



Westerville Rowing Club
October Board and Coaches Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025, 6:30pm
Westerville Library, Westerville, OH 43081

- **Invited Attendance**

- Present:

- Chair- Jeff Latimer
- Vice Chair- Melissa Kappes
- Secretary- Allison Marshall
- Treasurer- Bruce Binnig (also Master's)
- Members-At-Large:
 - Jeff Klima
 - Victor Rosenberg
- Coaches:
 - Howard Bruss: Director of Rowing and U14 Head Coach
 - Grace Bordner: Women's Head Coach
 - Cory Henderson: Interim Men's Head Coach

- Not Present:

- Betsy Binnig: Masters Coach

1. Budget

- a. Discussion about current numbers.
- b. Vespo 8s are paid off now.

2. Coaching

- a. Roles and responsibilities

- i. Discussion about coaches R&R plan. Hasn't been sent to Board yet, but Grace will do it.
- ii. Grace has something she can send out.
- iii. It covers R&R, on water safety, practice plans (year long), working with parents and families, college, recruiting events, and more
- iv. Question asked about whether Grace's plan covers site maintenance: Grace has some kids working on new systems of where things should go in the coaches shed. Need something to happen with the rower's shed.
- v. Grace observes that this year has had so many fewer problems with losing and breaking things this year compared to last year.

- b. Recruiting

- i. Discussion about plans for recruiting during Winter season.

- ii. Discussion about a Masters LTR over Winter.
 - c. Hiring plan to replace Cory at end of Spring.
 - i. No plan, discussed that it's time to start looking.
- 3. Registration:
 - a. Roster Check
 - i. Novice 12 M/W
 - ii. Varsity 47 M/W
 - iii. U14 16
 - b. US Rowing Membership
- 4. Programming/Seasonal Updates
 - a. Recruiting events
 - i. Upcoming scheduled events
 - 1. 4th Friday this week
 - 2. LTR week next week
 - 3. No LTR dates set for winter
 - 4. Would like to do a LTR in Jan/Feb
 - 5. Howard will have updates on MS school visits next week
 - b. Fall
 - i. Last day on water?
 - 1. Will see how it goes after Hooch
 - ii. Marietta update
 - 1. Lattimer has a letter to send families addressing the issue and what he's done about it.
 - 2. Recommendation is to not return to Marietta.
 - 3. Discussion about replacement event.
 - iii. Head of the Charles:
 - 1. Results
 - a. Girls requalified for next year, boys did not.
 - 2. Any lessons learned?
 - a. Discussion about the impact that choosing rowers early had on performance at the event. Preference is to choose athletes later in the future.
 - b. Discussion about what boats to take next year. Grace believes the men's team would be perform better better in 4s.
 - c. Discussion turned to Nationals in the spring and the desire to be more transparent from the start about which boats (not necessarily athletes) will likely go to Nationals.
 - d. Discussion about dues next year and handling select regatta fees.
 - e. Discussion about possibility of traveling as team for small group selects (such as Charles or Nats). Has some benefits, but needs to be planned early so families know.
 - iv. Head of the Hooch plan

1. Discussion about the current plan, including need to rent a truck. Our truck isn't safe further than an hour and a half from home.
 - c. Winter
 - i. Dates (Dec 1 - Mar 2)?Christmas break, Dec 22-Jan 3. Doing a christmas break instead of time off between seasons.
 - ii. Erg sprints is Feb 28
 - iii. Dues: suggested in the parent meeting \$500
 - d. Spring
 - i. Schedule proposal:
 1. Cinci Invitational April 11
 2. Dogwood April 24-26 - will be select again
 3. Indy no dates yet on regattacentral May 3-4 last year
 4. Midwest Championships May 16
 5. Scrimmage: intent to schedule one for week before Cinci invites.
5. Boathouse update
 - a. Currently putting together a proposal presentation to City of Columbus.
 - b. Discussion about the City's requirement that the boathouse needs to benefit the City. City has provided suggestions for ways we might broaden our thinking to include or benefit other groups.
6. Communications
 - a. Recommendation from coaches on communication plan (Victor)
 - i. Discussion about coaches' pain points with communications and ways to improve them. Noted that communication is much improved compared to last year.
7. Equipment
 - a. Electricity issue update
 - i. Electricity to the shed seems to be fixed
 - b. Bat Logic update
 - i. There's a plan but it needs to be fine tuned.
 - c. Bike ergs
 - i. Discussion about buying bike ergs before Winter. Board voted to buy used last year but couldn't find any.
 - ii. Discussion about whether they need to be Concept 2. The preference is this brand, as conversion of meters and resistance is good/consistent with the ergs.
 - iii. Are \$1100 used or new. Used retain value well.
 - d. Weights in Erg room
 - i. Don't use the weight racks because rack isn't bolted into floor. Howard says he can do it.
 - ii. Discussion about other blockers to used weights.
 - e. Demo Vespoli 4s
 - i. Discussion about reasons for seeking demos, including that the JT and Bear are out of commission; Cole working on JT but no intention to repair Bear.

- f. Grace requested the Board invest in boat covers because when boats travel, they take highway damage (rocks and branches etc). Cost is \$1500/8 but long term is worth it. We have one cover that we got from OSU; it' used with the Stoneface.
- g. Discussion about decreasing inventory and clearing out older boats.