**SMAC Boosters Meeting**

**January 10, 2022**

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 6:45pm

Attendees:

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| Geneva Swinson | Patti Nylander | Sara Hankins | Fenton McMahon |
| Melinda Wissler | Tom Woodworth | Nancy Breeden | Jonathan Weaber |
| Rupesh Silwal | Nikki Snyder | Bernadette Mack | Peggy Caister |
| Rob Rule |  |  |  |

Secretary’s Report – Patti Nylander

Patti Reviewed the minutes. Geneva made a motion to accept as reviewed. Tom made the motion, Jonathan seconded, motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Rupesh Silwel

1/1/2022 - $27, 530

Bernadette asked what is a typical level at which Boosters likes to keep “on hand.” What level of fundraising/payments did Boosters typically have?

Geneva gave a summary of expenses for Boosters in the past.

Geneva and Jonathan met with Rob to determine fundraising goals.

No recent transactions

President’s Report – Geneva Swinson

Goals for SMAC Boosters – discussed these with Rob and amongst the Board. Looking for feedback, ideas, suggestions, and opportunities. The 4 goals that have been identified are:

* Scholarships – potentially the largest portion of fundraising budget (around $11,000) Gives swimmers in the community an opportunity that they may not have otherwise had. Rob has been covering the swimmers that received assistance when the team was attached to the Y. If Boosters took on only the swimmers that Rob paid for this season, it would be around $11,000.

 Boosters would establish a committee to determine who receives the scholarships.

 Would need to determine total budget amount dedicated to this Goal.

Will also include Charitable Giving (meals provided to Augusta staff)

* Community – team events, social events, etc (team awards banquet, ice skating, etc)

 Parent Mentor program – help navigate the world of competitive swimming for new families and swimmers when they join the team. A meeting at the start of the season and be a recognized face for new parents.

* Equipment – coaches and meet leadership (Officials, Meet Directors), are assessing future needs. Right now the equipment that is used for meets is owned by the Waynesboro YMCA. Most of the equipment has been around for a long time, and in need of replacement. Nothing has been determined at this time, but members recognize the need for upgrading some of the equipment that we use for meets. Equipment includes items such as stop watches, touch pads, buttons, wiring harnesses (the cables that connect buttons and pads to the timing machine), back stroke flags, lane lines, and scoreboard.

Question was raised about who should own the equipment that might be purchased? SMAC Boosters or SMAC Incorporated? Also raises the question of who maintains, who stores, can the equipment be leased to other teams for meets? These are all questions to consider when looking at investing in new equipment.

Sarah asked about the possibility of hosting a meet in Crozet. Would it be possible, and is there equipment that could be used at that facility?

Rob is also working on trying to figure out equipment needs for the team to promote swimming in the community.

* Enrichment – workshops, clinics, and team travel

 Stroke clinics, nutrition workshops, life balance for competitive swimmers

 Work with local universities or other resources

 Some of these may have a cost associated with them, others may not

 Team Travel – would fall within these outlined goals. Rob will likely plan to meet with Boosters at the start of the season to lay out potential team travel opportunities. For travel meets, Boosters may help pay for vehicle rental, or maybe a portion of the hotel.

 In the past, Boosters has also provided financial support to swimmers who qualify for Y Nationals. With the transition, this meeting did not happen for this season, but will take place going forward.

What about the possibility of providing financial support toward pool space. The proposed expansion in Crozet was brought up. Rob was asked to get more details about a possible timeline of when things will start. Boosters did not discuss a “budget” toward lane space or facility space.

Maybe these funds go toward Capital campaigns, or maybe they help offset the costs from coaches.

Would be important to keep tax-exempt status in mind and make sure that we’re operating within our boundaries. But lane space in this community is somewhat limited. There aren’t many pools and we all want to make sure our kids can continue to swim. Would be good to keep these types of projects in mind, or have some knowledge about them.

Coach’s Report – Rob Rule

No major updates

Championship season is approaching

Feb. 12-13, 8 and Under; Brooks Fmaily YMCA

Feb. 25-27, 9 and Over; Christiansburg Aquatic Center

Mar. 4-6; Senior Champs; Richmond

Mar. 10-13; Age Group Champs; Richmond

Will take a break after all of these championship meets.

Will look at attending another meet at the end of March, to give people the option to swim around the time of Spring Break.

One swimmer can swim a maximum of 8 events at Age Group Champs. Swimmers can’t swim at a Champ meet if they already have a qualifying Age Group Cut time in a specific event.

Training is intense at this time, so don’t be surprised if your swimmer is tired at the end of practice.

