



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7:00pm

Board Members

Sarah Armour
Peter Capek
~~Mitzi Elkes~~, Executive Committee At Large
Joan Gaylord
Neil Gordon, Treasurer
~~Scott Greathead~~
~~Allen Gutkin~~
Samantha Hicks, Vice-President
Gareth Hougham
Arthur Jones, Executive Committee At Large
~~Steve Kiehar~~
~~Aaron Mair~~
~~Jennifer McMillan~~

Tom Murphy
Henry Neale, Executive Committee At Large
Jeremy Rainer
Dan Riesel
Larry Rothbart
Steve Stanne, President, Chair
Donna Stein
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary
Sarah Underhill
Greg Williams
(~~strike through~~ indicates absence)

Staff Members

Ruthie Gold
Manna Jo Greene
Amali Knobloch

Erin Macchiaroli
Meg Mayo

Members

Muhammad Tanvir Anjun
Jeremy Baron

Alan Thomas
Julia Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
In lieu of a Mission Song, Steve shared a video of Thomasina Winslow singing 'Moon's Goin Down'. Steve said a memorial service for Thomasina is planned for Feb. 18th at Schenectady Community College.

Approval of Minutes

The 01/12/22 Board meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

Executive Director's Report

Steve said that Staff will give the updates in David's absence and noted Board-Staff communication should go through Steve or David.

Ruthie gave the education update and welcomed On Board Program Coordinators Ella Agoos (she/her) and Chloe Grey Smith (they/them), both in their second season. Ruthie said spring crew hiring is underway, with first mate, engineer, and cook for part of the season, all of whom have worked for Clearwater before and demonstrating we are rebuilding the Clearwater crew pipeline. Ruthie said January highlights included the open boat with over 100 people, a winter volunteer day, Regional Environmental Educators Day where we facilitated a workshop on inclusivity and accessibility, tabling at the New York Boat Show and Eaglefest, and launching the spring education sail calendar (45 projected, 50 reserved as of this morning). Amali and Ruthie worked extremely hard re-envisioning the scheduling and booking process to improve both user and backend experience. Ruthie said the New York Boat Show, a consumer show with over 20k attendees, was used as an opportunity to rebuild relevancy in NYC, with docks/marinas, and the Long Island Sound. Ruthie gave shoutouts to Amali who not only secured a free booth but was the primary lift for the organization and to Amber for pulling literature and tangible assets together. The model of the sloop was a big draw.

Looking ahead, Ruthie pointed to sailing preparation (completing remainder of spring schedule, filling out the Onboard Volunteer schedule, working on grant-specific programs, YEPs, reviewing curriculum, and crew training), completing winter maintenance, the February open boat on 2/25, and Kids Week at the Intrepid Museum (we are there 2/23-2/25).

Sarah A. gave the sloop report. January's progress includes all blocks have been serviced, all lines replaced that needed to be replaced, forward stanchion installation is complete, covering boards are installed, focsle is sanded and painting begun, main cabin sanding is in process, and all sections of caprail have been reinstalled except for the most forward one. Sarah said the block replacement project is ongoing and the labor and materials for the three new main sheet blocks were donated by Sarah and by Scott Gifford, lead shipwright at the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard. The value of time and material donated is over \$2,000. Tom suggested we give Scott a membership as a thank you and Sarah will follow-up. Expenses for January came in as budgeted. Sarah said work is on track to finish on schedule and Ruthie said the first education sail is booked for April 17th. Sarah thanked everyone who came to the January open boat and said it's really meaningful for people to speak with the crew.

Manna shared Environmental Action highlights. A recording of the Indian Point Decommissioning Board's forum focused on human health is now available on line. The next forum, on 2/16, is focused on treatment systems for radioactive water. Manna participated in the NYS DOB (Decommissioning Oversight Board) meeting on 2/2. Work on a congressional briefing with the national decommissioning group is in progress. Manna said municipal outreach is underway for the Hudson River Fish Consumption Advisory. Manna highlighted the comment period for the New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study (NYNJ HATS) is extended to 3/7 and encouraged people to take action. (Links and more information on all these topics can be found in the Feb 2023 EA report on our website.)

Manna gave an update on progress on the EA Strategic Plan and welcomed Bennington College Fellow Muhammad Tanvir Anjum. Help tabling at Earth Day events would be appreciated. The Clean Water Act Symposium is tentatively scheduled for April 14th at Kaplan Hal. Lastly, Jen has written a memorandum on the round gobi, an invasive aquatic species that has reached the Hudson. We want to prevent further migration of invasive species into the Hudson and this is considered an urgent priority. We will be reaching out to scientists to help formulate recommendations.

Henry asked whether there is a plan for invasives coming through the canals and Steve replied DEC indicates they intend to work on it but haven't gotten very far. The progress of the round gobi was tracked through the canal system but no action was taken. Steve said a citizen's advisory group recently drafted and sent a letter asking DEC to accelerate work on the invasives through the canal system.

Erin gave the administrative update, including an update on David's recovery (please send well wishes for his speedy recovery), status of the EA Director search, and that the 990 for 2020 has been submitted and we are ready to move forward with the audit. Erin said an overhaul of the employee handbook is underway and should be completed by the spring sailing season. Lastly Erin highlighted that in Chronogram, both

Clearwater (under advocacy organizations) and Manna Jo Greene (under people/activists) were nominated, and encouraged everyone to vote daily.

