

West Florida PHRF Inc
Minutes of the Special Board of Directors meeting held April 10, 2018
At Sarasota Yacht Club, Sarasota, FL

President Wendy Filler called the meeting to order at 1833 hours. Members present were Wendy Filler, Charles Mixson, Kim Beaty, Tish Wold, Grant Dumas, George Pennington, Jim Mallory, Dick Booth, Gordon Latrobe and Mike Kayusa. This represented a quorum.

Because this was a special meeting, the only item on the agenda was Dave German's proposal for a Sun Coast region rating sub-committee.

President Wendy Filler presented printed copies of a proposal by Dave German of DIYC to establish a Sun Coast regional ratings sub-committee to handle the ratings for boat in only the Sun Coast region. This information had previously been discussed by Dave German with the President and the President believed the matter had been closed in January. Since those discussions, Dave had provided his proposal to additional Board members and had verbal and email discussions with Jim Mallory, Rating Chair. And there was a recent email of a full proposal to the President that she stated she did not see or receive. Mike Kayusa was contacted by Dave when he did not receive a response from the President. Given there had been continuing pressure on WFPHRF by Dave German to create this sub-committee, it was felt the entire Board should meet to discuss the idea and approve or dis-approve Dave's proposal.

Mike Kayusa expressed concern that all key information such as Dave's proposal be shared with the entire board. He also expressed that Dave has invested substantial money in his boat and deserved an answer. Jim Mallory commented about Dave's new boat that Dave had been in communication with Jim about the boat's rating since July 2017 and that Dave was told several times that his plans for boat and sail modifications would incur additional penalties. Jim also stated that no DIYC officers had any idea of Dave's proposal.

Next, Jim Mallory made a motion asking the board members listed in Dave's proposal, Grant and Gordon, to abstain from voting since their names were in Dave's proposal as sub-committee members. The motion was seconded. There was discussion that since they were potentially on the proposed sub-committee, they could be less than objective. The motion passed 7 yes and 3 no. The President also recused herself since the proposal was addressed to her.

The President then asked for any comments regarding the proposal. Gordon stated that he was fully aware of the proposal and would head up the ratings sub-committee. He further expressed that communications between ratings committee and membership was very poor. He pointed out that his initial rating was changed "5 times" before it was finalized and that the rating committee was incompetent. Jim Mallory responded that there were a number of errors in Gordon's application which took time to correct and they resulted in rating changes. The exchange became heated and personal with Gordon standing up and leaning across the table almost in a rage. A break was taken at this point while the President and the two parties left the room. Gordon stated that he was leaving, but after a break, all three people returned to the meeting.

Dick Booth then noted that there appeared to be two parts to Dave's issues: the need for special Sun Coast ratings and commutations between WFPHRF and the membership. He noted that Dave has expressed concerns about communications before. This had led to the formation of WFYRA with Dave as the instigating force. Dick noted that WFYRA has now faded to just a web site, and did relatively little to improve communication with the membership.

The next comment was from George explaining that Dave German has had a ratings disagreement with WFPHRF for several years with his previous boat and now the new one. He further stated that most other ratings bodies do not give explanations of the process nor allow for redress of assigned new ratings.

At this point the comments were ended and a motion was made to reject the proposed Sun Coast rating sub-committee proposal. The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for formal comments.

George Pennington noted that the proposal is counterproductive when a non Sun Coast boat came to race in Sun Coast region and was given a different rating. He felt that DIYC could run DIYC club races with any rating they wanted but it appeared than no DIYC official was interested in the proposal and that only one or two DIYC boat owners had problems with their ratings.

Jim Mallory commented that he has asked and that neither the DIYC fleet captain nor DIYC officers are aware of the need for the sub-committee or has seen the proposal.

Tish Wold stated she was against the idea.

Charles Mixson agreed with George's comments and that the proposal appeared to be based on one DIYC member having a problem with his rating.

The vote was taken and it was 7 against the sub-committee proposal and 3 abstentions from Grant, Gordon and Wendy.

The President agreed to write a letter to Dave regarding the proposal's rejection while inviting Dave to write a quarterly email and web site news letter to increase communications with members. In addition, Dick Booth will look into posting rating appeals and rating changes on the web site.

The last item discussed was regarding Board member communications with membership. The president stressed that Board members should not discuss information from meetings until it is officially posted or otherwise disseminated. Mike asked that all email communication be forwarded to the whole board. It was agreed to do this and revisit the idea at the next meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 23, 2018 at 11am, just prior to the annual meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1944 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Booth
WFPHRF Secretary