

November 19th, 2016 at 1pm.

Present on call: Ellen Law (President), Bob Mina (Vice President), Nina Rebmann (Treasurer), Lisa Kennard (Secretary), Liisa Reimann (Malia Paddling), Ann Konowal (Philadelphia Flying Phoenix), Wardell Lee (Wall St Dragons), Donna Wilson (Empire), Jeff Kuhn (DCDBC), Jean Kowalski (Hope Afloat), Dave Parker (Living Root), Leigh Vlasbloom (Relentless), Linda Dyer (Dragon Heart VT).

This meeting was convened to hear the Executive Board responses to questions posed by members of the Board of Directors for the Nov 12th Fall Meeting which were not addressed due to lack of time.

Ellen opened the meeting and apologized for the abrupt end to the Fall meeting due to the venue needing to be vacated which did not allow for a Q and A session.

The unanswered questions which had been submitted by email were:

from Peter Lew of the Boston Dragon Boat Festival. He asked:

- 1 - new festivals/races- coordination**
- 2 - "franchise territory" of races**
- 3 - building new clubs/teams (how do we best help creation of a stronger better base for the sport?)**
- 4 - highest caliber of sports competition/beyond the IDBF (Olympics still within our sight?)**

Ellen responded that all new festivals were listed on the website. What was needed was information for new clubs and festivals in a compact form that can be sent to new members or those considering membership. Liisa and Lisa agreed to work on such a document and would seek help from other members if it became necessary. Ellen will call Peter to discuss the issues further with him.

With respect to the question regarding the Olympics Ellen responded that the founders of IDBF were all in favor of obtaining Olympic standing but it was a long and difficult process. At the moment they are investigating the possibility of using ten paddler boats. It is getting closer all the time but the process is very political

From Liisa Reimann of Malia Paddling. She asked for comment on the conduct of ERDBA executive board at Lake Mercer Festival. Some of the executive board were wearing 'I'm with Bob' t-shirts at the medal ceremony. This is not neutral behavior for officers who should respect their positions.

Ellen responded that she was racing with PDBA at the Championship and was given a t-shirt to wear after the racing had concluded. A GWN representative asked her to give out the ERBDA medals and without thinking she did without removing the shirt. When told about this she immediately had removed the shirt for the remainder of the ceremony.

Ann Konowal thanked Ellen for her apology but said that in addition to the t-shirts a large banner in support of Bob was displayed by members of PDBA when her team were receiving medals. As a result she asked for Ellen to resign. Ellen refused but offered her apologies.

Bob Mina responded that he had apologized to all members of PFP for the incident on behalf of PDBA. After much discussion both Ellen and Bob reiterated their apology, and Liisa suggested that perhaps a complaints mechanism for ERBDA might be instituted similar to the USDBF Committee.

From Leigh Vlasbloom of Relentless Dragons. She asked whether the points system or the championship is going to be used for 2017.

Lisa responded that the points system has not been used since 2015. The 2017 ERDBA Championship will determine the winners of each class/division and the awarding of bids for 2018 WCCC. Incorrect information on the website will be amended.

From Wardell Lee of NY Wall St Dragons. He said that there had been no roster checking at the Bucks County Festival or the Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival which had taken place after the Championship. They were advertised as being qualifiers for 2017 and he wanted to know the status of those teams who had competed.

Lisa said that the details of the roster checking for 2017 had not yet been decided. Bob Mina is working on guidelines. The final decision will be up to the Race Committee and all teams who competed in races after the championship will be contacted later.

Liisa Reimann of Malia Paddling asked about how ERDBA representatives to USDBF were selected.

Ellen responded that when she took over as President in April 2016 she followed precedent which was the President making a selection and then obtaining executive board approval. This may be changed in future.

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Lisa suggested that this is something the committee on Bylaws should take under consideration.

Ellen also stated that she had asked Nina to vet possible candidates for a position on the USDBF Ethics Committee.

The current ERDBA representatives on USDBF are Jeff Kuhn, Natalie Thomas and Ellen Law. Paula Humphries has not resigned but is now acting as a substitute.

The meeting concluded at 1:56pm

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