

Grand Masters Dragon Boat Club
General Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2025

Opening: Cheryl Moran

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm
 - a. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Cheryl Moran
 - b. New members and guests were recognized
2. Participants
 - a. 92 attendees were present

Secretary Report:

1. Previous general meetings minutes from November were posted to the website
 - a. No updates were received
 - b. Motion to approve minutes by Sharon King with 2nd by Mary DeFranco passed unanimously.
 - c. Reminder that Club information, including meeting minutes, is available on GMDBC web site (google GMDBC or go to gmdbc.teamsnapsites.com)
2. Club Media Coverage
 - a. Recent articles in the Daily Sun were discussed
 - i. Thank You to Donnie Lies for establishing contacts with the paper and coordinating published articles.
 - ii. Future topics will include “what is Dragon Boating”, team focus articles and race results. Additional article ideas are welcome.

Treasurer Report:

1. Budget and Treasury balance discussion
 - a. Current financial report was reviewed
 - b. 2024 member count stands at 418
 - c. Motion to approve report by Dottie Baker with 2nd by Beth Bowen passed unanimously.
2. 2025 Waivers
 - a. All team members must complete all 4 paper waivers for 2025
 - b. Team Snap team rosters must only include registered members with completed waivers
 - c. Printed copies will be distributed to Team Captains as soon as the 2025 versions are available. Each waiver must be printed on an individual page for accurate processing.
 - d. Waivers must be legible and completed in full; including complete address (street, city, state and zip code), Village ID #, primary team and emergency contact information

President Report:

1. Membership
 - a. Club is at its largest membership since 2008 inception. Expecting membership to continue to expand in 2025 when Central Lake venue becomes available.

- b. The Villages Rec department will be promoting dragon boating in the Villages with a goal of make us the dragon boating “capital of the world”, along with golf and pickle ball.
- 2. Lake Status
 - a. Eastport
 - i. Two club teams have committed to holding practices at Central Lake
 - ii. Lake opening date remains TBD
 - b. Sumter Lake
 - i. Paddling continues to be suspended at Sumter due to hurricane impacts
 - ii. The Villages engineering report is still pending; CDC must complete any needed repairs
 - iii. Alternatives for temporary docks have been provided to the Villages for consideration
 - iv. Ken Loomis and Donnie Lies are coordinating general clean-up of the boat launch area
 - c. Lake Miona
 - i. Appreciation of adjusted practice schedules was noted as all teams continue to use Lake Miona while Lake Sumter is unavailable
- 3. Boat Fleet
 - a. The Villages is moving forward with purchasing a 20-person boat, trailer and paddling equipment for 40 people for the Eastport location
 - i. The boat house will accommodate 3 dragon boats
 - b. Old “tippy” 10-person boat was donated to the Hernando dragon boat club
 - i. As attempts to sell this boat failed, the board voted to donate this boat to Hernando as they had lost boats in the recent hurricanes
 - c. Purple unseaworthy boat has been parted out and will be disposed of
 - d. The purchase of an additional 20-person boat at a cost of no more than \$15,000 was approved by the board
 - i. A general vote will be distributed via email to all club members for approval of this purchase
 - ii. This purchase will allow for 2 boats at Central Lake while maintaining our current fleets at Lake Sumter and Lake Miona along with a spare to allow for ongoing boat maintenance
 - iii. Specifics of the boat purchase and locations of all boats will be determined by the board once general club approval for the purchase is obtained
- 4. Boat Maintenance/Status
 - a. Gel coat repairs have been completed on 2 of the 5 boats scheduled for repair
 - b. GMDBC needs a volunteer to serve as the Boat Maintenance Committee chairperson
 - i. All individuals/teams contributing to ongoing maintenance are appreciated.
- 5. Upcoming events
 - a. GMDBC Rodeo
 - i. This event will be rescheduled
 - ii. Thanks for all the effort put in to date
 - b. Club Picnic
 - i. April General Meeting will be the annual club picnic

- ii. Thank you to Dave Bethel and the Paddling Patriots for coordinating the event again this year. Last year's event was very well-received
- c. 2025 Officer Elections
 - i. Nominations for the offices of **President** and **Secretary** may be submitted to the Secretary by any club member in good standing no later than May 1
 - ii. Nominees must accept the nomination in order to be considered a candidate
 - iii. Candidates will be introduced and provided an opportunity to speak to the membership at the May General meeting. Candidates may also have a brief bio and/or campaign platform provided to club members.
 - iv. Ballots will be available to all members for a two week voting period ending no later than June 1
 - v. Ballots will be tallied by the officers not up for election and presented to the board
 - vi. GMDBC President will communicate the election results at the June General Meeting
 - vii. New officers begin their duties as of July 1, 2025

Vice President Report:

1. Safety
 - a. Reminder that safety compliance is required by US Dragon Boat Federation (USDBF) as well as Villages and club insurers
2. B-Ready Task Force
 - a. Team representatives should plan to attend scheduled meeting at 10:00 am on January 22 at Lake Miona Rec Center
 - b. Please bring team first aid kits to the meeting for review
 - c. Thank You to Karen Giglio for leading this task force
3. AED Training
 - a. AED training by CERT will be made available to club members
 - b. Date and Location to be announced soon
4. New Member Packets
 - a. Packets are available for all new team members
 - b. Captains please request packets from Donnie at board meetings

General Topics:

1. Team Updates:
 - a. Blackhearts (Mary Lou Bremer)
 - i. Busy race schedule planned, including Montreal on July 4
 - b. Sunset Island Dragons (Bill Clark)
 - i. Continuing Wednesday practices at Miona until Sumter is ready
 - ii. Not a racing team, focused on fitness
 - c. Village Dragons (Beth Bowen)
 - i. Seasonal teaching team with a few races toward end of season
 - ii. Several fun team building activities are planned each season
 - iii. Practices run January – April

- d. Eastport Dragons (Lynn Mulready)
 - i. 2nd year as a team
 - ii. 6 races planned, busy recruiting and training
 - iii. Also focused on various local charities; Toys For Tots sorting/distribution and Adopt-A-Highway recently
- e. Paddling Patriots (Dave Bethel)
 - i. Focused on Fun, Fitness and Friendship
 - ii. Team recently completed 50 (or 35) mile bike ride, Running of the Squares and holds a weekly exercise program
- f. Silver Dragons (Colleen Campbell)
 - i. Several races planned for this season
 - ii. Conducts dragon boating Enrichment Academy program
 - iii. Also participates in community volunteer activities
- g. Warriors/Sparta 70 (Robin Lockerby)
 - i. Very heavy race scheduled planned including Montreal
 - ii. Team participates in weight/strength training and stretching workouts to improve paddling performance
- h. This Boat Rocks (Linda Braun)
 - i. Hosts advanced and beginner practices
 - ii. Getting back into racing again
 - iii. Participates in several local charities every year; Salvation Army and Honor Flight recently
- i. Dirty Dozen (Cheryl Moran)
 - i. Anxiously waiting for Lake Sumter to open back up again
- 2. Old Business
 - a. n/a
- 3. New Business
 - a. n/a
- 4. Tabled Items
 - a. Senior C Invitational Event Proposal – Postponed to Eastport Opening
 - b. Villages Regatta- Postponed until Eastport Opening
 - c. Long Term Planning

Close

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM