

Richmond Metro Aquatic League  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2021, 7:00 PM  
Shenandoah Community Center

All teams were represented except Greenfield and MAC. Officers present: David Norman, Scott Soukup, Georgann Wilkinson, Rob Schorr, and newly elected Michele Turlington.

President, David Norman called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

- 1) Adrienne Howlett presented the treasurer's report.
- 2) Scott Soukup gave an equipment update.
  - a. The League currently has 7 8-lane and one 6-lane functional Dolphin sets.
  - b. The League will begin sending in starters to be refurbished at the cost of \$250 each, a significant cost savings over purchasing new units.
- 3) League Teams
  - a. David Norman presented the possibility of a new team joining the league. Normally we would ask for request to join to be brought before this meeting but in this case, the team has asked for more time. If they decide to request admittance, this would bring the league teams to 16 (assuming YMCA remains one team) and bring more balance to the league. If the new team requests to join, a virtual vote will be held.
- 4) Executive Board Changes – David Norman presented the 2021-22 officers and their rolls. Officers were confirmed unanimously by the voting board.
  - a. The addition of Michele Turlington as an at-large officer and the Director of Communications – social media and email
  - b. David Norman - President
  - c. Todd McDermott - Vice President
  - d. Phaedra Clark - Secretary, handling meeting minutes and admin responsibilities
  - e. Adrienne Howlett – Treasurer
  - f. Scott Soukup - At-large officer and equipment manager and training lead for technical roles (non-computer)
  - g. Rob Schorr – At-large officer focused on strokes and turns and special projects.
  - h. Georgann Wilkinson – At-large officer, webmaster, and tech consultant

- 5) Champs
  - a. David Norman listed several possible dates for next year's Champs: July 18-20th or Jul 25<sup>th</sup>
  - b. RMAL officers are currently investigating SwimRVA or NOVA's new facility.
  - c. David conveyed that next year's Champ cannot be held on the weekend due to Virginia Swimming Long Course Champs for Age Group and Seniors on straddling weekends
- 6) Season Schedule – Presented possible options for the 2022 meet schedule.
  - a. 6 meet schedule
  - b. Start of Season
    - i. If Champs is on Jul 25<sup>th</sup>, week 1 to start around week of Jun 13<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. If Champs is Jul 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, week 1 to start around week of Jun 7<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Woodlake's Jer Daniels, informed the members that Woodlake's summer pool will be undergoing a renovation and will be unusable for the 2022 summer swim season. Woodlake will be fielding a team, practicing at an alternative Woodlake pool and asking that they not host home meets for the 2022 summer.
- 7) RMAL is actively searching for new officers with several rolling off the board this and next year. Replacements are needed to fill several rolls.
- 8) David Norman listed issues for discussion and votes. Voting will take place virtually during the fall with one vote per team. The following are up for consideration:
  - a. Coaches must gather and arrange 8 and under relays prior to sending behind the blocks, not at clerk. Eight and under relays will not be processed through Clerk. Yes or no vote.
  - b. Eliminate the 13-14 and 15 and over 100 free and replace with the 50 free. Yes or no vote.
  - c. Create a more flexible competition week. The competition week would include days Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday. The day of the meet would be determined by the host team. Yes or no vote.
    - i. Conversation ensued concerning the confusion and scheduling issued that could result from this change.
  - d. IM capped at 6 entries regardless of pool lanes. Yes or no vote.
  - e. Impose a (5 pt) scoring penalty for the incorrect classification of swimmers/relays. Swimmer/Relay will be reclassified and scored with the offending team taking a penalty off the total or counted only as an exhibition swimmer. Yes or no vote.

- i. Conversation followed about ways to verify swimmer classifications, have a meeting early in the season, send list out for vetting, IT resources for checking.
  - f. Meet software – recommend staying with HYTEK-Yes or no vote.
- 9) For future action in Spring:
  - i. Committee to investigate scoring changes. (Brian Singleton to head – looking for volunteers) Would like minimum of 3 Courses of Action to present to Spring meeting. Potential proposals:
    - 1. Adopt similar VHSL scoring for dual meets and champs meets
    - 2. Tier 1 and Tier 2. Teams specify which swimmer is tier 1 and tier 2. No Blue/Gold/Silver - Tier 2 finishers count 2x as much as Tier 1.
    - 3. Constraints
      - a. Need to make sure that kids at all levels get ribbons
      - b. Swim meet software can handle proposed system
    - 4. Committee volunteers include: Brian Singleton, Scott Soukup, Gwen Braaten, Merry Rech, Georgann Wilkinson, Kristen Hicks, Matt Porter, Jen Ward, and Morgan Kowalchuk
  - ii. Committee to look at and evaluate volunteer levels at Champs
    - 1. Committee volunteers include: Mark Van Deren, Scott Soukup, Jer Daniels, Jen Ward, Adrienne Howlett, Phaedra Clark, Michelle Turlington
- 10) David Norton adjourned meeting at 8:30 pm.