

**Swarthmore Swim Club Board
April 27, 2011 Meeting
Minutes**

Present: Kim Bernaus, Amy Connell, Joe Foglio, Rick Graham, Jim Greer, Nika Haase, Susan Kelly, Gary King (Presiding), Jeanne Maillet, John McKinstry, Dick Nenno, Michael Ryan, Stuart Seidman, Chip Stockman, Charlie Coonley (Manager); Jean Tierno (Personnel Manager)

The meeting began at 7:05.

1. Member Comments

None.

2. Minutes from March Meeting

The minutes of the March 2011 Board Meeting were approved.

3. Manager's Report

We have hired Jean Tierno as our Personnel Manager. This weekend, Charlie will log in all the students, including their paperwork, and will have them working at the pool. The electrical system has been repaired. An inspector was out this morning to see the circuitry, and that which did not pass (old stuff) should be repaired next week. The plumbing is operating, showing little damage from the winter. There is a leak (losing 10-15 gallons per minute) to the spigots, and that has been shut off until the leak can be found. The bathrooms are functioning. Our phone system and internet is up and running. Tomorrow the security system will be inspected and repaired. DelVal will come in next week to drain the pool, powerwash and get it ready. Everything is on track to opening the pool on schedule. It will take a week to fill the pool.

4. Operations

Joe reported that of the big things they are working on are electricity and the security system.

5. Quality of Life

Nika reported that Jeanne Maillet has obtained new basketball hoops. The tennis program looks as though it will be going forward, and they hope that the website will give it the publicity it needs. For the Sunday Supper, they have contacted a lot of caterers, but not found much interest. They are thinking of having the Co-Op. Amy is looking at various Saturday night functions to get families there on Saturday nights.

6. Publicity

Chip reported:

Sponsor Shirt: Raised to date: \$2,200

Presently we have 12 Sponsors for the 2011 shirt. It continues to be a difficult time for local businesses and the few that have offered their support should be commended for their involvement. These sponsors are already listed on the new Pool website and will receive one of the shirts and 4) guest passes with our thanks as soon as they are available. Shirts are on schedule to be ordered in the first week of May to be onsite for opening. If you should have an interested sponsor, have them contact me immediately to be included.

Website

All the SSC committees should send information to be included to Chip as soon as possible. He has a lot of historical documents on the website.

Guest Pass

The 2011 Guest Pass will carry Use Requirement language from the Membership guide to help establish ensure proper use.

Member Guide

Chip is looking for Membership Guide details and input from Committees. He suggested that we print a limited number of Membership Guides with a full Guide being available on the website as a PDF.

Information Board: Estimate \$650

This was an idea originally presented last year: there would be an information board next to the restroom entrance that would include a clock, a dry erase board and sliding panels (Sunday Supper, Swim Meet, Friday Raft Night etc.) This board would help raise awareness and attendance at SSC events. The cost would be \$650.

There was a motion to authorize the construction of an information board (without the clock). APPROVED 13-0.

Chip also raised the idea of building a new waterslide. This would help keep the young teenagers, because the existing slide is too small for those older than 10. The first economical commercial grade slide was \$13,000. Charlie has other ideas, and offered to put together a presentation of what other clubs have done to meet with PA regulations. Charlie and Chip will present this at next meeting.

We talked about the dive well. Charlie noted that the dive well is grandfathered, but if we make any substantial changes to the pool, we will have to change the dive well.

7. Membership

Jim Greer reports that we had 437 members last year.

Thus far, membership is slow. We have only 165 people paid through last Friday. Out of the associate membership program established last year, only two of the 17 associate members have become real members. Thus, at this point it seems as though this experiment has not proved very fruitful.

Motion to accept Drew and Heidi Sentivan and Garen and Dian Boghosian as members. APPROVED 13-0.

Jim suggested establishing a policy that non-paying members cannot gain admission to the club through guest passes. Charlie noted that this would require a full membership list, and photo ID. This also could drive these non-paying members to want to redeem their stock, and at the moment we might not want to redeem their stock unless we had replacement members. The idea would be that if they apply to redeem their stock, then they could get guest passes, even if we have not redeemed their stock because of not having enough members.

8. Financials

Rick Graham noted we are behind in dues, but dependent dues are up. We are behind \$400 in revenue compared with last year, so it is not off much. Cash on hand is up compared with last year, up by \$8,000.

9. Volunteering Program

Kim spoke to the issue of volunteering. She suggested the option of expecting members to volunteer a certain number of hours. If a member does not so volunteer, the he or she would have to pay a maintenance fee at the end of the season. Thus, you might serve four hours, or pay a fee of \$250. This would create a sense of camaraderie, and it would save money. They could also provide work for running meets, et cetera.

10. Swim and Dive

Kim suggested that a swim team practice at 8-9 in the morning three times a week be established for those who cannot make the regular practice. This time was chosen because it was seen as a pretty quiet time and therefore unlikely to interfere with many members, and it will end in time for kids to get to SRA camp.

Kim also reported that Casey O'Hara is coming back, but not Colleen (who is due very soon.) We have a strong candidate for a good assistant coach.

We had a long discussion about the wisdom of having 2-hour workouts for kids who are only doing 50s and 100s. It was mentioned that 2-hour workouts deter those 11 and 12 years olds to quit because the time is too long.

11. Open Discussion

Gary met with the Towne Center group and it was a productive evening, discussing the synergies among all the institutions of our town. Since the organization has opened the door to SSC, this presents a great opportunity for us. We could have a Flicks & Floats event. Getting people down there is the goal, not revenue.

First Friday is a big thing for them. We could have a drop off for families who want to go to First Friday, and then the parents could go to First Friday (perhaps supervised by our 7th Grade Volunteer Group.)

We also have a huge number that can bike there.

Zumba looks like it could be popular.

Gary noted other ideas that would help serve the community: meets that are open to the community, having a pep rally, and a 50/50 Raffle. He also suggested that we have a facelift for the grassy area by the basketball course.

Chip made a proposal for how to paint the buildings. There was enthusiasm for his color scheme.

12. New Business

We had a message from Susan Brake about a family who has moved from England to have their son treated for an illness. They do not have much money as they are staying here in town. We are wondering whether we might give them an associate membership for them for the summer. Thus, there was a motion

To grant a one-year associate membership with all dues and fees waived for Colleen and Matt White for one summer, which would include six guest passes and a baby-sitter pass.

APPROVED 13-0.

Membership will put together a letter to Susan Brake.

There was also a motion *to appoint Susan Kelly as Senior Representative.* ***APPROVED 13-0.***

Gary put forward the idea of doing what Wallingford does of having free membership of board membership. We had a discussion of the merits and problems of this. One member spoke of the

labor required and you want something in return. Another said that this might help reduce the turnover on the board. Another noted that this might be seen as self-serving.

Gary suggested a Pre-Season Event on May 21. Charlie suggested a pre-season event to all new members to see the place, and have some hot dogs and sodas. It would be an open-house to all in the community.

We will have a meet the staff event the Friday of Memorial Day weekend.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

John McKinstry