

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

Opening: Cheryl Moran

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm
 - a. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Cheryl Moran
 - b. Twenty new members were recognized
2. Participants
 - a. 106 attendees were present

Secretary Report:

1. Previous general meeting minutes from May were posted to the website
 - a. No updates were received
 - b. Motion to approve minutes by Rita Girou with 2nd by Beth Bowen passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report:

1. Budget and Treasury balance discussion
 - a. Current financial report was reviewed
 - b. 2025 member count stands at 410
 - c. Annual federal taxes will be filed by October 31
 - d. Audit will be scheduled for Q4
 - e. Motion to approve report by Per Oleson with 2nd by Mary DeFranco passed unanimously.

President Report:

1. Eastport- Central Lake
 - a. Trial run by the captains and officers was completed on October 9th
 - b. Beth Bowen spoke to the beauty of the area, the convenience of the building and thanked the committee
 - c. Pan Am confirmed that space is available for a 4-lane 1,000 meter race
2. PanAm completed the required annual boat inspection for the club for free, a \$500-\$1500 value
3. PanAm also built and delivered three nose guards for boat storage in 3 days, also for free
 - a. The club will extend a gratuity to Pan Am for their assistance and support
4. Official Central Lake opening is tentatively set for January 2026
5. Lake permits are up to date for 2026
6. Memorandum of Understanding
 - a. All requirements have been met for 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

Vice President Report:

- 1) Annual Safety Review
 - a) The Number 1 priority on the boat is safety
 - b) Highlight of some general safety rules;

- i) PFD fanny packs are to be worn in front of the body, never in back
 - ii) The Steerperson is the person in charge of the boat
 - iii) Inclement weather rules require that boats are NOT on the water in these conditions;
 - (1) Fog – Miona, cannot see across the lake; Sumter, cannot see the lighthouse
 - (2) Whitecaps - do not go out if present and return to shore when they begin
 - (3) Thunder - return to shore and wait a minimum of 30 minutes from last bolt
 - iv) Wear comfortable clothing, a wearable ID and bring water on the boat
 - v) Use a locking forearm grasp to enter and exit the boat
 - vi) Pass equipment to a teammate when entering and exiting the boat; do not put equipment on the dock
 - vii) Review the web site safety rules; all 4 pages!
- 2) Safety Update
- a) PFD class to be held by the Villages Canoe and Kayak Club
 - i) May 5 from 2:30 – 5:00 pm at Mulberry Rec Center pool
 - b) CERT AED and CPR Training available
 - i) Feb 10 from 6:00 – 9:20 pm at Seabreeze Rec Center
 - ii) Watch for email sign-up; 44 maximum participants
 - iii) Thanks to Glen Smith for coordinating this training
- 3) Sheriff's Office Presentation
- a) Sgt. Adam Dodge reviewed many FREE programs provided by the Sherriff's Department available by contacting the Sherriff's Office
 - i) Vial of Life (need to know info for first responders; keep updated, place in fridge door)
 - ii) Peace of Mind (daily call-in)
 - iii) Home Security Inspections (security/safety review)
 - iv) Alzheimer/dementia DREAM program (GPS enabled location monitor)
 - v) Human Scent Preservation kit (used to locate missing persons)
 - b) Golf Cart Safety
 - i) DUIs occur more often in golf carts than cars
 - ii) use seat belts and car seats for kids
 - iii) speeding over 20 MPH in a golf cart is a misdemeanor with a required court appearance
 - c) Sherriff's Department mobile app
 - i) Provides information regarding community crime, most-wanted, inmate lookup, sex offenders, scams, etc.
 - d) Alert Sumter for local severe weather notifications
 - i) Set up alerts for only weather issues that will affect you
 - e) Scams –
 - i) Sumter Scam Sting on mobile app (share experiences)
 - ii) Seniors vs. Crime will help with civil issues; also acts similarly to BBB with referrals
 - f) Be aware of crimes of opportunity (unattended items, etc.)
 - g) Make small smart decisions; i.e., 9 PM routine – close and lock doors (cars, garage, etc.)
- 4) Prizes
- a) Congratulations to the raffle winners of electrolyte drink packages and GMDBC coolers

Old Business

- 1) 10 person Peshing boat purchase
 - a) Club vote was completed; purchase was approved with 187 for, 6 against and 3 abstains

New Business

- 1) Rule change proposals
 - a) Request to adjust rule to allow non-GMDBC paddlers to compete in races where no other GMDBC teams are competing
 - i) A motion by Bob Gamble, seconded by Mary Lou, to move forward with the rule change was unanimously approved
 - b) Request to remove the Race Coordinator position
 - i) A motion by Robin Lockerby, seconded by Karen Ness, to move forward with the removal of the role was unanimously approved
 - c) A club wide online vote will be held to approve these motions
- 2) Hurricane preparation procedure document is being drafted
- 3) Division D petition to IDBF
 - a) Signatures are being collected to add Sr. D race division to IDBF events
- 4) Eastport Sun Dragons capsize at Turkey Lake
 - a) A letter from the Eastport Sun Dragons coach and captain has been submitted to Great White North to address the lack of preparedness and response to the capsized boaters
 - b) A second letter will be sent by the GMDBC Board and Officers
- 5) Repaired boat delivery to storage unit
 - a) Help is needed on 10/21 at 11:00 am to move a repaired boat into storage
 - b) Volunteers should sign up with Beth Bowen
- 6) Captains event
 - a) Captains and Officers met for dinner to discuss issues and future planning
 - i) Improvement in communications and cooperation between teams was discussed
 - ii) A suggestion to hold more parties and social events was made
 - (1) Taco Tuesday event will be held at the next General Meeting (November)

Tabled Items

- 1) Senior C Invitational Event Proposal – Postponed to Eastport Opening
- 2) Villages Regatta- Postponed until Eastport Opening
- 3) Long Term Planning

Close

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

2026 Meetings will be in January, April, May, October and November