

## November 2011 BRCC Board Meeting Minutes

### Present:

Board members: Jill and Ray L'Esperance, Katrine Thomas, Paul Kamen, Pamela Drake, Phyllis Ritchie

BRCC Members: Warren Yee, Berman Ng, V. Govender

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Changes to Oct 2011 minutes have been made via e-mail, and were approved at this meeting. They were sent out to the membership.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/UPDATES**

- Financial - Ray L'Esperance: Total in accounts (checking and savings) \$4700. Expenditures since the last meeting included \$312 Board approved payment for the purchase of an OC1, \$20 to DMV for Penn Yan registration and \$297 to Gary for supplies as part of the dragon boat restoration.

- Membership - Pamela Drake: 25 new members since June'11.

- Fleet Captain - Katrine Thomas:

Dragon boat repair: the boat is in the "barn" at the boat yard and work will begin this weekend. Katrine is recruiting volunteers to cover all time slots.

Small Fleet skills training: Paul purchased the OC1 as approved at the last board mtg. There was discussion about use/safety of small fleet boats, esp. use of the OC as it can easily tip over. To use the small fleet boats, you must be a BRCC member and be approved to use the small boats, esp. the OC's. Members must get approval from Paul Kamen or David Auckley. To assure safety, BRCC members who use the OC's need to know how to up-right the OC if it turns over as well as be knowledgeable of the current Op Procedures. Operating Procedures for OC use need to be up-dated and expanded.

**The board proposes a workshop for use of small fleet boats (esp. Oc's). Paul will write a few interim Op Rules, and Katrine, Jill and Paul will meet with David after Thanksgiving to discuss concerns and procedures and formation of a sub-committee for the small boats and bring something back to the board.**

- Vice President - Paul Kamen:

Accident: During a recent practice, the steering oar beam hit a tipped up outboard motor on a berthed sailboat as the dragon boat passed it. The bracket holding the motor was damaged. Paul spoke to owner. The repair will cost \$225 - \$450 depending on whether or not Wan and Paul can do it themselves.

Liaison with Marina Office and other marina boat owners: Paul has been BRCC's contact with the marina office as well as the various boat owners because he knows them. This liaison duty should be more spelled out for the VP Board position.

**Board approved up to \$450 for the repair.**

**Board agreed that any dragon boat related accident must be reported to Paul for follow-up as close to its occurrence as possible and subsequently to the entire board.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Community Outreach Committee – Judy not at meeting - no report.

**Board voted unanimously to change the Community Outreach Chairperson position to that of BRCC Director of Outreach. Judy will be consulted re writing up the position description and duties for a change to the By-laws.**

- Fundraising - Phyllis Ritchie: Still need to decide on a date for Bingo night in February. Ray will follow up on this. No summer fundraiser planned for 2012 as this has been done for three years, and the amount made has decreased each year.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- Penn Yan review: At the first of the year the board decided that in the fall it would evaluate the use of the Penn Yan as part of the club's community services program. As part of this process a discussion of its purchase and ongoing costs ensued.

The boat was originally purchased in Nov 2007 by ten BRCC members and donated to BRCC with the option that those donors could buy it back for \$1 if its use did not work out as planned. Since that time, total BRCC expenditures for Penn Yan (for repairs, yearly insurance, registration) have been about \$7,000. Yearly base line cost to BRCC for the Penn Yan is approximately \$360 for insurance and DMV registration plus additional for any maintenance and repair (up to \$500/yr). This does not include the cost of gas for each excursion.

Warren and V were present and participated in the discussion as was Berman. Warren reported that the fishing program designed to get disadvantaged youth on the water did not meet expectations. BRCC was reliant on PAL for providing the participants and they apparently had competing priorities. Additionally, the cost for an excursion (gas, bait and fishing gear) is born by BRCC and is expensive. The timing of repairs made it difficult to coordinate events and ultimately, outings didn't get scheduled. Warren suggested that rather than targeting youth perhaps our focus could shift to senior excursions (i.e. coordinating with the Berkshire, or any of the nearby senior centers). These groups have funds to allocate for activities and could cover the gas, as well as a small donation/trip to go toward cost of the boat. Could this program be financially independent? Could we structure a donation or membership category that would

address our legal limitations. V advised that from his contact with the Richmond Fireman's Assoc he believed they could be a partner and would donate volunteers and pay for gas and bait for a fishing program. He still feels that the boat is an investment and we should keep it.

A lengthy and open discussion followed. Several themes, questions and concerns emerged and are summarized here.

The boat was taken on a test drive and a new problem was identified. It likely has a bent strut that requires a haul out to confirm and repair. Once out of the water, it would be smart to paint the bottom. It was suggested that a diagnosis of the problem could be made by hiring a diver to take some underwater photos (\$75). **Paul and Pamela agreed to arrange for this.** If the problem is a bent strut, the board would discuss doing the haul out for repair and maintenance (\$500-\$700). It was recommended that if the problem is more serious and more expensive, the board not move forward with repairs.

Only 2-3 members have shown interest in using the boat for community service, concern was expressed as to who would coordinate and follow through with the program if we did get senior groups interested. There was a question as to whether BRCC has enough volunteers to adequately run a program on the Penn Yan as the development of 2 new high school teams at Berkeley and Albany Highs have been made a high priority and also require volunteers. We already ask our members for a lot of their time for community activities and dragon boat maintenance.

Does keeping the Penn Yan and developing a program with it really match BRCC's goals and purpose as a "human-powered" boat club?

Dock space could be better used for other human-powered boats i.e. more kayaks, or an OC6.

The benefits do not seem to justify the ongoing expenses. Money is not an immediate issue since we have Apple stock available but why not use this for something that will be used by all the members i.e. new dragonboat, new small fleet boats?

We already meet our commitment for community outreach with dragonboat outings throughout the year. We don't have to build another "program."

Could we swap this boat to another club for a small fleet boat?

Possible Options:

Haul and repair the Penn Yan depending on the problem. Continue to pursue the development of a community service program with an identified coordinator.

Do the above, establishing as a requirement that the program be financially stable as

well as independent .

Offer the boat back to the original investors for a dollar.

Haul the boat, trailer it and sell it as is, or donate it

Leave it at the dock, Do no repairs and just use it as storage.

**Board will make final decision at next meeting after further info on the repairs needed and considering the above.**

### **Continued Discussion – BRCC Expansion**

Updates on new teams (coach, manager, attendance, schedules):

Albany High: Judy Lee is working with this group. Have been one time on the water as a team, and a few of the kids have come to DM practices. They have a faculty advisor but need a student in charge.

Berkeley High: Paul is working with this group with Pamela, Judy B, and Sara helping. There has been one team mtg at the school. David Lee is the president of the BHS dragonboat team. Lucinda Daily is the student advisor. So far there have been about 8 kids interested. & 7 came to the first practice.

AT & T: Some of this group have been coming out to practice. Not sure what the status is of them having their own team. Will follow up with Berman

Bayer: While some of the Bayer paddlers have been coming to DM practices, no word from Kim re the status of a company team. Edmund is their team manager.

Financial support to high school teams - Discuss at future meeting

Communication and calendaring can become a problem. Look at Google group for BRCC and Google Calendar - Discuss at future meeting

### **Agenda items for December meeting**

Future of the Penn Yan

Op Rules and Safety issues for small fleet boats

Preparation for the Jan general membership meeting

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:** to be announced

**ADJOURNMENT**