daughter was not going – I would have paid \$1,000.00 to see her go – it is a team. There are issues, and no one takes issues any more personal than myself. It is the big picture for the team. It is a good thing that I am retired – this is a full time job. My daughter is loving this program – that is why I invest all this time. You have to give us a chance to address issues. We have different perspectives and different points of view on the Board, that is how it is. The freshman parents really stepped up to the plate. I am

excited for Mario (Japzon) – it should be a great year. This program will go places – there are bigger issues to address. The parents volunteering is a huge shot in the arm. Bear with us, don't accuse us – we do not have personal vendettas – we are only volunteers. We cannot be crew 365 days a year – we are listening. You also need to know that you need to step up and volunteer not only to bring food to two races. We have \$100,000.00 budget – we are unique. The bigger picture needs to be realized.

Jane Mack asked Suze DiPietro: I know you have another year as President, I know that if my son were rowing in college, I would be at every one of his races, so will you be at the high school races? How do you feel that you will participate fully when you do not have a rower in the program? It is also a conflict of interest with the Masters program. Stephen Martinelli said to Jane Mack that we voted on that matter and approved that it was not a conflict. Suze DiPietro said that I am in the program because I love crew. I engage older women into crew with a crew camp in the morning. I just love crew. I spend a lot of time – I adore crew. I think that calling me out in front of a crowd is again something I would never do. I am getting through this season, I knew when I took the position. Stephen Martinelli asked Lynn Baumgardner and Faith Camp-O'Donnell why are they here. Faith Camp-O'Donnell answered because of history, an active member to have an office, things we discuss in executive session, it is unfortunate. The school board is not happy with crew and they have contacted me and hopefully we can fix that. Suze DiPietro said she will be doing fundraising. Gail Ping said she has been on crew since the beginning, and my kids did not row, they danced, I stayed on for fundraising, I was not in the trenches of crew. My path didn't cross with others because I was fundraising. I do however think that it is important that a person in an officer's position be in the trenches. Lynn Baumgardner said that is a discussion for later, can we please move on.

Becky Greene wanted it to appear on the record that at the meeting of May 11, 2016, there was a parent who described an issue of a HIB report being brought against girls on a specific boat. There was a full investigation by the school, a lot of testimony, and each girl on the boat received a letter from the school stating that there was no evidence of a HIB incident and they were all cleared.

Billy Mack suggested that the Board send a letter to the Blue Water Condominium thanking them, especially with the construction, they have been very patient. Ruthann Meyer sent the kids through the condominium complex for the clean up. Billy Mack said the program is growing and everyone going over 34th street will see that and then more people will be involved.

Kirsten Canuso made a motion to end the public portion of the meeting and move to the closed session, seconded by Dan Dubbs, 9 yes – DiPietro, Koptic, Canuso, Martinelli, Dubbs, Baumgardner, Meyer, Mack, O'Donnell-Camp & Ping; 1 no - Nathan; motion approved.

A discussion ensued about Suze DiPietro being President while she does not have a rower in the program. Faith Camp-O'Donnell said that the language is grey, we have never had an officer without a rower in the program. Steve Nathan said that the bylaws would have to be amended if we wanted to add a member from the masters program to join our Board. Dan Dubbs said they can be a non-voting member of the OCCB. Steve Nathan said that eventually we will have a boathouse board and that should be addressed also. Karen Koptic asked about voting or ex-officio member. Steve Nathan said perhaps a voting member. There are a lot of people that want to see the program succeed and perhaps we should have a few more voting members.

Kirsten Canuso said for example we have a boathouse committee where one member comes to the meeting and votes. Same with Masters, definitely have to work on the boathouse and the OCCB needs to work with masters.

