

Board Meeting  
January 24, 2024  
7:15-8:15

In attendance: David Leonard, Matt Leach, Kirstin Frichette, Jacob Hogg, Priscilla Schmidt, Roseanne August, Hongyen Chen, and Darcell Myers (apologies to other non-board members who may have been at meeting)

Absent: Jennifer Ellsworth, Heather Sandberg, and Dave Jones

Minutes prepared by DJL and Zoom AI; additional detail and subsequent information added since meeting to ensure communication, transparency, and most up to date information.

1. Approval of December Minutes – Unanimous
2. Spring plan/update and Cougar Classic – Russ unable to attend so David gave quick update encouraging families to sign up for Champs and to help out with Cougar Classic
3. Budget (DJL)

**Swim Team Budget, Football Games, Bid, Surplus, Swim-a-thon, Members Concerns**

David Leonard discussed the team's budget challenges and the need for cuts due to a lack of sponsors (we did gain second sponsors since meeting) and other financial constraints. While the club has already made significant cuts (specific areas of cuts include from team events, pool rental, education, hourly coaches and elsewhere), the generate enough revenues will require significant effort during swim-a-thon. He proposed that each swimmer might need to raise \$275 for swim-a-thon despite already imposed budget cuts for the year. Even with everything, the team's budget situation remained uncertain due to unknown factors such as family registration and team travel.

David Leonard addressed Roseanne's question about potential problems next year due to the football games. He assured her that they won't face the same issue as this year because they have plans to bid for another event in September, which will provide an additional revenue source.

He also mentioned that they carried forward a surplus of between \$10,000 to \$13,000 from the fiscal year, which could be used for future events and awards.

Darcell Myers raised concerns about the proposed swim-a-thon amount, fearing it might lead to a decrease in club members. The possibility of losing between 10 to 20 swimmers was discussed.

Kirsten also voiced her agreement with Darcell, suggesting that the fee might be too high and could lead to families leaving the club.

David, however, pointed out that the fee was not a drastic increase from the previous year and had been discussed in the summer. The team did not reach a conclusion on the fee amount.

The team discussed the financial challenges associated with funding swim events.

Matt Leach shared his personal experience of raising funds and suggested asking family and friends for donations.

Kirsten pointed out that some families might not be able to afford significant donations and expressed concerns about the potential loss of parents if a fee was introduced.

Roseanne August suggested looking into past funding methods, such as a tiered donation requirement. Kirsten confirmed that they had considered a donation requirement in the past but had since dropped it due to lack of a 501 c 3 status and the community's limited resources.

The team then discussed fundraising strategies for their swimming program.

Kirsten suggested a \$100 fee per swimmer as a more palatable amount, but David pointed out that this would still fall short of their needs. Darcell spoke about using surplus from last year.

Jacob Hogg proposed splitting the fundraising over two different types of events, while Kirsten reminded the team of the additional contributions made by some families beyond the minimum \$50.

However, David expressed concerns about the labor required for these strategies and suggested deferring the discussion to the next meeting. The team also discussed the potential of partnering with local businesses for fundraising, but concerns were raised about the amount of money generated from these partnerships.

### **Other items**

4. While QuickBooks remains a mess, Darcell along with accountant/bookkeeper has made significant progress, still issues. Club did submit tax document for last fiscal year (additional note – between taxes and assistant needed from Bookkeeper, the club paid 1700 to Hayden Ross. These sorts of expenses add to budget and therefore we need to be mindful with respect to revenues, etc.
5. Caps and Shirts (Kirsten) – Gave update and is working on Champs shirts

6. Other matters arising
7. Constituent questions/concerns

Next Meeting - February 20, 2024 – 7:15-8:45