Talked to the City of Waynesboro, and looks like SMAC will be able to run War Memorial Pool for the summer. Rob asked about raising the entrance fees from $2 and $4 to $3 and $5 respectively. This is not a big rate increase but will help with operating costs for the pool. These rate increases need to be approved by the City Council.

June Summer Classic will be June 17-19th.

Harrisonburg Gators have said they will come, Cavalier Aquatics have expressed interest in attending, and a few teams might also bring smaller contingent

May look at changing the format. Looking at session changes that would facilitate more team attendance; perhaps combining sessions in such a way as to make it easier for families with kids in different age groups to attend without having to be at the pool all day.

Kids performed well at the Gators meet in Harrisonburg over the weekend. Rob mentioned this is an intense time in practice as coaches are working on preparing swimmers for championship meets. Don’t be surprised if swimmers did not drop time or maybe even added time in some of their races. Always be proud of them, support and encourage them, and remember the time and effort they are putting in.

Rob had raised the idea of hosting a meet at the end of March, but decided to table this meet for this year. The team will attend a meet somewhere else during this timeframe.

Rob would like to see how attendance is at the Summer Classic in June 2022, and then discuss when and what meets the team may host next season.

Swim-A-Thon fundraising

On-line account set up allows for on-line donation.

$15,000 was raised last time it was held in 2019. Some expenses did reduce this number a bit (purchasing incentives for swimmers who raise funds as well as the USA Swimming fees)

Creates a fun opportunity for swimmers to be together. Make the event fun, and pancakes are typically served for swimmers once they finish their laps

Timing and location – event will be held at Crozet once the bubble is down. A good opportunity to have all of the swimmers together

Would likely be at the end of April or beginning of May.

USA Swimming has good support material for the event itself. And sets up the on-line capabilities for accepting donations. There is a fee associated with using USA Swimming resources, but it does make on-line advertising and on-line giving very easy.

From a competition side, it was hard to know which swimmers were in practice groups to determine which practice group raised the most funds to award a pizza party to the practice group whose swimmers raised the most funds.

Positions to Fill – Jonathan Weaber

Fundraising co-chairs; ideally a person from both sides of the mountain. Prior experience in fundraising is not a requirement (there are people on the team who can help). Someone who is organized is key.

Sara Hankins has offered to fulfill this role at least for the short-term (through these upcoming fundraising events; chocolate bars and Swim-A-Thon), and discuss the possibility of what it will look like further down the road.

The idea is that every fundraising event will have pre-established goals that swimmers will know what they are fundraising for.

**Still looking for someone from the Waynesboro side to co-chair along with Sara**

Peggy is willing to help put together a survey (google form) to gauge interest and get more parents involved in all aspects of SMAC Boosters (fundraising, volunteering, etc.)

Scholarship Committee – Jonathan Weaber

Jonathan is willing to serve as one members of the committee. Would still look for 2 more members to sit on the committee.

The purpose of the committee will be to accept, review, and approve applications submitted for financial scholarships to help reduce the registration costs for SMAC swimming.

Need people willing to help in a small group setting.

Rupesh is willing to provide assistance and help with the book-keeping side.

Tracy will share some of the process they use at the Wayne for awarding scholarships to help guide Boosters in this capacity.

**Still need one more volunteer to serve on this committee**

Parent Mentors – A parent with good experience and has been a part of competitive swimming for a while. Willing to share information, explain the different aspects of swimming.

Could use someone who functions as a leader, with other parents willing to offer support and help. Would be good to have representation on both sides of the mountain to better facilitate bringing people along.

Tom Woodworth has volunteered to step up and help in this role.

Need to establish rules related to Social media; get those items ironed out and then can move forward with building out the website.

Chocolate Bar Sales - Geneva

Planning to take place in February.

Some discussion around the proposed timing of this fundraising opportunity:

* Just now getting people in place and getting some momentum. Can we pull off this fundraiser in February or would we better prepared if we do this in March?
* Is there concern with overlapping chocolate bar sales with Swim-A-Thon? Maybe we put the chocolate bar sales off until the fall. This would make sense given the busy swim meet season.
* Might be easier to get swim families behind fundraising when we can share with them what we are fundraising for.

Sara suggested we move forward with chocolate sales in February

Boosters will purchase 120 boxes to start.

Sara will work with Amy to help coordinate getting the boxes from the supplier and figure out how to distribute the boxes to swim families

With no further discussion, Tracy made a motion that SMAC Boosters purchase 120 boxes of chocolate bars to sell as a fundraiser, starting in February. Jonathan seconded, motion carried.

With no further business, Tracy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sara seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.