

Singles Under Sail
October 9, 2014 Board Minutes
Norwalk City Hall, Norwalk, CT

Board Attendees:

Joe DeFranco, President
Peter Luciano, Commodore
Janet Steinberg, Vice Commodore
Chip Munk, Treasurer
Rick Takatsch, Director of Skippers
Leisa Bell, Membership
Minnie Ingardia, Sailing Events
Ashod Kassabian, Public Relations
Lucy Martinez, Special Events
Melissa Donovan, Newsletter

Members at Large Attendees:

Andrew Blackman
Virginia Cameron
Carolann Carter
Arlene Graffa
Lisa Kasak
Bob Kleid
Mel Klugman
Joanna Romersa
Tom Zagaroli

Joe DeFranco called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Chip Munk was appointed time keeper and Minnie Ingardia was appointed acting secretary.

Action Items Discussed

Vivian W. suggested Joe DeF write an article which explains internet venues for social media sites. This item is on hold until SUS finalizes web site. w Peter Luciano and Janet Steinberg will follow up with non-renewing members. So far seven have been contacted, but no non-renewing skippers have been contacted. Lucy Martinez is in the process of investigating on-line payment options.

Treasurer's Report

Melissa Donovan asked if the newsletter budget includes printing/ mailing the membership list. Per Chip Munk, the printing is in the membership budget. How often the newsletter is distributed was discussed. A vote was held to determine the frequency of sending membership list in the Newsletter. (6) voted for twice a year and (4) voted for three times a year. A discussion was held about which months. April and July were decided to be the best months. Leisa Bell will take action to look at which months have the greater change in membership. If June information is used, it will be distributed in the July newsletter. Peter Luciano suggested one be distributed just before the cruise. Leisa pointed out it takes a special request to the Webmaster to generate the membership list. After this side topic, Rick Takatsch made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Leisa seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Chip asked if there were any changes to the proposed budget. Joe needs an additional \$250 per year under the President's line item for the storage rental. Chip asked about the internet budget, and discussion would be held under that agenda item. Melissa asked about a column header change on budget which should read 2104 and not 2013. Rick proposed to accept the budget as modified and Joe seconded and the motion was accepted.

Director Status Reports

Membership – Lisa reported there are 148 members, of which (4) are new. There is the possibility of (2) new skippers joining. Melissa asked how the new members found SUS. Meetup seems to be the way. Per Leisa, some are coming straight from Meetup by sending the completed application and check prior to attending an SUS meeting.

Sailing Event – There was nothing new to report.

Education – MOCs and DOCs are complete for the year. Leisa suggested having MOC/DOCs before May.

Skippers – Rick reported the Columbus Day Sailaway was cancelled due to a lack of skippers. The BBQ was also cancelled. Peter asked if the funds that were not used will roll over into next year. They will not.

Programs – Joe reported that speakers are in place for October and November. He has (4) speakers lined up for 2015, with another (2) as possibilities.

Special Events – Lucy Martinez reported that the caterer for the holiday party on 12/07/2014 will accommodate special requests. The DJ cost is \$600. If there are 40 guaranteed attendees, the cost would be \$56. The menu and cost were discussed. Peter moved to transfer the excess in the Skipper's budget to the holiday party to help with the individual cost. The motion was seconded and accepted by all. Lucy reported on the Halloween party. There may be a need to rent table and chairs, but this will not be known until next week. She requested the use of a digital projector for the party.

Newsletter – Melissa Donovan needs to have input for the newsletter in a timely manner to avoid the newsletter being published late. The deadline for the November publication is October 24, 2014. Melissa had a request by non-member to place an advertisement. Melissa moved that non-members be charged \$10 for placing an ad. AK seconded the motion and all were in favor. Arlene Graffa was recognized from the Members at Large. She asked about the newsletter assembly team needing more than (1) day advance notice to work on the newsletter. Joe stated the January newsletter is larger because of the year-in-pictures feature.

Public Relations – Ashod Kassabian (AK) noted that the "Windcheck" calendar section listing is free. The paid ad is towards the end of the magazine. AK suggested the PR position be officially involved with the website. Chip asked about the budget for PR; he needs input. AK will send via e-mail.

Communications—Andrew suggested that guidelines for getting on a boat be discussed at each meeting. The Members at Large were recognized. Lisa Kasak voiced concerns about Special Events locations. The Board Members each told their individual perception of what was discussed at a prior Board meeting. Peter said the Board agreed to let Lucy have events wherever people would go. Lucy said that she had received complaints because there were social gatherings and dinners in New York. She would like to have events in Port Chester or New Rochelle once in a while if the venue is good. AK was upset that Lucy was told that she could not have events in certain places. He recommended finding good food at a good price in a nice place and then let the attendance decide. Joe had received feedback that to hold an event at Outriggers was too far and that going to NY for some people in Eastern Fairfield would also be too far. Chip acknowledged that he left the meeting because voices were being over talked. He stated that Joe is looking out for SUS. He stated that we should go forward and let the director of Special Events make the decisions. The number of attendees will speak for themselves. Rick passed since he was not at the last meeting. Janet discussed Special Events vs Sailing Events. She questioned why Special Events had to be only in CT. The location should not be the only factor. If there is value in the event, then members will go. Melissa asked if NY events would be banned. 30% of the membership is from NY. Membership is down and she would like open minds to be kept. Leisa said the discussion was about having special events at places other than in CT. Members will decide if they will go. She is in favor of leaving it to Special Events.

