Monday, March 25, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:,

This letter requests permission for the Ann Arbor Rowing Club (AARC) to conduct a fundraising raffle of an indoor rowing machine on July 20, 2013.

The Ann Arbor Rowing Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization (see: http://www.a2crew.com/). Ann Arbor Rowing Club is working to establish itself as one of the premiere community rowing associations in the Midwest. Located on Argo Pond, a beautiful, winding 3000 meter stretch of the Huron River, AARC offers the complete range of rowing programs from Learn To Row and Learn to Scull to nationally competitive Masters rowing. The mission of the Ann Arbor Rowing Club is to provide and promote a safe, affordable, and educationally rewarding rowing experience for residents of Ann Arbor and the surrounding area.

Argo Pond has hosted nationally competitive rowing since University of Michigan Men's Crew Team began rowing there in 1976. The Ann Arbor Rowing Club (then known as Arbor Rowing) joined them in the early 1980's with just a handful of rowers and boats stored on outdoor racks. The club has been growing quickly and becoming more competitive ever since.

AARC's current boathouse was constructed in 2001/2002 under a 15-year renewable lease with the City of Ann Arbor. AARC has 120-200 active members at any given time, with rowing and sculling coaches under hire. The sport of rowing in the Ann Arbor area continues to grow in popularity and organizations continue to develop high caliber programs.

All Ann Arbor rowing groups belong to the Organization of Ann Arbor Rowing (OAAR), which works to ensure safe, standard and collaborative water use by rowing teams & community, regardless of location. OAAR is comprised of UM and AARC and the three Ann Arbor Public High School Crews, Huron Crew, Pioneer Crew and Skyline Crew.

This year AARC will be hosting its 12th annual Michigan Club Invitational (MCI) Regatta on July 20, 2013. This event invites various high school and master rowing clubs from Michigan and the surrounding areas to bring their crews to race at our Argo Pond venue. This one-day event typically attracts over 1200 participants and 200 clubs.

As part of this year's event, AARC would like to take advantage of a special offer afforded to non-profit rowing clubs by Concept 2, Inc., by raffling off one of its Indoor Rowing Machines. This piece of equipment is the industry standard in exercise equipment for rowers and is often found in gyms all over the world (see: http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/model-d). Concept 2 provides the non-profits with one (1) Model D indoor rowing machine to raffle off at half the retail price (\$900). It is our plan to sell raffle tickets to the local rowing community and MCI participants

for \$5 each. Any excess proceeds from the raffle will be applied to AARC expenses and ongoing rowing programs.

We look forward to your approval of our raffle application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin Myers AARC President

Cc: Cyndi Ives, Marketing Director