Dan Dubbs stated that we have had a large turnover and we cannot let Suze leave. Stephen Martinelli said that the bylaws say “only members of OCCB with rowers in that year’s program will be eligible for election to the Board” – it does not say that they cannot fulfill their position on the Board, she has to fulfill that position, (to Jane Mack) do you want her to step down? Stephen Martinelli said he believes that it is a conflict to be on the board when you have a rower. Faith Camp-O’Donnell said in general that the officers should have an active rower to be an officer. Stephen Martinelli said that Suze DiPietro sincerely has the respect of a lot of people and that she will continue the office. Gail Ping has been on every board and has been close to all of them except this one – I understand; people step up every year. My thoughts are about what I have seen, been involved in over the years with the Board and nothing personal. I could never be a president as passionate as I am and have not been in the trenches.

Karen Koptic said that when the president resigned, it was not clear in the bylaws, Suze DiPietro stepped up and then Karen Koptic moved to Vice President; Suze DiPietro said she planned on having a conversation with the Board about my role. Suze DiPietro said to Jane Mack that it was not appreciated that it was brought up at the general meeting not in the executive session. It is not about me being president. Jane Mack said that there were personal vendettas.

Stephen Martinelli wanted to thank Faith Camp-O’Donnell and Gail Ping for coming to the meetings and helping us out. Karen Koptic questioned why the Ocean City School Board was asking for Faith Camp-O’Donnell rather than the president. Faith Camp-O’Donnell answered that the Ocean City Board of Education was very specific when they voted to start the crew program and they have been contacting me since the beginning.

Be it duly noted that the new officers were invited to the executive meeting.

- I. Appointment of Trustees at Large – Kirsten Canuso nominated Faith Camp-O’Donnell as a trustee at large and Steve Nathan as trustee at large, seconded by Stephen Martinelli - a discussion ensued: Suze DiPietro asked Faith Camp-O’Donnell if she could show up to the meetings and executive session. Suze DiPietro also said it would be sad if we lose the services of Dan Dubbs and Steve Nathan. Dan Dubbs continues on with his daughter rowing. Karen Koptic appreciates the services of the ladies, but there has not been as much participation as I thought. Karen Koptic proposed that the shared trustee at large positions become non-voting members of the OCCB. Karen Koptic nominated Dan Dubbs as a trustee at large. Steve Nathan said that nothing says in the bylaws and Roberts rules, it can be a shared vote – trustees should not be more than two (2) votes. Gail Ping said that she does not read emails - I am still there for whatever you need but I feel I don’t have as much to contribute. I can certainly add to the fundraising, or to the boathouse but not the board. Steve Nathan removed his name from the nomination. Kirsten Canuso amended her motion – to nominate two trustees Faith Camp-O’Donnell and Dan Dubbs, seconded by Stephen Martinelli. Jane Mack asked if we vote no, can Ruthann Meyer be nominated? Ruthann Meyer said she is going to put her time and effort into helping

Allison Yoa. Vote taken: 7 yes – DiPietro, Koptic, Canuso, Martinelli, Meyer, Mack, Nathan; 2 abstain – Dubbs, Camp-O'Donnell & Ping, motion approved.

II. Approval of May 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 regular meeting was made by Dan Dubbs, seconded by Karen Koptic. Vote taken: 6 yes – DiPietro, Koptic, Martinelli, Dubbs, Meyer, Mack; 1 no – Canuso; 2 abstain – Nathan, Camp-O'Donnell & Ping; motioned approved.

III. Approval of May 16, 2016 Parent Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 parent meeting was made by Karen Koptic, seconded by Dan Dubbs. Vote taken: 6 yes – DiPietro, Koptic, Martinelli, Dubbs, Meyer, Nathan; 1 no – Canuso; 2 abstain – Mack, Camp-O'Donnell & Ping; motion approved.

IV. Approval of May 17, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 regular meeting with the revisions per Jane Mack was made by Karen Koptic, seconded by Ruthann Meyer; after a brief discussion, the approval of the May 17, 2016 regular meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Kirsten Canuso made a motion to accept newly elected officers to the OCCB, seconded by Dan Dubbs, unanimously approved.

Good of the Order

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm by Suze DiPietro.