

Ocean City Crew Boosters, Inc.

MINUTES PARENT MEETING MAY 16, 2016

The Parent Meeting regarding Nationals was called to order by Suze DiPietro at 7:34 pm.

Board Members Present:

Suze DiPietro, President
Karen Koptic, Vice President
Kirsten Canuso, Treasurer
Dan Dubbs
Steve Nathan
Coach Mike Millar
Coach Kelly Rupert

Suze DiPietro gave floor to Karen Koptic.

I. Stotesbury Regatta

Food trailers accepted noon on Wednesday – need two volunteers to take trailer up. Please see me. Friday evening everything will be taken back. Saturday you will need to bring your own food.

II. Nationals Transportation

We spoke to Athletic Director, carpooling is the way to handle this situation, school is allocating \$5000.00 to defer costs. Karen Koptic asked about insurance policies – if this is a carpool (private), a \$1M policy is not required. If you rent a van, as long as you are under 10 people (2 drivers and 8 students), it is still considered private and you do not need \$1M policy.

If each boat can coordinate and have a parent leader who sets up carpools, etc., Karen Koptic will pick up paperwork and present to school. It is 9-11 hours to drive there. Leaving on Wednesday after school seems to be a good idea – that would cost an additional \$40 per rower for the room fee at the hotel.

Dennis Fisher (parent) asked what would it cost to get a bus to take 58 kids? Karen Koptic responded that we contacted three bus companies and they do not have any available. We did find one for \$10,000.00 each bus; another company was \$6,300.00 plus expenses for drivers.

Karen Koptic said she has a list of boats with parents – we are asking that a parent coordinates the carpool, collect the information.

Dennis Fisher (parent) said he would like to have my kid on a coach bus rather than in a passenger van; we are going to Nationals – these kids need to be ready to go when they arrive. When they went to Tennessee, they booked last minute – I know we can make this happen. It will be safer and more comfortable for the kids.

Coach Kelly – the girls are taking three alternates – we are trying to have alternates taken by parents.

Karen Koptic asked Dennis Fisher to research the bus fees, etc. I would still like to have a Plan B.

Sharon Salomon-Lowden (parent) asked that if we are leaving on Wednesday, what time? Karen Koptic said if it is a carpool, then it would be up to the families. Karen Koptic said that if they are going to drive straight to the hotel, they do not have to arrive together. We want the kids to get a good night's sleep - they have to practice on Thursday, however, we do not have the time yet.

Dennis Fisher (parent) said the transportation issue is putting a lot of pressure on the parents – driving back and forth to the race and to dinners. Karen Koptic said if you will take over implementing Plan A – that would be great.

Karen Kopic asked for a parent from each boat going to Nationals to volunteer to be the parent leader and collect the required paperwork:

BOYS V8 – Paige Rumacker
BOYS 2nd V8 – Christine Cummings
BOYS Freshman – Donna Oves
Girls V4 – Marianne Giardina
Girls Lightweight8 – Lee Ann Tarr
Girls Lightweight 4 – Mary Jean Majka
Girls JV 4 – Steve Simone
Alternates – n/a

Karen Koptic reiterated that if we go on Wednesday and stay at Baymont, there will be an increased rate of \$40.00 per rower.

Plan A – travel through the night on a bus. Plan B is carpools.

Suzanne Hornick (parent) asked if they can go an extra night. Answer was yes.

Karin Stanks (parent) asked why are they going on Wednesday instead of Thursday? I was not under that impression, I thought they were leaving Thursday. Suze DiPietro asked Coach Mike Millar and he stated that the usually leave the night before, driving through the night.

Chris Breunig (for parent Mary Wright) asked how long the trip is - only 8 hours?

Liv Martinelli (coxswain) stated that it would be easier leaving Wednesday after school – it will be easier for the rowers to get a good night sleep, practice on Thursday. We need to relax a little.

Jenn Cooper (parent) stated that if you are leaving in the middle of night on Wednesday, why would you need a hotel that night? Suze DiPietro booked those rooms in case parents wanted to leave earlier on Wednesday so they could spend the night on Wednesday also – they can confirm

with the hotel. Jenn Cooper said if the athletes are leaving at 12 midnight on Wednesday and arriving on Thursday, why the extra expense? Karen Koptic stated that there would not be an added expense if you are not staying at the hotel an extra night.

Dennis Fisher (parent) stated that it is going to be an additional fee no matter what – whether it is for the hotel room or the bus fees.

Karen Koptic still needs help when we are out there. We have to order food, pick up food, set up tent.

Mary Wright (parent) stated that we need to think about the carpool, or the bus. The \$1M policy, if we get a bus is the school going to cover the policy?

Kristine Cummings (parent) stated that she thinks we need to set a standard – if we are going for Plan B, we need to set a time. I don't want my kid in a car at 10:00 at night with who knows who.

Mary Wright (parent) asked if we could send out some information about the transportation – I don't feel comfortable with someone driving my kid for 11 hours.

