

**Ocean City High School Crew Boosters, Inc.**  
**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 22, 2016**

The Special Board Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Suze DiPietro, President.

Board Attendees:

Suze DiPietro  
Karen Koptic  
Stephen Martinelli  
Ruthann Meyer  
Jane Mack  
Dan Dubbs

Coach Mike Millar stated that one of his freshman boats is in bad shape and in need of repair. He has the opportunity to rent a boat from Holy Spirt for \$2,000.00 for the remainder of the season. Stephen Martinelli would like Coach Millar to ask Holy Spirit for the option to put the rental fee toward the purchase price if they are willing to sell the boat. A motion was made by Ruthann Meyer, seconded by Dan Dubbs, all in favor.

Ruthann Meyer stated that the freshman parents are really stepping up with volunteering and it is great.

Coach Millar had a question in reference to girls boat that was damaged due to the pipe that after speaking with Athletic Director, Dr. Taylor, City of Ocean City, Coast Guard – what is the next step in removing the pipe, it is halfway in the channel – it was determined that it is the dredge company's responsibility to remove the pipe. Coach Millar feels that it is the dredge company before the one that is working there now. Ruthann Meyer asked if it can be removed – Dan Dubbs said how about sea tow. Stephen Martinelli said he may be able to mark the pipe with some empty jugs. Ruthann Meyer asked about who is responsible for the right of way. Stephen Martinelli said the State of New Jersey owns anything flowed by high water.

Ian Tapp will look at the boat from Holy Spirit and report to the Board. Kirsten Canuso will be contacted if the boat is acceptable.

Suze DiPietro said CrewZaPalooza is set for 4/16/16 at Whippoorwill campground.

Summer camp – last year we did it ourselves at a \$100.00 discount from when we did the camp with Ocean City – we did not earn a lot, but we weren't in the red. We need to figure out how to run the camp this year. Ruthann Meyer asked where the money goes – Kirsten Canuso said it goes to the general account. We were behind in advertising for the camp last year so we will not make that mistake this time. We will not have advertising fees, only PR; so that will save us a lot of money. Ruthann Meyer asked if we had dates in mind – Coach Millar said last two weeks of July and first two weeks of August, but the tides play a role also. Dan Dubbs asked if there is a maximum number you are comfortable with? Last year's numbers: Session 1 = 21; Session 2 = 17; Session 3 = 11; Session 4 = 14. Last year was \$10,215.00; expenses \$8,598.00; total profit =

\$1,652.00. Ruthann Meyer said we need make enough money to cover the boat rental fee to Holy Spirit.

Coach Millar said we are missing slings – Stephen Martinelli said there was at least 5 sets of slings in the shed. The girls are rowing lots of 4s so that doubled the amount of slings needed. Stephen Martinelli said he will go Thursday and recount.

Suze DiPietro said we have about \$44,000.00 in operating account – a lot of that is tent fee money so we need it to buy food. Kirsten Canuso questioned a pending order for back stays – Vespoli – Coach Millar said it Alex Petrella's order. Suze DiPietro asked if Coach Millar ordered riggers- he said he only wants pins.

Is the summer program a fundraiser or feeder program – Kirsten Canuso said it is becoming very popular and it can be both. The goal has to be to make money. Kirsten Canuso said we want to make money to sustain the program. When we did it two years ago with the city they did not keep up their end of the bargain – they made mistakes on the advertising and did not buy gasoline.

Stephen Martinelli asked Coach Millar if he is still interested and he said he was. Karen Koptic brought up the coaches' salaries also. Stephen Martinelli said do not forget wear and tear on the equipment. Coach Millar said they use the older boats.

Over the years we made the following: 2013 with city - \$7,200.00 profit; 2014 with city - \$6,963 profit; 2015 -\$4263 profit. Suze DiPietro said that Faith Camp-O'Donnell said that this was always intended to be a feeder program because the Middle School does not offer the sport. Coach Millar said he coached for the city – for the same amount. Kirsten Canuso said she will look back at the previous years' records.

Ruthann Meyer said we agree with the four weeks, so we need to make sure we have coaches. Coach Millar has not spoken to Alex Petrella, but has talked to Ian and Shane and they said “no”. Stephen Martinelli asked about Kelly and Rocco – Coach Millar said he did not ask them. Stephen Martinelli said we need to know the expenses so we can figure the fee. Coach Millar said he needs two coaches in addition to himself. Stephen Martinelli asked what is the booster club's role in the program – collect money, advertise and pay coaches. Coach Millar said what he really needs is kid volunteers. Stephen Martinelli asked Coach Millar if maybe we should start recruiting volunteers now. Coach Millar asked who coordinated volunteers. Coach Millar stated that the volunteers are mostly girls. The biggest is the lifting of the boat – some of the kids are small.

Stephen Martinelli suggested \$175.00 fee for camp. Karen Koptic asked about discounts? Jane Mack asked if there is an issue about kids not getting time on the water? Dan Dubbs said an hour on the water for those kids makes them happy.

