



Vancouver Rowing Club
Rowing Section
Extraordinary General Meeting
Meeting minutes
March 28, 2010

1.0 Procedural items

Sixty-four active members in attendance. Meeting called to order at 10:35am by Paul Harris.

- 1.1 Motion to adopt the agenda by Paul Harris, seconded by Simon Litherland.
- 1.2 Proposal that debate be limited so that the meeting be adjourned at 12:00pm regardless of the status of the other items of the agenda, unless adjourned prior to that time. Motion proposed by Paul Harris, seconded by Kai Imlah. Motion passed by 44 people in favour.

2.0 Presentation: VRC Participation Committee

- 2.1 Propose resolution to receive report from the Participation Committee. Motion proposed by Nick Nagy, seconded by Heather Burt.
- 2.2 Don Buchanan provided an overview of the participation proposal, followed by reading out the proposal to the membership. Dimas Craveiro highlighted that the participation committee deliberately created a policy as opposed to a bylaw to enable the Executive to easily make amendments as required.
- 2.3 Discussion: Subsequent debate focussed on the following issues:
 - 1) Volunteer hours: is there enough work to go around if every active member is required to do 20 volunteer hours. The set number is set too high and seems arbitrary.
The participation program proposed tracking volunteer hours for all kinds of activities, not just boat maintenance tasks. The number of volunteer hours was determined by conducting research into the requirements from other clubs, as well as obtaining a rough estimation from the Learn to Row program and the Equipment Manager.
 - 2) Tracking of hours via honour system: there should be checks and balances when recording volunteer hours.
The participation program proposes tracking volunteer hours via an honour system to avoid putting extra burden on coaches or Executive team members. Some checks and balances are built in automatically since most tasks are collaborative in nature anyway.
 - 3) Money usage: what is the money spent on that is generated from members who pay rather than volunteer their time.

Money generated from the participation program has its own line item on the Treasurer's report. The money is available for general section expenditures.

4) Attrition to membership: fear that the introduction of a participation program will lead to membership attrition.

For most of last year there was a waiting list to join the Rec program and the Novice program. Membership attrition is unlikely.

5) Existing bylaws: Existing bylaws exist that require each member to participate in boat maintenance, making the proposal unnecessary.

The participation program is being proposed to help increase participation in all areas where volunteering is required to get jobs done (boat maintenance, social events, regattas, etc.). The program's premise is to have every active member put in their share of work, and thereby also to lessen the burden on those people who volunteer a lot of their time.

3.0 Vote

3.1 Vote to receive the motion of the special resolution to adopt a Participation Policy. Motion to adopt by Nick Nagy, seconded by Carolyn Thompson. Motion passed by 44 people.

3.2 Vote to endorse or oppose on a motion to adopt the Participation Policy. Motion to adopt by Anna Sloan, seconded by Don Buchanan. The participation policy was endorsed by 22 people, opposed by 33, and 1 person abstained.

The motion to introduce a Participation Policy was not passed.

3.3 Vote on motion to adopt the special resolution to add an additional Executive Committee member: a Volunteer Coordinator. Since the addition of an Executive Committee member constitutes a bylaw change, this motion required a 2/3 majority to pass. Motion to add an Executive Committee member proposed by Nick Nagy and seconded by Thomas Vogl. The Volunteer Coordinator Executive position was endorsed by 34 people, opposed by 18, and 5 people abstained.

The motion to add an additional Executive Committee member was not passed.

4.0 Adjournment

4.1 Motion to adjourn the meeting by Paul Harris, seconded by Nick Nagy.

4.2 Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.