Jenn Cooper (parent) stated that she looked at the school policy that was sent out in the packet. It classifies parent transportation as 8 students or less; once you go over 8 it is considered a commercial vehicle. The driver is then expected to have a class c cdl license, cannot drive more than 8 hours in a 24 hour period. That is why we needed someone from the school to be here for this meeting. The school needs to transport the team in a safe manner – it is important. Karen Koptic said the policy states 8 students and 2 adults is maximum in vehicle for it to be considered private. Ocean City pays the coaches, uniforms, entry fees and transportation.

Dennis Fisher (parent) said he has 2005 package which specifically says it is a two day regatta and bus transportation is needed. They can't say it is not in the budget. They budget for two buses every year. We should request this every year for 40-60 rowers; two buses, one for boys and one for girls. You need to have a showing of all the parents and rowers at a school board meeting. The forms we had to complete were ridiculous. Karen Koptic says so now you understand what we have been going through since we first contacted the Athletic Director about Nationals.

Jen Pierpoint (parent) asked how the kids are transported to race, etc. Suzanne Hornick (parent) asked doesn't the venue have shuttle buses? Karen Koptic responded that no, the venue does not provide transportation to/from race and dinners; private cars or the bus if we have hired one.

Karen Koptic reiterated that again, one boat still needs a parent volunteer and need volunteer to work race – shall we do this on paper or volunteer spot – list is better.

Kristine Cummings (parent) again requested that Karen Koptic summarize what the parents need to do – are we responsible for the checks, transportation forms, etc.

Karen Koptic said she also needs a tally if you are going to the pasta dinners – one or both. I need to tell the caterer. I also need a head count for food – we are not having the grill. Someone will have to pick up the order and bring to the race.

Chuck Salomon-Lowden (parent) asked how many parents are going? Karen Koptic stated about 30 sets.

Dennis Fisher (parent) asked that perhaps the hotel would store the food for us also. Dan Dubbs said they did that last year.

Sharon Salomon-Lowden asked if we give Karen Koptic the packet? Karen Koptic said she would prefer to receive it as a package for each boat.

Mary Ann Giardia (parent) asked when will we know the exact amount? We can't turn in the money if we don't know the fees? Karen Koptic said after hearing from Dennis, it will need to be adjusted. Joseph Giardia (parent) said he will transport his own kid and not stay in the hotel.

Paige Rumacher (parent) asked how many kids do not have a ride? Karen Koptic responded that that will be given to us by the boat leaders.

Allison Yoa (parent) asked if a parent will be at the hotel when the bus gets there? Karen Koptic said that if they are taking the bus, the kids are the coaches' responsibility.

Donna Oves (parent) is staying Saturday night is an option? Suze DiPietro said that some people may be too tired to drive home that night – you can extend your stay – it is your choice. Suze DiPietro said the same for Wednesday, if you want to come early, you can stay. It is your personal choice to extend your stay. I tried to accommodate all situations. A parent (sorry I did not get their name) asked if the parents are driving how does that work if the kids are staying? Suze DiPietro answered that if Dennis Fisher gets us a bus, we don't have to worry. Does this happen every year? The prior Athletic Director did not include nationals for crew even though it had been submitted by the coaches. They did not budget for this trip – that is why they have scrambled around to find the extra \$5,000.00 for us to go – it was not our mistake. Suze DiPietro said that Dan Dubbs found a bus company for \$6,300.00, we will keep alternates off the bus, perhaps this could work. This race was known about since last year.

Liv Martinelli asked if the hotel provides breakfast – Suze DiPietro said not to worry, it is included.

Suze DiPietro said in summary: Dennis Fisher will look into getting a bus. Karen Koptic will email list of rowers by boat along with the names of parents going out to Ohio. We still need a parent leader for JV 4 – Mr. Simone volunteered.

Coach Kelly – we will have coaches on the bus. Karen Koptic said we have 5 coaches going out; two are driving the boat trailer, one is driving alone so two will be on bus. The 55 rowers and coaches will fit on bus.

Paige Rumacher asked if Karen Koptic would send her a list of what forms they need to collect. Karen Koptic said yes, she will send a package out to you. This has already been sent via email to all parents.

Sharon Salomon-Lowden thanked everyone - we know this has been hard.

Suze DiPietro said we did not have an option for Plan A until this morning. We were stuck – they earned their spot at nationals, we were scrambling around and we thought it was going to be a caravan. This is a gift to us, we are grateful that they are at least providing the \$5,000.00. The most important thing is that the kids travel out safely and hopefully get home with medals.

Suze DiPietro asked for applause for Karen Koptic. Suze DiPietro also announced that if anyone who has not received or does not understand their confirmation number for the hotel to please see her.

Kristine Cummings asked when do we know if petitioned boats are going? Coach Millar stated that petitioned boats cannot register until they are accepted. I anticipate that our boats will be accepted, after which they will appear on the site. The deadline for registration is not over yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.