Karen Koptic suggested \$175.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> week; 2<sup>nd</sup> week \$175.00; 3<sup>rd</sup> week \$150.00; 4<sup>th</sup> week - \$175.00 – if doing all four weeks fourth week is free. Stephen Martinelli asked about the coaches' salaries – Stephen Martinelli asked what will Coach Millar's salary be this year? Coach Millar said he will think about it. Jane Mack said that the other coaches work under his guidance. Coach Millar said he paid Szabo and Chester himself. Ruthann Meyer asked if he wanted all the money to go to him. Coach Millar said “no”. Stephen Martinelli said it is only

fair that all coaches who work get paid, volunteers are a different story. Stephen Martinelli also said we need to know who is going to work for us and what they want to be paid first before we decide what the fee will be. Ruthann Meyer asked Coach Millar to make a proposal to be submitted to the Board at the next meeting. Ruthann Meyer asked if they were going to the Middle Schools to solicit kids – Coach Millar said they just did Ocean City and Upper Township. It was suggested Dennis Township too. Jane Mack asked Coach Millar to ask Alex Petrella for his pay request. The proposal will be due for our next meeting to be discussed during the closed session.

Dan Dubbs asked about the foot stretcher problem – Coach Millar said that we have had problems since we had the boat. Coach Millar said he has had a discussion with Tom Madden of LaSalle and Ray Damico from the Prep about pins breaking and they both said none broke – maybe the boats were made after 2011. Coach Millar said it was very odd that the representative said to replace all of the pins and it is very odd that they are breaking. I feel it is a design flaw. Coach Millar said he has four pins left. LaSalle gave him 8 pins so perhaps they had a problem.

Suze DiPietro said that at the end of the season we like to give thank you gifts to the coaches – perhaps we should choose something from the catalog before we place the order.

Karen Koptic stated that each year for Stokesbury, the Ocean City Crew Boosters provide dinner for the referees – last year I was given \$400 and the bill came to \$410 – can I have \$450.00 Dan Dubbs made motion to budge \$450.00, Stephen Martinelli seconded, all in favor.

Kirsten Canuso asked if anyone has a contact with Seaville Tavern? She is waiting to hear back from Tokyo Mandarin and Tuckahoe Inn.

Jane Mack had a question about the girls V4 why are they not restricted from rowing if they have not paid. Ruthann Meyer said it is every rower not just one particular boat. Jane Mack asked that when you are going to restrict equipment, we were basically only asking for tent fee to be paid and that goes to food not equipment. Jane Mack said that people are saying it is going around that people are not paying. Kirsten Canuso said it was not an equipment thing, was there somehow miscommunication with Alex Petrella asking only that boat. Karen Koptic said that the coaches should be given a list of non-payers and yes they can ask the participant to pay. Suze DiPietro asked Jane Mack to give Coach Millar the list. Karen Koptic asked about Title IX – does this pertain to us? Karen Koptic also said her conversation with the Athletic Director was very positive and she really felt he was going to call her back – I am shocked it has been two weeks. She asked the Board for questions to give him. Kirsten Canuso said the Athletic Director at her school district said that our Interim Athletic Director could be looking for a contract and will answer to appease us. Karen Koptic said she was giving him a chance to come to the meeting for 20-25 minutes and give us some guidance. Jane Mack said if they do not pay dinner and 50/50 will they be off the boat? Alex Petrella texted the girls in the V4 right away. At the nights of the boathouse meeting Alex Petrella was told there were no free rides. Coach Millar said it is not on the kids, it is on the parents. Ruthann Meyer said he is right. Kirsten Canuso said Alex Petrella thought he was doing the right thing, but he does not want to contact the parents for anything. Ruthann Meyer said we are losing so much money every year that it equals one boat. Karen Koptic asked if they can practice, but not be in the event – she is still waiting for a call back from the Interim Athletic Director. Stephen Martinelli said when Coach Millar wanted the

money for the parts, we should have said no due to the fact that the rowers are in arrears. Dan Dubbs suggested we supply boats to the rowers, but they will have to rent an oar for \$500.

Parent Allison Yoa stated that we get a lot of information at the Parent meeting as freshman – they are happy. We feel that maybe we thought a buddy system might help. Allison Yoa was also in agreement to bench a rower if not paid. Ruthann Meyer said the freshman have been awesome. We were under the impression that if we do not pay we do not row. Kirsten Canuso said the list needs to be given to the Interim Athletic Director and tell him that the coaches are not doing their job. Karen Koptic said she wants to challenge Title IX. Stephen Martinelli requested both lists of rowers who did not pay. Allison Yoa suggested perhaps a GoFundMe site. Parent Donna Martinelli suggested accepting credit cards.

Karen Koptic will get the questions together and ask Interim Athletic Director to come to meeting or submit answers, will email to Board members for review.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:40 by Kirsten Canuso and seconded by Karen Koptic, all in favor.