

Berkeley Paddling & Rowing Club
Board Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2009
9:00 a.m. - Berkeley Boat House

Present: Charlie Altekruise, Ellen Braithwaite, Kathryn Furano, Rachel Haurwitz, Susan Sawyer, Alex Smoligovets, John Swenson, Jane Toro, Ned Trippe.

Order of Business

1. Election of Officers: By unanimous vote the following officers were selected:

President: Charlie Altekruise

Vice President: Jane Toro

Secretary: Susan Sawyer

Treasurer: Kathryn Furano

2. Selection of committee Chairs

Boathouse (interim): Ned Trippe

Equipment: John Swenson

Membership: Ellen Braithwaite

Boat Tracking: Rachel Haurwitz

3. By-laws Clarification

One member had questioned whether the requirements for boat storage demanded that the owner of the boat was required to row the boat himself or herself. In reading the by-laws the Board believed that such a policy was implicit in the Club rational and rules, but it was also agreed that the By-laws could be subject to differing interpretations. By unanimous vote the Club By-laws were amended to make clear this policy. The amendments were as follows (amendments in bold):

BPRC Board Policy Statement Private Boat Usage and Storage Policy

*This policy applies to privately owned shells, canoes or kayaks stored at BPRC. BPRC has limited storage space for privately owned boats and this space is only available for boats that are actively in use **at Aquatic Park**. It is not for passive storage of boats even if the fees have been paid.*

The Board reserves the right to make a final determination on storage issues based on the Board's sole interpretation of each member's adherence to the letter and spirit of the policy. The Board has developed this policy with input from the Equipment Committee, as a fair and reasonable means of ensuring that private boats taking up rack space are being used. This policy describes the delinquent fee enforcement policy and minimum boat use requirements to be implemented as of **January 2009**.

1. Private Boat Storage Fees

- a. The annual private boat storage fee is and payable to BPRC at the time of the Annual Meeting each January. All private boats must be current in storage fee to the club. Any boat owner who has not paid the storage fee prior to the Annual Meeting date must pay the fee immediately or remove his or her boat within 30 days of the meeting date. It is the boat owner's responsibility to stay current on fees.
- b. After a 60-day grace period starting at the Annual Meeting, unclaimed or unpaid boats will revert to BPRC property and will be converted to BPRC boats, sold, or disposed of at the Board's discretion.

2. Minimum Use Policy

- a. All singles, doubles, canoes and kayaks stored at the boathouse must be rowed or paddled 24 times per year (or 12 times per six-month period) to secure rack space for the following year. **Each boat must be assigned to an individual owner and that owner must account for at least 50% of the required minimum usages for that boat**
- b. The club will maintain a log of boat usage; each member is responsible for signing the log when either a private or club boat is used. A boat owner, at his or her discretion, may allow his/her boat to be used by others in order to fulfill the annual usage goal (24 uses) but such usage cannot account for more than 50% of the annual minimum usage requirements. Private boats may only be used by others with the explicit permission of the boat owner.

Note: Exceptions to this rule may be made by the Board in cases where a member makes his/her private boat freely available for use by club members other than his/her immediate family members.

- c. Private boat usage will be evaluated in 6-month blocks based largely on entries in the club usage log. Other evidence may be considered if it appears the log entries are inaccurate.
- d. Those boats not used the minimum number of times in a 6-month period (12) will be notified in writing that they have not met the rack requirements. The Equipment Committee would like an email address from each boat owner to facilitate this communication.
- e. These individuals will have the remaining six months of the year to fulfill the 24/times a year requirement.
- f. If that requirement is not fulfilled, owners will be required to remove their boats from the boathouse.
- g. These rules would be applied to all members who currently have shells or canoes or kayaks in the boathouse, and will be effective **for the membership year 2009**.
- h. In cases of medical or other extenuating circumstances, the Board may be petitioned to allow exceptions to minimum boat use guidelines on a case-by-case basis.
- i. **If storage is revoked by the Board, the individual boat owner is invited to present his or her case to the Board at the next Board meeting for an exception. Under all circumstances, including the failure of the member to make his/her appeal to the Board in a timely manner, the Board reserves the right to make a final determination.**
- j. **All members are entitled to store one boat if space is available. The privilege of storing more than one boat is at the discretion of the Board.**

The Board will take into consideration whether that boat will be made available for club use and thus enhance the quality and variety of the club fleet.

