

Central Iowa Paddlers
Board Meeting 2/26/2008
Ray's Place at 48th & Harwood, Des Moines

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at Ray's home

Attending were Rick Dietz, Lynn Aldridge, Ned McPartland, Dick Howard, Ray Knight, Bill Graham, John Wenck, and Robin Fortney. John Holzmueller was missed.

Rick announced that he would be rolling off the board, having completed his 3-year term. The board thanked Rick for his significant service to the club, including care and feeding of the CIP Web page.

Minutes of the January 15, 2008, meeting were forwarded earlier to board members.

Treasurer's Report: Bill reported that there is \$1,464.66 in the checking account. He has developed an Excel spread sheet to track club finances. He noted that operating costs, specifically newsletter mailing fees, are going up and income is not projected to cover expenses by 2009. The board discussed options for increasing income, including raising member fees, but there was no support for it at this time. John W noted that he will raise money for the 2008 River Run Garbage Grab selling collectibles via eBay. Board decided to focus on finding ways to increase membership.

Old Business:

1. State-wide Paddling Club - Several board members attended a kick-off meeting of persons interested in a state-wide paddling organization held during the recent Paddlesport Exposition. The first meeting of the steering committee will be held Sunday, March 2, 2008. Steering committee members include Greg Vitale, Max Wellhouse, Dave Kraemer, Rick Dietz, Nick Gaeta, Joe Delory, Angie Dalton, Pat Oswald and John Wenck. Primary issues of the club include paddlesport safety and lobbying.
2. Iowa Rivers Revival - Robin noted that the annual Iowa Rivers Revival conference will be held the first weekend in April in Iowa Falls; she will send a reminder to Lynn for distribution with a link for registering for the conference.
3. Armchair Paddlers Series - Rick reported that Pat Schlarbaum (Iowa DNR) will speak on osprey reintroduction and Susan Heathcote (Iowa Environmental Council) will speak on water quality issues at the March 16th program to be held at Canoesport Outfitters.

New Business:

1. Communication - Ray will continue to send out monthly updates to members, including a new member welcome. Board agreed that communication with members is critical.
2. Member engagement – Board discussed at length ways to engage members. Robin agreed to draft a member survey to see what members are interested in. She will

update the tri-fold membership brochure to be placed in boat shops. There was considerable discussion about holding weekly paddling sessions for social and skill building purposes (self rescue and paddle strokes). Ray will co-lead the sessions, and is looking for support as at least one leader will need to show up each week. Possible venues include Grays Lake, Raccoon River Park, and the ponds below Saylorville Dam. Lynn volunteered to lead a new member float trip this summer.

Board Reports:

1. Membership Report: Lynn reported that 93 members have paid to date in 2008 and 20 additional memberships were received today.
2. Newsletter: Robin offered to revise the 2008 season schedule to reduce the number of pages from 8 to 2. Board considered the value of sending out the member list and season schedule along with the season kick-off newsletter since mailing costs have increased. They decided that the mailing has great value to members and will be continued.
3. Advocacy: No report
4. Web page: Rick offered to continue managing the CIP Web page until a new manager is designated.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fortney