

# **Devilfish PAC Meeting Minutes**

## **November 13, 2023**

### **Present:**

Susannah Lucas, Curtis Tao, Debi Kapuscinski, Keri Giordano, Catherine Matera, Meg Myers, Bryan Peterson, Ann Marie Peterson, Chris Ouellette, Adrienne Manahan, Hilary Crall and Allison Levitt

- **Prior Meeting Minutes-approved via email.**
- **New/Old Business (Lucas)**
  - Greg Hatziaavvas approved revised PAC Guidelines. They will be circulated to PAC members via email for approval.
  - A Google Drive has been set up to store PAC information in one spot. This will make transitions easier when new members join the PAC since all relevant information will be there. Thank you to Keri Giordano for this idea.
  - We are looking into volunteer opportunities for the team including the YMCA Christmas Tree Lot, the Community Food Bank (only 25 people per group), and Greta's Run on May 19, 2024.
  - Plans are in the works for a Devilfish Senior Scholarship. More information to follow if the scholarship is approved by the Y.
- **Coaches Update (Myers)**
  - Meets are going really well. The last dual meets are scheduled for December 2. The dual meet schedule was assigned by the League.
  - The kids have been swimming really well with new cuts at each meet.
  - 87 swimmers are currently heading to Long Island. There are no guaranties but we hope to be able to submit additional entries after the Autumn Challenge.
  - There will be another meet for non-Long Island Swimmers the weekend of December 16.
  - There will be no practice on Thanksgiving Day or Black Friday. There will be a regular practice schedule Thanksgiving weekend. The holiday schedule will follow soon. There will be double sessions for older swimmers Tuesday-Friday (12/26-12/29) with morning practice from 9-11am and then the regular afternoon schedule. Mornings will be a hard practice. Afternoon practices will be technique and equipment based.
  - Parents are encouraged to look at all the information under the Parent Information tab on the team home page. There are links to helpful documents and the college corner has been updated.
- **Treasurer's Report (Ouellette)**
  - The new DJ for the holiday party will save money. We are hoping for savings for the photo booth too at the End of the Season Celebration.
  - Jibbitz sales will be reflected in the December financials.
  - The DFC will also be reflected in the December financials. The majority of DFC profits will come from registration fees but banner sales and concessions also contributed to the bottom line.

- **Standing Committee Reports**

- Meet Coordinator (Manahan)
  - The Devilfish Classic was a great weekend. The swimmers did so well. Thank you to the coaches.
  - Eight teams participated for a total of 830 swimmers with about 2500 entries in total. The interest in the DFC is very high. We had to turn away 3.5 teams from the event (one team was very small.) The 13 and over session was the largest with over 300 swimmers. The youngest swimmers are usually the largest group.
  - Spectators are back to pre-pandemic levels. We are already thinking of ways to create a spectator area next year outside of the stands. Showing live pictures of the board so people know when to go watch their swimmers is one idea.
  - 93 percent of parents volunteered and there were zero no show volunteers. If someone needed to cancel, they found a replacement. Age group parents were very helpful in filling volunteer roles.
  - Tentative 2024 DFC dates are October 18-20<sup>th</sup>.
  - We need a WiFi extender and new microphone owned by the team for the next DFC.
- Vice Chair (B. Peterson)
  - Parent Workshop with Melissa Schwartzman on how parents can best support their swimmers is waiting for the final stamp of approval. Meg is reviewing it from the perspective of using her psychology background, Ryan is reviewing it as a coach, and Fred is looking at it from a parent standpoint. The importance of positive vs. negative thoughts will be a big focus of the workshop. Looking for a January 2024 presentation date.
  - A Nutrition Workshop is also planned and will be held on a Saturday afternoon so that swimmers can also attend.
  - A workshop for preparing those athletes who want to swim in college is also in the works. More details to follow at a later date.
  - The workshops will be held live with a recording to be distributed afterwards.
  - Workshops will have a Q&A session and will be presented in a structured way with a moderator. Parents and swimmers will have the chance to submit questions in advance.
- Officials (Tao)
  - The DFC went well. Lots of learning opportunities for the new officials.
  - We had 20 WY parents become a new swim official, upgrade to a L2 or renew as a swim officials. All of these individuals had the option to be reimbursed for their \$40 registration fee and to date have opted to donate their reimbursement back to the PAC.
  - We have a total of 6 new L2s, 5 new L1s, and 7 new AOs. All of our L1s have completed their Apprentice sessions and most of our L2s are almost done with their Apprentice sessions.
  - Walkie talkies and radios helped a lot at DFC.
- Social (Goodman (Sahm))

- The team holiday party is on December 16 from 6-8pm. The event is for 12U. An updated email invitation will be sent out to clarify that pre-team and Angelfish are included in this event.
  - The DJ will bring a generator. There will be inflatables again this year. Check in/out procedures will be in place. Gluten and nut allergies will be accommodated.
  - We hope to give swimmers the chance to support the Westfield Food Bank by contributing canned goods, etc. at the Holiday Party.
  - Penny Wars will not return this year.
- Timing System (Kapuscinski)
    - The new printer is great.
    - Maintenance will be asked to clean fans in booth.
    - AO things are going well. Ready to train additional AOs next year. None of the seven AOs have children that are Sharks.
    - High school meets start on December 7. Practice starts on Monday, November 20.
- Fundraising (Crall)
    - Jibbitz were super popular. 1086 Jibbitz were preordered. We collected another \$220 from Jibbitz ordered after the original sale. We stand to make a profit of about \$800. We have lots of inventory so there will be future Jibbitz profits as well.
    - Swim a Ton Fundaiser will be on January 20-21<sup>st</sup>. Save the date to follow.
    - Vintage Sale date TBD including remaining car magnets.
    - Swim suit sale/updated magnet sale to coincide next year.
- Apparel (Bregman (Young))
    - Second sale is closed.
- Publicity (A. Peterson)
    - DFC write up waiting for approval.
    - Another article will be written combining results of Great Turkey Invitational and Autumn Challenge.
    - Photos should be stored in the Google Photo Drive.
    - Age group parents can help secure photos across all age groups.
    - There is a mini-team photo board above team folders.
    - We can look into moving location of high school record board so a long course board can be added but this won't be until Summer 2024 most likely.
- Travel (Matera)
    - 66 rooms have been booked between two hotels. Some people haven't been able to get rooms but Catherine is getting other lodging options to people who need them.
    - 87 kids going currently. We will bring cases of water and Gatorade for meals.
    - Coaches Meg, Ryan, Fred and Muriel are going to Long Island. The coaches will eat with team.
    - Meal sign ups will be sent out. Larger hibachi lunch and smaller hibachi dinner on Saturday.

- There will be a catered meal on Friday night at the Homewood Suites. There will be a variety of pizzas offered and an assortment of salads. The second night there will be pasta and meatballs, chicken paillard, and salad. The cost for both is 20 dollars per person per dinner all inclusive.
  - On Friday there will be a dessert cupcake offered for an additional cost. There will be an ice cream cake offered on Saturday night for dessert also for an additional cost. Coach G may design dessert logos.
- Volunteer (Giordano)
  - Age group parents are still getting emails each day. The age group parents have been so helpful.
  - Two age groups have scheduled swimmer social events. The 9/10s are going bowling and the 13/14s are doing laser tag. Other age groups events will follow.
- **Next Meeting: January 8, 2024 (There is no December meeting.)**