

SCC-Saskatoon Canoe Club

Executive Meeting: January 9, 2017

Edith's Home

Present: Present: John McClean, Dave Peters, Eithan Pillipow, Raina Vingerhoeds, Edith MacHattie, Ann Popoff, Dwayne Surdo-Miller, Franny Rawlyk, Austin Dyck, Brendan Haynes

Regrets: Trevor Robinson, Kate Germin

1. Franny opens the meeting at 7:02PM.
2. Approval of the agenda: the agenda is adopted as distributed.
3. Approval of previous minutes: **Ann Popoff moves the SCC minutes of November 28, 2016, be accepted as distributed. Franny Rawlyk seconds. Unanimous.**
4. **President's Report**-Franny

Franny met with Information Services Corporation (IFC). They do not need our information until May 31st and will send us a reminder in April.

5. Treasurer's Report

a. Account balances:

administration account -	\$5,000.00
marathon account -	\$3,434.47
recreation account -	\$53,582.72
rec Self-insurance -	\$7,500.00

b. Yearly start-up funds were set aside in the administration account (\$5000). Distribution of the moneys left in the admin account was deposited to the Marathon account at a 6% rate and to the Recreation account at a rate of 96%. This is based on the 2016 Membership percentages.

c. Year-end MAP Grant amounts were received in Dec 2016. Rec - \$81.09 Mar - \$46.59

d. All invoices are paid to date. There is one outstanding cheque that we wrote for the Trip Tales Hall rental that has not been cashed as yet. This has been taken into account in the above totals. 5. All financial information will be to our accountant, Gabe Ng, by the end of January so he can get started on our year-end report and financial statement. The next Annual Return and Financial Statement is due to Information Services Corporation (ISC) by May 31, 2017.

e. Tannis Murdock from the City of Saskatoon is working on our lease agreement for the Victoria Boathouse. We are presently without a signed agreement. It is the plan to renew it with no changes from the previous lease agreement. Our club will address any outstanding issues with the City on an as-needed basis. The 2016 rent (\$2189.85) has been paid in full on July 6, 2016.

6. **Recreation:** Eithan

a) New Rules Sign: Eithan edits the rules with the executive. Issue: Members under 18 must be supervised by an authorized adult member of the SCC. Eithan will categorize the policies in appropriate sections, and e-mail them to us for approval before printing.

b) Motor Boat Launch Issue: A letter from the three boathouse renters (Saskatoon Rowing Club, Saskatoon Racing Club and SCC) has been sent to the mayor and Councillors expressing our concerns that a motor boat launch and parking lot to service such be planted just north of our dock location and in Victoria Park. A shorter form letter is for members to send. (Letters in the Appendix of these minutes.) Raina will shorten the member letter and send it to all our last year's members.

John, Eithan and Ann are attending the boathouse renters' meetings and will keep the executive informed. John continues to try tracking down exactly which organizations are involved in approving of what we consider a preposterous proposal.

7. **Marathon:** Edith

a) There will be a Sask Marathon Training Camp in Florida March 18 - April 2. Unfortunately we only have one member attending so far; the more participation we get, the easier it is to get funding.

b) Nationals in Sudbury Aug 5-7. There will hopefully be funding for a provincial van.

c) \$1700 will be paid to Mike Vincent soon for the last instalment for the Gillies.

d) I attended the CKC Annual Summit in Ottawa Dec 1-4. On the national scale CKC is attempting to include all paddling under the umbrella of their new strategic plan; however there remain a lot of internal issues. This pertains to SCC only as it relates to our membership in CKS which attempts to follow CKC infrastructure to a large extent. The Rec Division may not wish to remain part of the provincial body but this is a big, long standing issue that may be visited at a later time.

e) This coming season I plan to enforce a rule that all Marathon members wash their boat after use. This is to smooth relations with the Recreation Division and to keep the boats in clean condition.

8. Membership: position still vacant

Raina will send out another request for someone to fill the membership position. A committee of John, Eithan and Richard Rance will decide how to quiz members in order that successful applicants may not need orientation, and present this at our next meeting.

9. Equipment: Brendan

A walk-around is planned for this week, Wednesday or Friday. John and Austin will accompany Brendan and the city employee.

Possible security issues: Wi-Fi, digital sign out for boats-Austin will contact other clubs inquiring as to how Wi-Fi works for this purpose. Would it be possible to check on e-mail and ascertain that a boat is out but will be back in an hour for your use?

10. Social/Publicity: Raina

Nothing to report.