3. Waiting List for Private Boat Storage

- a. *A waiting list for private boat rack space will be posted and kept current on the front bulletin board in the boathouse. Members interested in being added to the list should contact the Equipment Committee.*
- b. *The board will assign new boat spaces based on the waiting list maintained by the Equipment Committee. No boat may be moved into the boathouse without Board approval and payment of annual storage fees.*

4. Private Boat Insurance

- a. *Beginning in 2006, boat owners were asked to sign a written agreement with the club stipulating to the above policy. This rule remains in effect.*
- b. *Boat owners also acknowledge that boat insurance is a matter for the boat owner, not the club. BPRC will not be responsible for, or liable to, the boat owner for any loss or injury suffered by the boat owner or the stored boat or other equipment*

The amended by-laws will be posted at the Boathouse.

4. Action on Boat Storage

The following action was taken on members who did not row their boats the required number 24 times during the past year:

Katherine Geramita, Janet Bellantoni (double), Valery Shilov, and Daniel Camp have already removed their boats.

Due to medical reasons for not rowing, Cynthia Perry and Eldon Ream were allowed to store their boats in the rafters for 6 months, but would go to the end of the line for a regular storage place if and when they wish to use their boats again.

Ellen Ruiz-Harrison would be allowed to store her kayak for a six month probationary period during which time she would be required to row it at least half of the 12 times used in that six month period.

5. Committee reports

Equipment: John Swenson said that several members had requested a racing double scull. Ned Trippe pointed out that there were several new members who used a heavy weight skull, putting a lot of use on the men's heavy-weight. There was discussion of the need for additional sculling oars, and a potential replacement for the Peinart. John's committee will look into all these issues and report back at the next meeting.

Membership: Ellen Braithwaite reported that membership is about what it was at this time last year, i.e. over 80 individual and family memberships, with more coming

in. There will be an open house on Saturday morning, February 20, 2009, for those interested in joining the Club.

Boathouse: Tagged again. Izzie Brown had volunteered to paint over it. There was discussion of trying to renovate the dock, which belongs to the city of Berkeley and what that would entail. Ned Trippe wants to redo the wash area so it will be more level and less muddy; Jane Toro suggested concrete block and ground cover, which everyone supported. It was also suggested that motion lights be installed to discourage the taggers, who come at night. Ned will look into cost and installation.

Finance (Treasurer's Report): Dues to US Rowing and USAK, as well as insurance for the year has been paid. Monthly rent to the city of Berkeley went up slightly this year per the rental agreement. There is about \$16,000 in a CD put aside for future dock repair, and about \$12,000 in the general bank account.

6. Alternate Storage

There are several members in line to store boats, and not enough space to accommodate them. The possibilities for additional storage are: 1) outside surrounded by a secure fence (boat covers required); 2) a container, which is more secure, but may run into opposition from the city of Berkeley on aesthetic grounds; and 3) bringing the building currently at the entrance of Aquatic Park over to near the boathouse, which would require the agreement of the City, who owns that building. Ellen said that Steve Schaffran had done research on costs and city requirements a few years ago and would get that information for the next meeting.

7. Future Meetings

All members are invited to the Board meetings. The Board will meet on the following dates, all on Tuesday nights from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.: 3/10/09; 4/28/09; 6/9/09; 7/21/09; 9/1/09; 11/24/09. The next annual meeting will be January 27, 2010, at 6:30 at the Boathouse. Board meeting dates will be posted on the Club web site and at the Boathouse, where the names of all Board members and their emails will also be posted. Minutes of all meetings will be posted on the Club web-site as well as the Boathouse.

8. Club events and t-shirts

Many were interested in hosting a club race or regatta in the near future, perhaps in conjunction with another rowing club or clubs. Ideas are welcome.

There will also be a club email to see if there is interest in offering club t-shirts.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Sawyer, Secretary