

Grand Masters Dragon Boat Club
General Meeting May 9th. – 2023

Attendance:

41 members were present.

Opening:

Cheryl Moran called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Cheryl Moran.

Secretary Report:

The report was sent out prior to the meeting and is posted on the website. There were no corrections.

Motion to approve as posted was made by Don Glass and 2nd. by Vernon Hentz. Report approved.

Treasurer Report:

Steve Augustine presented the financial statement ending April 30th. -2023.

Motion to approve as presented was made by John Townley and 2nd. by Rose-Marie Batts. Report approved.

Membership is now 352.

Steve called on Elly Olesen and presented her with a gift card on behalf of the club. Elly has been Club Secretary for 4 years and retiring as such on June 30th – 2023. Elly thanked the membership for their generosity and expressed it has been a pleasure serving as Secretary and giving back to the club.

President Report:

Cheryl Moran read the club's mission statement.

1. To promote the sport of Dragon paddling and Racing.
2. To provide an opportunity for residents of the Villages to participate in the sport of Dragon Boating.
3. To provide a framework of rules for members and teams, that ensure fairness and good sportsmanship in participation and competitions.

Cheryl Moran gave a short report of her recent meeting with Mr. John Rohan. Cheryl expressed some changes were coming to Lake Sumter in the future. No details were revealed at this meeting.

Cheryl informed any team wishing to have a special event or coaching clinic must apply to the club President. The application will then be forwarded to the Rec. Dept. for approval.

Cheryl Moran thanked Elly for her 4 years of service as Secretary.

Vice President Report:

Mary DeFranco gave an update of the newly revised Safety Document and informed the members it is now posted on the website. Mary will in addition send out a copy via an email to the entire membership.

Weather related rulings: If fog is present and visibility poor no boats go out. If the lighthouse is visible boats can go out but not past the lighthouse. If the bridge is visible, no problem boats can go out.

When there is thunder and lightning, no boats can go out.

When there are white caps no boats can go out.

The Villages has requested that Dragon Boats keep 100 ft. from the Fishing boat, tour boat and kayaks.

All must sign waivers to get into a boat, even reporters and photographers must sign waivers.

AED Status:

Mary DeFranco reported a police report was filed regarding the missing AED. The board has voted to purchase a new AED and this time an Air Tag for tracking. Mary will bring the new AED to a general meeting when received.

Boat Maintenance and/or Lake Matters:

The board has voted to replace the resin box at lake Sumter with a larger and stronger fiberglass box. If this shows to be satisfactory a 2nd. box will be purchased for lake Miona. Thank you to Steve Augustine for all the time spent on researching this task.

Old Business:

GMDBC – 2023 picnic was a great success. 90+ members attended. Thank you to the cooks and shoppers all had a great time sampling all the side dishes members brought to the picnic.

Pool-Safety:

The Paddling Patriots held a pool event in April testing the PDF canisters. 45 members attended, only 3 needed assistances with canister deployment.

GMDBC – Sarasota:

The club combined team is paddling Friday afternoons 4-5pm at Sumter. Bob Ricks and Brad Smith lead the effort to gain a berth to World Championships in 2024. If interested in trying out please, call Brad Smith – 973-452-4552

Mark Kane is the coach for the team.

New Business:

Election of President and Secretary:

President:

Cheryl Moran re-nominated for President gave her introduction. Cheryl has worked very hard for the club over several years.

1. 9 years as Insurance specialist to the club.
2. 2 years as Secretary
3. 4 years as President
4. Negotiated to have 6 days of paddling on Lake Sumter.
5. Signed a 3-year contract to have 3 boats stored at Lake Miona.
6. Established a great relationship with the Rec. Dept. and Mr. John Rohan.

The voting will be open on the website from May 17th- through the end of the month of May.

Secretary:

There were no nominations for Secretary. The Board voted to appoint Laura Reynolds of The Village Dragons to serve a 1-year term. Laura can then run for 1-more year if nominated for the next time of club elections.

Laura introduced herself and was willing to take the 1-year vacant spot as Secretary effective July 1st, 2023. Laura has been paddling for 4 years with the Village Dragons.

Camp Villages:

GMDBC is again hosting the Camp Villages on June 20th and July 18th from 9-12 am.

Leaders for the event are Bob Kane and Linda Braun. The board approved to give \$550.00 to buy medals for the participants.

Team Update:

Village Dragons: Beth Bowen reported that they are a Seasonal team and will start up again in the fall.

Eastport Sun Dragons: Shelby Imus reported the team is planning and training to start racing in the fall.

Paddling Patriots: Don Glass reported the team is expanding and training hard, but not yet ready to race.

Warriors and Sparta 70: Lee Ceravac, the team's new coach, is working hard 5 days a week on and off the water. The teams are planning to do 2-3 out of town races in the fall. The team invited all interested in coming to Lake Miona on Saturday mornings and practice races with them. The team is very active with their philanthropic activities.

Silver Dragons: John Townley reported the team has several new members and raced at Inverness and Tampa. The team also does several fundraisers to support the community.

Blackheart: Bob Ricks reported that the team raced at Inverness, Clearmont, Rocky Point and Homosassa. The team has at present no fall races scheduled.

Dirty Dozen: Per Olesen reported the team is not a race team, but for experienced and retired paddlers. At present has 30 members on the roster.

Sunset Island Dragons: Bill Clark reported this new team is not a race team. They practice Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30.

Will accommodate new paddlers. Any club member seeking extra paddle time is welcome.

This Boat Rocks: Mary DeFranco reported the team just returned from a cruise on “Wonders of the Sea” 10 members returned with COVID. TBR had a Music Bingo and raised \$3,800.00 for “Lake Hill School”.

Tabled Items.

1. Senior C Invitational Event Proposal – Postponed to Eastport Opening.
2. Villages Regatta – Postponed until 2024
3. Coordinators – Race Coordinator needed
4. Next GENERAL MEETING – OCTOBER 2023
5. Long Range Planning

Meeting Adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Elly Olesen

Secretary of GMDBC