For the second round of discussion, Peter said that the discussion became heated because (1) member thought it went against the by-laws to have events outside NY. They talked about the Echo Bay event. Lucy said it was the Echo Bay event that enticed her to join SUS. AK also found out about SUS at Echo Bay. He feels more emphasis should be on the existence of SUS in (5) years. Minnie passed; Joe passed. Chip said that if members want a change, they should serve on the Board. He pointed out that Echo Bay is a Sailing Event, not a Special Event. Rick stated parties should be within a reasonable commute. Milford and Echo Bay are reasonable commutes. He pointed out that many people go to City Island via land, not water. Janet agrees we need more skippers and boats. People are not renewing because they are not getting involved in sailing on boats. Meetup is not a club, but a way to get people in a club. Melissa stated that the more places we go, the more people we can meet.

Peter started the third round stating we should focus on how to get more new members and boats. He said the tag sale funds helped to pay for the short fall at City Island Yacht Club. Lucy stated that she helped Andrew with his efforts, but not with funding. She asked why CIYC is not an SUS event. Joe pointed out that the July 4th event is an SUS event. The party at Echo Bay is an Echo Bay party that SUS members are invited to attend. Chip stated that the demographics of the sailing world are changing. Rich and Janet passed. Melissa asked Joe about the classification of the July 4th and it was clarified that it is an SUS event, not a Special Event. If it were a Special Event then the SUS treasury would have to cover any financial short fall. Leisa passed.

The Members at Large then contributed to the conversation with (2) minute limits like the Board discussion. Lisa Kasak stated she had been talking with several people who are more Eastern/Northern members. She read an e-mail that was sent to SUS members regarding where Special Events are held. (Addendum to the minutes.) The petition has (13) "for" and (4) "against". She passed out the petition. Arlene Graffa had given Lisa her time. Tom Zagaroli said the club needs to evolve or it will die. Let Lucy run the Special Events. Mel Klugman believes the Board is upsetting members and that the infighting will destroy the club. Andrew Blackman stated it is not infighting, but rather discussion. He read the e-mail he sent to Joe and discussed e-mails with other members. He believes the number of boat owners in NY is larger percent than the percent of members. Ginny Cameron stated that people will vote with how they attend the events. Joanna Romersa stated that she was previously a Director of Special Events and that there have always been complaints about where the event was held, but if it is a good party, people will come. She stated we need more boats. People are not getting out to sail and that causes them to leave SUS. Carolann Carter passed.

For the second round, Lisa pointed out there are at least (6) restaurants on the water in Eastern Fairfield County. Arlene said she has heard lots of complaints about the Board. We need to get more members out sailing. Tom said that Outriggers has been mentioned as a possible site. Mel suggested spending more time on increasing the membership and not on Special Events. Andrew finished reading his e-mail. He stated we need to find more boats so members can sail.

For the third round, Lisa stated she did not want to exclude people and places, but rather to include more people. Andrew discussed CIYC.

The discussion went back to the Board. Peter took exception to Mel's comment about the Board not working. He suggested that Lisa should have come to the Board first before sending out a mass e-mail. Lucy passed. AK agreed that any place should be acceptable, but it is not true that the Board is anti-Connecticut. Minnie passed. Joe stated he feels responsible to all 140 plus SUS members. He feels obligated to bring their suggestions to the Board. He was representing what he had heard. Everyone

seems to be open to "Special Events" in NY and eastern CT and not excluding any area. Chip stated his feeling is that we need to include more eastern CT. He thought Lisa said that she had heard some say they did not want to include NY. Rick pointed out the Board tries to represent the entire club and to do what is needed to increase membership and make it a 'fun' club. Janet agreed with what Rich stated. Melissa spoke directly to Lisa to apologize if Lisa felt she had been demonized. Peter encouraged Arlene to come to a skippers meeting. Rich T.said we had received good input and it is a foundation for a good meeting in November.

Committee Status Reports

Janet reported on the nominating process. There is a least (1) candidate for each open position. She read the list of candidates that will be announced on October 16th. She thanked the nominating committee.

Unfinished Business

The need for MS Office 365 was discussed. The website must be ".org" to get the non-profit rate. AK will talk to his contact and try to re-apply.

Janet requested an update on the website status. Joe discussed what Norm has done. There is a site for visitors/members and a site for data only. Members can log onto the data side. It appears Norm has the site developed to where he wanted it so it is time for it to be turned over or to develop a new site. Tom was recognized and asked if Norm still owns the name. Peter suggested Ida Lowe come to a Board meeting. AK pointed out it is important to own the name. AK will contact Go-Daddy. Leisa is concerned because she cannot download data. Melissa is concerned that she logged into "Singlesundersail.org" and it went to AK's site. Website access was discussed. Peter asked about the status of AK's site. Chip suggested a committee to discuss the issue and then do a presentation to the Board. Leisa, AK and Rick will look into the data issue and then a larger committee will look at the website.

Other

Chip proposed SUS purchase MS365 and authorize AK to spend up to \$15/month. AK seconded and it was approved. Andrew was recognized and he asked about passwords. He suggested a written poll of the membership regarding their website experience. Lucy stated Go-Daddy shows the .org as registered to the Corporation so the IP address can be forwarded.

New Business

None was discussed

Good and Welfare

It was suggested a condolence card be sent to the owner of the Norwalk Inn. Janet and Andrew will work on this.

Adjournment

Joe noted that the meeting had been a good meeting for the Board and the Members at Large.

Rick moved the meeting be adjourned; Janet seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:58PM.