

## **BAM Booster Club Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Virtual Booster Club Board Meeting via Zoom (due to COVID-19 restrictions)**

**Date:** July 18, 2020

**Attendees:** Rod Stevens, April Cheadle, Tom Goodlin, Sheila Andrews, Jessica Dubey, Quynh-Anh Nguyen, and Anne Voegtlen

**Not Present:** Sara Tiff

**Time:** 9:00 am – 10:25 am

### **Summary of Commitments:**

#### **Tom, Jessica and Sheila**

Collaborate to draft a revised message to the team, describing the trial scholarship program. Run this by the rest of the Board, with the goal of sending it out this weekend. (We agreed that time is of the essence, on this communication.)

#### **Everyone**

Look for other ways we might help the BAM community, in addition to scholarships.

### **Coach's Report – April**

It's early days in the process of restarting the BAM swim program and reopening the pools. The first week was a beginning; the second week, April expects to find a rhythm.

Next changes that will affect the BAM program will include the startup of lap swimming.

When Kitsap County gets to Phase 3, we hope to have the same slots for BAM, but Parks and Rec also will be able to get financial benefit from offering lessons then. The conversation has not yet happened, around whether the two pools could stay open if there is a long delay getting to Phase 3. Right now, everyone involved with the pool is looking for ways to cut costs on day to day operations, as everyone works hard to stay viable in Phase 2.

The BAM program will be at breakeven in Phase 2 if we fill 145 to 150 spots each week.

Asked about a 6-month view forward, April said there's no way to provide that now. The governor's phases of reopening and the virus itself will determine that.

In April's responses to some questions, these points came up:

Bainbridge Parks & Rec needs to develop guidelines based on its particular status, and so its reopening practices won't necessarily match those in another pool. For instance, Parks & Rec has not given clearance for people who are related or cohabiting to share a lane and increase the overall number of swimmers in a group past 6.

Summer is a challenging time for restarting the program, with vacations and travel and other issues affecting who is able to come.

There is only a small amount of wiggle room in the fee structure now, and not enough to hire any subs at this time.

We likely should not let go our early (5am) time slots, as they are the only ones that work for some swimmers, and we're one of the few user groups that can fill those slots.

At this point, April is back on salary and not dependent on the continuation of the workshare program.

### **BAM Boosters Mission, and Recent or Proposed Actions**

The Board came to this meeting with a proposal and a draft message on the table about how to help swimmers who might not be able to afford the current fee structure.

Our discussion of the proposal began with Rod setting a context, by focusing on our core missions: to support April; to advocate for swimming; and to support community and communication among BAM swimmers. He asked us to consider the scholarship proposal in light of one basic question: How can we help to keep the whole BAM program strong over the long term?

Ideally, Rod would want us to have a 6-month plan for our use of resources. In discussion, we decided that this is not really feasible in the current climate of challenges.

Ideally, Rod would have us publicize other resources available to BAM swimmers who are unable to access the current pool program. For now, as Jessica noted, many of these activities are being organized and offered peer to peer only.

Tom's discussion of the scholarship idea emphasized that we can't know what will happen over the next 6 months, and we need to keep the program as strong as we can, given the hand we've been dealt here.

Some key points from our extended discussion:

April has done her best, through all of this, to protect the program and the swimmers. Each one of us acknowledged and honored this.

We want to maintain the pre-pandemic makeup of the BAM team as much as possible, and to retain the level of economic diversity that we had pre-pandemic.

Filling slots in the pool is the primary way we can keep things going in a good direction right now.

Helping swimmers who need economic assistance may help us fill more slots overall, and should help to preserve economic diversity – even if the total number of BAM slots sold remains about the same.

Although we can't know how the next 6 months or longer will unfold, and what funds we might need to help the program longer term, it seems imperative to *try* a scholarship assistance plan now, and test how well it can work.

We can't really know the number of people who feel that they need assistance. It might be only a few, or it might be significantly higher. People's estimations ranged from 4 to 40. (In other words, we don't know.)

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We do know that there are individual swimmers who have talked with April and told her that they need assistance. And other swimmers who have who have offered to provide some level of financial support to swimmers in need. So there is a potential supplement to our trial scholarship program.

We talked about mechanisms that might work without placing added burdens on April or on Parks & Rec billing people. The best idea: The Board could buy punch-cards, and swimmers could access the punch-cards after speaking with April. We settled on offering a simple 50% subsidy.

After discussion of many issues, we came up with this plan for the shape of a 4-week trial program of scholarship assistance:

April will be the clearing house. Swimmers will contact her if they wish to receive assistance.

Our Treasurer, Sara, will be aware of the swimmers who request assistance.

We are offering \$10 toward each \$20 swim fee, for the next two successive two-week sessions, which will run from July 27 to August 8, and from August 10 to August 22.

We will purchase punch-cards from Parks & Rec for this use, up to a maximum of \$1,200.

We'll review how this goes, at the next board meeting.

A motion to establish a test program as described was made and seconded, and was approved by a vote of 6-0.

### **BAM Booster Club Treasurer's Report**

Sara could not be present at the meeting, but filed a report confirming the availability of funds sufficient for a scholarship trial program.

#### **BAM Booster Club Treasurer's Report - As of July 16, 2020**

Bank balance: \$5,784.94

Recurring expenses: \$16.33 monthly payment for Zoom account

Uncashed check(s): # 1077, dated 3/10/20, total \$30.26 payable to Rod Stevens for Saturday Social expenses.

Net cash: \$5754.68

Special thanks to Marilyn Gottlieb for \$150 cash donation for purchase of leftover BAM team event drinks and supplies.

### **Other Forms of Support for Those Who Cannot Swim During the Pandemic**

Some BAM swimmers have made the decision that they will not feel safe returning to swimming until there's a vaccine, or some other clear sign that the pandemic threat is over. Others, as discussed in connection with the issue of scholarships, are unable to participate for reason of costs.

We discussed ways that BAMmers can maintain swim fitness while away from the pool and away from April's in-water coaching. At this point, the best way for swimmers to access alternatives like open water swimming is by peer to peer conversations.

But there's interest on the Board in looking for ways to help swimmers connect with resources, if we can do this without taking on responsibility for group activities like open water swimming, which currently tend to happen organically and in small groups.

April is also looking for when it might be possible to add in dryland via Zoom, or some other form of virtual coaching, and whether at some point she might get clearance to revive an open water component associated with BAM.

**Next Meeting:** August 19, 2020, Wednesday, at 6:30pm, via Zoom.