

CANDIDACY QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY VICTORIA OLSON

1) In what LICCB programs have you participated, and in what capacity? How else have you helped the boathouse?

My participation in LICCB programs has included performing many different roles at the Hallet's Cove Public Walk-up Paddling, from sweep to patrol to beach coordinator to waiver collector to safety instructor to paddle handling etc.

I first encountered the program in 2006 and took an active role on the first day I was there on the beach (collecting waivers, assisting in on-the-water safety.) In intervening years my participation was sporadic, yet during the 2009 and 2010 seasons I was able to take a more active role in all aspects of the program, including the paddle up, the day at the cove, and the paddle back, along with stowing equipment and at times coordinating the volunteer appreciation barbeque.

For the Spring Launch Fundraiser March 10, 2010, I assumed multiple tasks and responsibilities involved in producing the event, including procuring a temporary liquor license and event insurance, coordinating volunteers, assembling materials and personnel, liaison with the Foundry, soliciting donations and raffle prizes, dealing with vendors and suppliers, etc.

I have participated in several of the work parties organized this season to sort, clean, and repair equipment.

2) Where would you like to see the boathouse go in the next year? How would you make this happen?

In my opinion the boathouse is moving along at a good clip, enjoying success, gaining visibility and regard in the kayak and canoe paddlers community. I would like to see us gain even more visibility as a force for connecting and engaging people with the waterways that surround us on this group of islands we call home.

I would like to see us capture even more of the moment by moment interest of participants by standardising our financial contribution methods. I would like to see us become even better at fundraising on the water.

I am willing to continue what I have done so far in outright yeoman work, community outreach and general boosterism. I am willing to brainstorm for more ideas about how to do things in a more systematic manner.

3) What unique or needed skills would you bring to leading the LICCB?

I have extensive skills in community organizing, from participation in the community gardening movement, transportation activism, political and economic education groups. I have skills in sales and marketing, fundraising, event production, financial planning, health and safety, and a little bit of kayaking too.

4) What specific aspects of the LICCB are you most eager to improve? (There are a lot of possibilities here: sound finances, sponsor relationships, representation at harbor functions, safety, volunteer appreciation and motivation, equipment maintenance, creative and reliable programming, communication, engagement with educators, etc.)

I see the LICCB as moving in a positive direction now. I am eager to add to the success of the organization by bringing attention and organization to all areas listed above. I am willing to commit time and energy to collaborative efforts with the steering committee and the general boathouse population to achieve improvement goals.

5) What have you enjoyed most in your time with the LICCB and how would you like to share that with others?

There is nothing like a balmy summer night on the river, surrounded by friends old and new, everyone enjoying the simple delight of human-powered boating amid the splendor and squalor and industrial might of our glittering metropolis.

It is such a delight that I invite friends, family, and strangers to participate at every opportunity. I will continue to do so until everyone I know has come out with us.

Thank you,
Victoria Olson