

To: Election Committee
Long Island City Community Boathouse

From: Steve Ellis

Please accept my declaration of candidacy for Member of the 7-person Steering Council. Here is my personal statement:

What have I done for the Boathouse?

I have enjoyed volunteering with LICCB for two years. During that time I've had a fairly significant role in growing the Halletts Cove program, have made some physical improvements in the boathouse, and have assisted on many trips and led a few. My most visible contributions in the boathouse are the paddle racks, the PFD racks, the rack that some of the private boats are kept on (moving them out of harm's way), the kayak dolly wheels, engineering the poles that keep our floating dock in place. I've also organized several work parties that focused on boat and boathouse maintenance.



Why do I volunteer with LICCB?

I love being in a small boat on open water. I like what LICCB offers: To the public, a chance to get out on the water in a kayak, for many who otherwise never would. A chance to get connected to our waterways and to learn about the ecology and vitality of the waterways right in their neighborhoods. And to our volunteers, a chance to get involved in an organization that's doing very worthwhile things, that's enriched by really good and motivated and generous people who care. And opportunities to go on awesome kayak trips.

Why am I qualified to be a member of the Steering Council?

I've been around small boats since I was in kindergarten. I've been a professional sailing instructor and collegiate sailing champion. I'm a capable kayaker, able to self-rescue and rescue others in need. I am able to lead trips. I have judgment that comes with (sigh) age. (I'm 6-7 years away from retiring from a satisfying career in medical research IT.) Most importantly, I'm interested in the future of LICCB.

What would I advocate for, as a member of Steering Council?

- Making sure that all who wish to volunteer are permitted to contribute as much or as little as they wish, are treated with respect and appreciation, and get to enjoy being a volunteer.
- Growth in our public programs.
- Partnering with Parks and all organizations working to improve public access to the water.
- Becoming an independent 501(c) (3), as I feel we are too limited as an Activity Committee of the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club.
- Doing more on-the-water fund raising, so that we can:
- Seek a permanent boathouse site and a really good facility from which to pursue our mission of providing free recreational paddling programs to the public.