

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

Date: July 21, 2021

Attendees: Tom Goodlin, Coach April Cheadle, Jamie Damm, Denise Dumouchel, Maggie Hansen, Quynh-Anh Nguyen, Sara Tiff, Anne Voegtlen

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:05 pm

President's Report/ Approval of Minutes (Tom)

As our first order of business, we approved the minutes from our last meeting, on June 23, 2021.

Tom then invited the new board members to bring up any questions or comments they might have.

In answer to Denise and Jamie's questions about what new board members should be doing now, Tom basically said they should learn the group and its needs as they go. And bring their own ideas as issues occur. Short term, we'll be focusing on the potential September party and working on a budget for the new fiscal year that starts in September.

Communications Director (Maggie)

Maggie reported that she has gotten together with Sheila about necessary passwords and transition information, and Sheila has graciously offered to help in the future as needed. Maggie feels that she has a good grip on the systems she'll need to use for BAM communications. She's updated our web page with new board member information and photos. She's used Mail Chimp to send out a notice. She's getting notices from PayPal each time a donation to BAM Booster Club is made via PayPal.

Next week, she plans to work on updating the website text, and will send out suggested wording before posting it.

Tom encouraged Maggie to show her own sense of humor and her own personal style in her communications on behalf of BAM.

We talked about how frequently she should plan to communicate with BAM swimmers, generally. The consensus was to aim for monthly messages. That said, we're also pointing toward a September 11 BAM party – our first since the pandemic – and we may do weekly updates/reminders about that for 4 to 5 weeks leading up to it. That was Maggie's opinion about best practice to try and get a good head count as we ask people to RSVP.

Treasurer's Report (Sara)

Sara reported that we had about \$1900 in the bank at June month end, and we've added approximately \$2400 in donations from new or renewing Booster Club members since that time. We're on track to end this fiscal year about where we expected, but we don't yet have as many Booster Club signups for the new fiscal year as we'd like.

We discussed some issues Sarah had flagged in email before the meeting.

Should we follow up in any way with people who renew with the Booster Club but contribute at the old level (\$35) versus the new requested level (\$40)? We decided that it's all voluntary, a donation rather than a fee, and we'd be sending unhelpful messages by asking for more. We'll let those donations stand as given.

What should we do with registration forms that come in? Give them to Anne as Secretary, and she'll use them to make an updated list of active Booster Club members.

There have been some generous excess donations, what Sara calls "top up" donations. She's sent out thank you notes for many of these.

How do we handle the upcoming Team Unify deadline, on July 25? We'd like to key into this in some way. Depending on when we can get a message out, we'll either remind BAMmers of the imminent deadline or we'll assure them that the Booster Club PayPal link is still live, and that the blue box and

check options are also still available.

We also discussed status of financial assistance funds. We are in a position to finish our fiscal year just about using all our allocated dollars for financial help to swimmers, even if we add in one recent new request. With that in mind, and based on the circumstances of the recent request, we decided that this swimmer would do best with a punch-card. A punch-card can be purchased for about \$180. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved: To purchase a punch-card for this swimmer, to help her gain back strength after her injury.

Sara will begin work on a draft budget for the new fiscal year, which runs from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

Coach's Report (April)

April thanked the whole board for helping to get materials together for the Team Unify packet, in two frantic days after our last board meeting. The text and Team Unify materials ultimately had to be reviewed and approved up the chain in Bainbridge Parks and Rec, from Megan Pleli through Mark Benishek to Terry Lande.

We now have 107 registered team members, and 53 swimmers yet to complete the Team Unify registration. The deadline is July 25, which is very close. April has offered and continues to offer to help people with any technical questions or difficulties in getting registered. But time is running out.

Now that there is no waiting list for BAM swimming, April is being overwhelmed with people who want to join. This is good news, but also challenging in the short term.

Megan and April will be meeting very soon to discuss how best to balance workout length (one hour now vs. the pre-pandemic hour and fifteen minutes), swimmers per lane, and the needs of lap swimmers and other pool users. In the fall, there also will be the needs of the high school program to consider.

We asked April how new BAM swimmers get to her now, without a waiting list “vestibule” setup. Sometimes, our coaches don't meet new swimmers till they show up on deck. We are all committed to welcoming new BAMmers as they join, and we also will do what we can to make that transition as easy as possible for all concerned – old swimmers, new swimmers and coaches.

We asked April for clarification about the new mask policies. Some staff were allowed to prove vaccination status and so avoid wearing masks at work. A decision was made not to ask pool users to prove vaccination status, primarily because not all pool users can be vaccinated at this point – whether because of age or other health conditions.

We discussed the length of the upcoming pool closure. It has gone from an estimated two weeks to an estimated three weeks. Team Unify billings will be for one week in August, and a later upcharge will be added if the pool is able to reopen earlier than August 22.

We discussed our personal preferences for workout length – and it was unanimous at the board level that we believe it's better to keep one hour workouts if this lets us have more workout slots available for swimmers overall.

In terms of bringing back open water swimming and dry land exercise slots, April doesn't see that happening for a while. This is mostly to do with her own bandwidth, right now.

A question was raised about whether it would be helpful to survey swimmers for opinions on workout length and scheduling. The consensus was to hold off on this.

Mostly, the board asked April to use her own best judgment, to do what she can to keep a good balance of workout length and total time slots and swimmers per lane. But we also strongly encouraged her to make it a priority to keep herself happy and healthy, as she works hard to do her best for all of us and for the program.

Other News and Business

We talked about timing and logistics for the summer party, we're planning to hold on September 11. This would be our first BAM social event since the pandemic began.

Maggie will generate an evite, once we have some basic details worked out.

Anne will talk with Dallas, who has offered her Battle Point beach property as the venue. Dallas has ideas about best timing for families to swim or use the beach, based on tides. Anne also will get Dallas' list of things that have worked well in the past for BAM parties at her place.

In terms of food, we discussed how best to craft this as we emerge but are not totally clear of Covid.

Maggie's suggestions: Have plenty of hand sanitizer around. Consider asking people to bring their own food. Maybe have grills set up so people can cook any grilled food they want to eat. Plan to provide beverages for everyone. If we offer dessert, like a large sheet cake, have servers who are masked be the ones to give out helpings.

Quynh-Anh will dust off her notes from two years ago, for party plans. She ordered the Porta-Potty last time. And, as Tom said, she's great at planning parties.

Next Scheduled Meeting: August 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 5 pm, via Zoom.
We try to keep them to one hour.

Attachments:

Treasurer's Financial Report, dated as of July 20, 2021, and

Treasurer's Notes to the Financial Report, from Sara's email dated July 20, 2021