11. Next Meeting: Monday, February 13, 7PM, Franny's home-120-9th street East.

Minutes respectfully submitted by J. Ann Popoff

Appendix

Letter re Motorized Boat Launch

1. Boathouse renters' letter:

His Worship the Mayor and City Council

City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and City Council:

We write on behalf of the thousands of river users and members of the Saskatoon Rowing Club, the Saskatoon Canoe Club, and the Saskatoon Racing Canoe Club, to express our concern regarding a proposed relocation of the public motorized boat launch to Victoria Park.

Our three clubs represent just a fraction of the non-motorized boat users (paddlers) of our beautiful river throughout the summer months. We have been an organized part of the fabric of this city since the 1970s and have played an integral role in promoting an active lifestyle and participation in on-water sports. Today, our combined membership is well over 1500 people. This membership does not include the hundreds of children, youth and adults who participate in our 'Learn To' programs that bring even more residents onto the water.

At a public discussion at the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA) board room on Dec. 5th about the proposed site of a new motorized boat launch, it was presented to our users that Victoria Park was the only suitable location for a new launch. The presentation did not particularly consider the viewpoints of the hundreds of daily users of our current launch site, but rather spoke to the "much-needed" motorized boat launch for the less than 12 motorized river users per day (a statistic quoted to us by the MVA). The following are some of our primary concerns with this proposal.

Safety is our first, most urgent concern. Throughout the summer, our clubs provide introductory, novice, recreational, and competitive streams of training. Learn-to and novice participants are always accompanied by a safety boat as the very nature of the sports come with a certain level of risk of capsizing. Currently, we utilize the safe and low-traffic river area between the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge and the CNR Bridge as our short course to train our new users. The proposal to introduce a motorized boat launch into the heart of this area will create a significant hazard to operators – of all skill levels – of human-powered watercraft. The flow pattern of the river dictates how our users approach the dock from the water. Paddlers come from the downstream to be able to work against the river's current to dock. This means that all users require the northwest side of the river to paddle along to gain access to the dock. Placing a motorized boat launch in the middle of this area will most certainly reduce the safety of all paddlers both experienced and inexperienced.

The proposal also calls for motorized boats to head downstream, after backing in their boats directly into oncoming docking traffic, on the North side of the river until they are past the Sid Buckwold Bridge. This is a huge safety risk for all as motorized and non-motorized users will be travelling along the same side of the river in opposite directions putting all parties directly in harm's way without choice.

In addition to this proposed increase in encounters between motorized and non-motorized watercraft, is the already extremely hazardous effect of the motorized-craft wakes on paddlers caused by unaware and/or malicious motor boat drivers. As you will read in our attached testimonials, there are many of examples of motorized users who are unaware of the extreme effects of their wake on other users.

While we would like nothing more than to develop a comprehensive education program for these users, it is not feasibly within our club's abilities or scope to manage such a program. The safety of Saskatoon citizens is the responsibility of the City. If a motor boat launch was to be introduced into Victoria Park, would the City be willing to educate and police motorized boaters? Every single user of our clubs is provided with an education on the river, on shallow locations, on water flow patterns, and how to respect other river users. Who will be responsible for this education with new motorized boat users?

At the MVA meeting it was proposed that simply having the two distinct river user groups in the same area would resolve and prevent any safety issues. While this is a positive thought, conflicts will inevitably arise and city jurisdiction needs to be in place for any situations that may occur. This is not what was presented, however, as the presenters continually reminded us that the City has no jurisdiction over the motorized users as they fall under Federal waterway legislation, thereby putting personal safety back into the hands of the paddlers.

Another safety and environmental concern that we did not see addressed in the MVA proposal is any engineering study of the traffic on the river and the watercraft carrying capacity of the portion of the river within City limits. The MVA representatives stated that the engineering work on the boat launch planning/design would not begin until after the site had been chosen. What such an approach neglects is that the location of a new motorized boat launch is the single most important aspect of the boat launch design that will impact the safety of the public on the river. What the City and the MVA have done by not including an engineering review of river traffic in their assessment of potential sites for the new boat launch is akin to choosing the site for a new freeway without first analyzing how the new roadway would affect traffic patterns and road safety – to do so would be irresponsible.