Development Report and Gala Update

Meg started with the welcome news that the final OPRHP report has been submitted! This was a huge and time consuming task.

Development revenue for fiscal year to date is 19% above forecast, as Gala revenue is coming in earlier than planned. Meg asked for continued support in selling tickets, program book ads and sponsorships in support of our 8th Annual Spirit of the Hudson Gala, Sunday, March 19th, at the Garrison, celebrating honorees Ronald Zorrilla, CEO and Founder of Outdoor Promise for the Spirit of the Hudson Award and Betsy Garthwaite for Lifetime Contribution to Clearwater. Meg identified the Master of Ceremonies as Sam Hicks, the auctioneer as Fred Osborne, and the musicians as Dan Englehardt (Cocktail Hour) and Linda Richards (Mission Song). Live auction items include a summer house in Italy, a vacation home in Maine, the M&T Bank Renegades suite (with catering!) and a Clearwater charter. Silent auction items include a Martha Vineyard's home, a private charter flight, vintage Clearwater belt buckles, backstage access at a NYC jazz concert, and much more. Even if you can't make the gala, you can participate with the silent auction and share that with friends. For more information on this exciting event, visit our website!

Meg showed a grants pipeline snapshot with the final OPRHP submission and three recent applications to two different funders. Meg gave shoutouts to Greg and Peter who offered help on grants research and to Sam Hicks for writing the final OPRHP report.

Meg said Amber Stewart welcomed an intern, Elizabeth, to the Communications Team in January. Elizabeth is a Senior at SUNY New Paltz (communications major, environmental studies minor, and Sustainability Ambassador under the Office of Campus Sustainability).

Looking ahead, Meg pointed to a February email membership renewal campaign, and as soon as Gala wraps up, kicking into high gear with Patron Fish Sails, including one from Kingston around the May 13th concert.

Rosemary gave an update on Development Committee activity. Current focus areas are Gala support, re-engaging former crew, supporting revitalization of the legacy giving program, helping create a municipal database and supporting timely thank you notes to donors. Longer term, the committee will explore re-engaging more people with Clearwater, doubling the impact of Gala, formalizing our plans into quarterly objectives with tasks and resource requirements understood, and exploring other ways to magnify our contribution.

Steve said there are two challenges, near term cash and long term revenue enhancements. Immediate opportunities are Gala tickets, ads, and sponsors and each person should think of how they can help. Among the longer term ideas broached is a retreat including training and producing actionable results, and there will be more on this in the near future.

Nominating Committee

Arthur reiterated the 10 incumbents eligible for re-election this year should state their intentions by Saturday and that the annual board self-assessment will go out this month and be due in March.

Steve said the EC and Nominating Committee are interested in having a conversation with each of the 10 incumbents to get a read on their interests and intentions.

Music & Celebration: City of Kingston Earth Fair May 13th

Steve updated folks on events planned for the long running Earth Fair on May 13th in Kingston, in partnership with the City of Kingston. This free event will run from 10am-5pm. In addition to education exhibits and boat tours, Clearwater is organizing two stages, one in the barn and one in Gallo Park along the Rondout. Thanks to the generosity of Radio Kingston and the Eighth Step coffeehouse, we have \$11k toward music. Musicians are coming forward and things are coming together. We will get prominent

mention on banners over Broadway and our own banners over the stages. People are stepping up to help with recruitment of talent and production aspects of the festival. Some volunteer opportunities will be listed.

Membership Committee

Arthur said kickoff meetings gathered input from staff, with some goals established and challenges identified. Arthur shared a chart of membership numbers over decades and said the numbers all have asterisks as things changed year to year. He identified some reasons for a decline in membership, such as the lack of volunteer opportunities without Revival or the sloop On Board Volunteer program and that the younger generation does not really understand membership. Arthur said he is not a member of just about anything else and he, along with others of his generation, just 'follow, engage, donate'. He said love of an organization will give you a reason to donate, but won't give you a reason to be a member. Arthur elaborated on potential short, medium and long term goals / solutions to explore. Short term steps include the membership renewal drive being launched by the Development and Communications teams, potentially 'Member Night' at a partner venue, expanding the Membership Committee, and codifying community norms. Contact Arthur if you are interested in joining the committee.

Discussion followed with comments and questions by Greg, Neil, Henry and Steve, covering the data shown, issues with that historical data, the connection (and distinction) between members and donors, whether to push for new members or new donors, the cost to acquire a member, the cost to service a member, and having something for members to do. Arthur noted that when someone donates, it is a policy decision by the Executive Director as to whether to confer membership.

New Business

No new business.

Peter had questions about the Kingston event, which Steve answered.

Gareth asked about timelines for 2021 and 2022 990's and Steve replied. Regarding the grant gateway, Meg said the 2021 990 and CHAR 500 must be filed and an extension submitted for 2022, moving its due date to 10/15, for us to be back in compliance till 10/15. Jeremy Baron requested the 2019 and 2020 990's be made available on our website.

Steve emphasized everyone should do everything possible to bring in Gala tickets, sponsorships, and ads as an immediate way to get much needed cash in the door. He thanked Staff for very thorough presentations and for staying on tonight. There are a lot of great programs coming together this year. Finally, Steve said we all wish David the best in recovering from his surgery. We would love to cheer him up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Thomas, Secretary