

Emergency Board Meeting  
17 June 2009 at Minnedosa

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Carol Fulford. Gail Bordian needed to address the board with some potential problems with the upcoming Brandon Festival. Gail spoke with Liz at MPA this morning and they want us to have a look at our commitments.

The Manitoba Paddling Association is partnered with us again for this years Wheat City Dragon Boat races to be held in Brandon. This is a good fundraiser for our team and to be a reliable partner according to MPA we need to support their Festivals. The MPA expected to see our team participate in their Festival however; it is the same date as the Saskatoon Festival. To be considered as a long term partner, we need to support the MPA and we are not doing that by attending the Festival in Saskatoon. This festival is being hosted by FMG which is a business-run Festival. Our excuse of we did not know about supporting their Festival is not an excuse as far as they are concerned as we were apparently told this last year. If we support a profit-organization versus a non-profit organization, we may not get the Festival, which translates money, for next year. We can talk to Jerome by phone and ask questions to get the MPA side. They are not willing to canvas for teams like they did last year which means we will have to work harder to get teams to our Festival. MPA would like us to pull out of Saskatoon and support their Festival and Gail would like the Board to look at this dilemma and make a decision. At this point, Gail phoned Jerome and left the board to talk with him.

Our team/Jerome from MPA had the following points:

Our team needed clear parameters of what was expected of us and this is undue pressure to expect us to participate with MPA

Jerome tells us that Minnedosa has a new team and this will attract more members. Waves of Hope and MPA are now in a partnership and we are expected to support them in Winnipeg. We are the sole recipient of any team money raised. There is no excuses on the "we didn't understand".

Our team needed a clear contract and these issues should have been brought up at the signing of the contract. There has to be trust and responsibility on both sides of this issue. Jerome was thanked so that the Board could now discuss.

- 1) We can't back out now
- 2) We could lose 10 teams that Winnipeg canvassed for us last year or the Festival may not even run and we would lose a potential \$9,000.
- 3) Last year Merle tried to get someone out to the River City Dragon Boat races with our display, etc but no luck
- 4) No guarantee for teams for next year

Recap:

- MPA feels we need to participate in the July Festival in Winnipeg to show good faith; need to have our presence there. Why should teams come to Brandon and support us when we won't go to Winnipeg to support them
- We didn't know that this was an issue when we made plans to attend the Festival in Saskatoon. The arrangements have been made, Festival registration paid for and the bus has been paid for.
- MPA doesn't like that we are supporting a private business versus supporting our partnership
- We have the Saskatoon Festival already planned
- MPA is very disappointed that we have chosen to support someone else. Their Festival is the same time every year, never changes. We did not realize this and it looks bad to not support them.
- Teams in Winnipeg are asking why we are not there supporting them
- MPA feels we can still just walk away from our Saskatoon commitment and join them in Winnipeg. We have team members who have now made holiday plans around going to Saskatoon. If we cancel now, we likely won't have enough paddlers to make a team
- MPA says if you don't support your neighbour, then he may not help you next time
- This is too much pressure for our team at this time as we also have many Breast Cancer supports that we need to consider. We will try and make the Brandon Festival the best one we can
- Diane is going to ask Minnedosa if they would like to go to the Winnipeg Festival and represent us. They could set up the display as well.
- Merle stated that the group that partners with MPA in Winnipeg has to pay for this and we do not.

**Motion** by Merle Darling, seconded by Betty Stewart: "We will continue with our plans to participate in the Saskatoon Festival and will plan to register for the River City Festival in 2010". Vote: 7 – Yes    1 – No    2 – Abstained

Jerome from MPA mentioned that we could store our boat in their building located at the Minnedosa campground. Minnedosa has a team and may want to use our boat. Waves of Hope would still need a truck to move the boat from the building to the water and we would have to check into insurance implications for this.

Meeting was adjourned so that we can continue with our practice on the water.

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Carol Fulford, Manager

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Rosemarie Blair, Secretary