

Grand Masters Dragon Boat Club
General Meeting Minutes—February 12, 2024

Opening: Cheryl Moran

- Meeting called to order at 06:28 PM
- Cheryl Moran lead the Pledge of Alligiance
- 58 members were in attendance; there were 5 guests, four of whom have joined teams, one looking to join.

Secretary's Report: Sent out prior to meeting. Motion to approve report by Beth Bowen, seconded by John Townley. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Version corrected at the board meeting rRad by Mary DeFranco. Rose Batts made a motion to approve the report, Dave Bethel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: While no definite plans can be discussed, The Villages has promised a firm commitment to developing Central Lake and Lake Sumter for the promotion of the sport of dragon boat racing/paddling.

Growth: The GMDBC finished 2023 with 411 members and seven boats with an eighth boat on order. The current new member count is zero, but will be updated when the secretary finalized checking all completed waivers with team payments.

Race Coordinator: Speaking for Lee Cerovac, Dick Kanyan provided an updated race schedule which will be uploaded onto the GMDBC website.

Boat Task Force: Per Mary Lou Bremer, the task force is working hard to get the boats repaired by obtaining an estimate for gel coating and refinishing all of our 20-man boats. We are awaiting a definite estimate of repairs. Teams will handle making inside repairs on all boats in the future. It was noted that Ray Baker and Bill Clark refinished and repaired all the steering oars and steering arm yokes on all the boats at both Lake Miona and Lake Sumter.

Vice President's Report: No new update

Boat purchases: 10 person- the Buk boat has been replaced with the new 10 man Peishing boat. Cheryl Moran advised that we need to find a buyer for the Buk boat and requested that team members get the word out. The Buk boat is priced at \$4500.

Old business:

April Picnic-Cheryl Moran told the members that the Paddling Patriots had volunteered to sponsor the April picnic at Seabreeze.

Race coordinator; Dick Kanyan requested that any team that plans to attend a race notify Lee Cerovac or Dick. Teams racing at Inverness and Tampa will receive discounted fees if they respond by April 21. Contact Dick Kanyan at rkanyan@gmail.com

There will be a Senior D class race held at the Dragon Boat Festival in Welland, Canada. Sparta 70 and the Warriors plan to send teams.

Captains Reports:

Blackhearts-Mary Lou Bremer—the team is working on training and rebuilding and hopes to go to the race in Canada.

Sunset Island Dragons-Bill Clark is planning on having his team paddle in a heart shape on Lake Sumter on Valentine's Day, which will be logged on the app "Paddle Logger".

Silver Dragons-John Townley-The team is busy recruiting new members, they have been using the new 10-man boat and enjoy it and have been doing charitable work.

Paddling Patriots-Dave Bethel-The team is concentrating on fun/fitness/friendship and attended the Spanish Springs Mardi Gras. They are working on completing the 45 minute paddle challenge to build up endurance and hope to complete 4 2000 meter races by mid-April.

Eastport Sun Dragons-Lynn Maready-The team is still recruiting new members with the goal of racing. They currently have 5 races scheduled. Their charity is Adopt-A-Highway and they have a signed section of roadway assigned to them south of CR 44.

Sparta 70/Warriors-Dick Kanyan-The team is recruiting new members and just completed the 7.3 mile dragon boat race in Tampa. Sparta 70 completed the race in 1 hour 4 minutes and the Warriors completed the race in 1 hour 8 minutes 22 seconds.

Village Dragons-Beth Bowen-Just held a memorial paddle for Chuck Louise on Lake Sumter.

Dirty Dozen-no report

TBR-will be holding a memorial paddle for a former member on March 1. They are holding a fundraiser for the Honor Flight on Sunday, March 10.

Tabled Items.

Senior C Invitational Event proposal-Postponed until the Eastport opening

Villages Regatta-- Postponed until the Eastport opening

Next general meeting—May, where the nominees for Vice-president and Treasurer will speak.

Nominations for the positions should be made by April.

A special guest was introduced; Roger Jones, author of the novel "Final Victory", a story based on the real life team of cancer survivors who won a berth at the Hong Kong International Races. Publication date is April 30, 2024 and teams who pre-purchase from Roger's website can receive \$5 back for each book ordered which goes to the team. Rogerjonesauthor.com

Cheryl thanked the Eastport Sun Dragons for providing carrot cake and water to the members attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 07:23 PM.