To assume that building a new boat launch, with additional parking spots and ease of accessibility for vehicles towing boat trailers (as proposed at the MVA meeting) will not increase motorized boat usage is short-sighted. While we are not in any way against motorized boats on the river, our concern is with the capacity of the river to handle much more motor boat traffic than what currently exists. There are many examples from other communities in Canada demonstrating that before planning any new waterway infrastructure, a thorough inventory and analysis of waterway uses is conducted. This needs to include an environmental assessment of increased motor boat use, the effects of increased wake action on erosion to the riverbank, and the impact on current users including paddlers, rowers, swimmers, and floaters.

In the presentation, there was much discussion about providing additional parking and drive-through accessible spots for large trucks and boat trailers. As a City, Saskatoon boasts some of the finest river trail systems, parks and community-accessible picnic areas anywhere. This includes an already extremely heavily used Victoria Park. In the summer this park is full, including users of the Lions Skate Park, the Riverside Tennis and Badminton Club, the many paddlers from our clubs and the general public, and of course the Riversdale Pool and picnic area. This area is a safe and accessible place for inner-city families, low-income families, and others to use throughout the summer months. Introducing a public motorized

boat launch to this area will not increase the value of this park to the thousands of residents who live nearby, nor to the broader community of citizens who partake in human-powered activities on the river.

It will most certainly have the opposite effect. Again, we suggest that safety be top of mind. Finally, we challenge this Council to think about the long-term plan for our beautiful city. Carefully considering the number of motorized boat users in contrast to the much larger number of non-motorized

boat users, do we as taxpayers want to invest our money in the way currently proposed by the City and the MVA? Based on statistics set out in the City of Saskatoon Parks and Recreation Master Plan released in 2015, 63% of those polled indicated that there is a need for more non-motorized boating facilities, whereas only 38% of the same group indicated that there is a need for upgrades to existing motorized boating facilities. In addition, picnic areas and other amenities for families were strongly desired. Is increasing motorized boat activity how we truly see our city getting better? A launch for motorized boats in Victoria Park is neither the best choice for our waterway, nor for the citizens who live near and/or use the river.

Let us be clear: we are not against the use of motorized boats on the river. We are simply very concerned with safety of the public, the impact on the river and park environments, the proximity to the existing Victoria Park dock/boathouse facilities, and the massive impacts on every other river user of increasing motorized boat traffic in the city. We ask that the city take our concerns into consideration and thoroughly evaluate the risks of a boat launch near our dock. We look forward to working with the city so that all users can continue to enjoy this beautiful waterway in Saskatoon.

Sincerely,

Sash Broda

President, Saskatoon Rowing Club

saskatoonrowingclub@gmail.com

Jenn Hingley

Commodore, Saskatoon Racing Canoe Club

thomsoncrew@sasktel.net

Franny Rawlyk

President, Saskatoon Canoe Club

2. Member's letter

His Worship the Mayor and City Council

City of Saskatoon

222 3rd Ave North

Saskatoon, SK

S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and City Council

As a member of the Saskatoon _____ club and regular user of the River, I have significant concerns with the proposal of a new motorized boat launch in Victoria Park.

Introducing additional motorized boat traffic to a narrow waterway like our River is a recipe for disaster.

We ask that you stop any planning of this proposal, and go back to drawing board to find a more appropriate location.

Safety of all users should be paramount to the City and without the necessary policing, waterway speed or wake designations, this cannot be guaranteed. I ask that you please consider not only the safety of all current users, but the overall health benefits that non-motorized boat usage provides. In addition, I ask that you consider the negative environmental impacts of added wake, contaminants and sound pollution, that increasing motorized boat use will have on our river and citizens. Introducing a motorized boat launch in the proximity of Victoria Park will negatively impact current usage of the park and significantly impact paddlers trying to dock at the current Victoria Park boat launch.

Second, as a tax payer and citizen of Saskatoon, I ask that you provide a thorough environmental assessment on the effects that additional motorized boat usage will have on our waterway. River bank slumping is already a major concern and is slowly narrowing the navigable area of the river. What impact would adding more motorized boats have on the river bank?

The existing dock that thousands of users enjoy all summer in Victoria Park is completely paid for by the clubs that are housed in the boathouse. What percentage of the new boat launch will be paid for by the motorized boat users?

Finally, I ask that this Council go back to the City of Saskatoon Parks and Recreation Master Plan released in 2015, and look at the statistics. Citizens want more accessibility to parks, trails, and nonmotorized

boats on the river. This current proposal does not address any of these wishes and in fact, will reduce the availability of park space replacing it with a parking lot for trucks and trailers.

Below is an example of the current challenges that I have faced on the river with the existing motorized boat users.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Club: _____