

Rock Hall Yacht Club, Inc.
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Board Meeting Minutes November 8, 2006

Commodore Chip Lieber called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. The following board members were present: George Hardy, Dyer Harris, Jennifer Lieber, Pat O'Connell, Chuck Parry, Jane Rogers, and Fred Welsh. Members absent: Sally Powell. Proposed members present: JoAnn Fairchild (acting secretary), Ron Mansfield, Peter Metcalf, and Jim Trammell.

Commodore Lieber thanked everybody for attending and acknowledged that some Board members are absent, have resigned, or have rotated off the Board after successfully fulfilling their terms. He reported that Julie Anderson (appointed to fill Maryann Ruehrmund's term), Lee Cowperthwaite, Jr., Jim Georgeson and John Lyons ended their terms on October 31, 2006. He said there has been some difficulty verifying terms of service and he presented a board roster for review (made part of these minutes). Fred Welsh said the By-Laws allow for four members to rotate in and out each year. This represents one third of the Board. He said members serve a three-year term according to By-Laws. Chuck Parry reported that Barbara Ferris has resigned as Rear Commodore and he moved that Jennifer Lieber fill the position. Dyer Harris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commodore Lieber said that Patty Macielag has asked to step down from her position as Stock Manager and he recommended that Maryann Ruehrmund assume the position.

Elections

The slate of officers for 2007 was reviewed: Chip Lieber as commodore, Dyer Harris as Vice Commodore, Jennifer Lieber as Rear Commodore, Fred Welsh as Treasurer, and JoAnn Fairchild as Secretary. The following committee chairs were recommended: Membership Committee, Jim Trammell; Social Committee, Sally Powell; Property and Facilities Committee, Ron Mansfield; Finance, Peter Metcalf; Strategic Planning, George Hardy; Pool and Grounds, Pat O'Connell; Regatta/Club Sailing, Dyer Harris; Junior Sailing, Chuck Parry.

Stockholders' Meeting

Commodore Lieber invited discussion in preparation for the upcoming Stockholders' Meeting on November 12, 2006.

Chuck Parry noted that Mary Dunn suggests a separate payment on the loan on the kitchen. He believes she may ask how much we have reduced our construction loan of \$350,000.

Peter Metcalf said that someone may ask why membership income is down from last year. Fred Welsh said there are several answers to this: a) In previous years there was a big membership push, b) We discounted dues to attract new members, and c) There was a fair amount of turnover last year and speculation as to why. Mr. Metcalf asked, How many members do we have now?

Jane Rogers reported that the Club has 248 memberships, comprised of 160 family memberships, 84 singles, and four lifetime members. George Hardy noted that at this time last year there were 250 memberships and four non-paying honorary lifetime members. Mrs. Rogers reported that we have three new members: Pat Heinefield from Rock Hall, and Joe and Ali Skinner from Crumpton. She added that Pat Heinefield is interested in serving on the grounds, clubhouse and social committees; the Skinner family is interested in serving on the clubhouse committee.

Chuck Parry said someone may ask, Why did we lose money on regattas? Dyer Harris replied that the Club invested in new flags, marks, anchors, and chains. Fred Welsh noted that we “lost” about \$1,500 because of overall regatta expenditures but we the items we procured will serve the Club well in the long-term. Mr. Welsh said we attempted to credit regatta entry fees against regatta income. We may not have credited accurately for meals and refreshments, he said, using the 505 regatta calculations for income/expenses as an example. George Hardy suggested answering the question by saying we invested in regattas by purchasing flags, radios, marks and other items which have a multi-year value. Mr. Harris stated that we had a bang-up year with regattas, and he said the Windmill class in particular was impressed by Club facilities and how friendly everybody is. They told him, “We had a great time and we’ll be back.”

Pat O’Connell said someone may ask, Why were pool passes more expensive? He said this year the cost of chemicals increased, we bought a set of new filters, paid for lifeguard training and had an extra lifeguard on payroll at the beginning of the season.

Mr. O’Connell said someone may want to know, Why are we budgeting less pool income? Fred Welsh said the answer is we may be able to do better. A lot of people came over Labor Day, but income is projected through August only.

Discussion ensued over other possible questions such as: Why was clubhouse income below budget? Why is there a difference in membership income? George Hardy stated that we were successful with a membership drive this fall but those new member dues won’t be booked until January 2007.

Committee Reports

Commodore Lieber reported that a woman fell off the back entrance stairs during the Windmill regatta. She is asking the Club to pay her medical expenses in the amount of \$550. Chuck Parry suggested the Club respond in writing to let the lady know we have received her letter and have contacted our insurance company. Commodore Lieber added that on a separate occasion someone stumbled on round stones at the front entrance. He said both sets of stairs are going to be redone. George Hardy brought up another safety issue: lighting on the corners of the building. Commodore Lieber said the lights still work and are usually turned on but someone had inadvertently flipped the switch off.

Chuck Parry distributed a handout to illustrate Sailing School storage, insurance and dues totaling \$5,326 that the School will transfer to the RHYC at the stockholders' meeting on November 12, 2006. He explained that the Sailing School, which is a separate corporation, reimburses the Club annually. He stated that the School is buying a load of stone and would like to be reimbursed for that. Treasurer Welsh agreed.

George Hardy was acknowledged for doing a lot of work to strengthen involvement in the committees. New committee structures were proposed as follows:

Under the Vice Commodore's leadership: Regatta committee, club sailing, and cruising committee. Under the Rear Commodore's leadership: membership (Jim Trammell), communications (Linda Parry) and social committee (Sally Powell); under Property and Facilities: waterfront (Ron Mansfield), clubhouse (Dave Teel), pool (Pat O'Connell), grounds and landscape (Pat O'Connell); finance (Peter Metcalf); strategic planning (George Hardy); nominations (Lee Cowperthwaite); stock records manager (Maryann Ruehrmund); junior sailing (Chuck Parry).

Dyer Harris presented an operational matrix (made part of these minutes) of what is really required to organize regatta's and other sailing events. Chuck Parry and JoAnn Fairchild found the information very useful. Mr. Harris said he has observed that a committee works best with three to five people serving on it, because that seems to be the number that gets things done.

Peter Metcalf proposed that retiring board members serve on the nominating committee. The idea was unanimously endorsed.

Jim Trammell said his committee is working on ideas to boost membership and a welcome packet for new members.

JoAnn Fairchild said it is the responsibility of each committee chair to convene his or her committee, set goals, and then make recommendations to the board. Commodore Lieber said he would like to hear recommendations from all committees at the next meeting. He encouraged the regatta committee to consider more hoses for wash down; the grounds committee to review camping issues; and the waterfront committee to consider floating docks, pier improvements, and piling resets.

George Hardy said we need to renew our contract with Chesapeake Hospitality Group between now and December 31, 2006. He suggested we factor in dumpster fees, linen cleaning, utilities, and a few other miscellaneous items in the contract renewal. Mr. Hardy said the strategic planning committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Fred Welsh distributed the treasurer's report as of October 31, 2006, which is made part of these minutes. Chuck Parry moved to approve the report. Dyer Harris seconded the motion and the board passed it unanimously.

Mr. Welsh also presented the Proposed 2007 Budget for review. He added that the Club has established a central database and is accumulating and coding data.

Minutes

The minutes of October 2006 were tabled for review until the next meeting in December.

There being no further business, old or new, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Fairchild
Secretary

12/13/06