



USLA Board Meeting

Lake Placid, New York
Saturday, August 22, 2015

Minutes

Member Present: Mr. Dwight Bell, Mr. Chris Mazdzer, Mr. Brian Martin, Mr. Pete Gillwald, Mr. Jeff Stratton

Members Present by phone: Ms. Julia Clukey, Mr. Paul Baribault, Ms. Mary Ann Deignan, Mr. Adam Berlew

Members Absent: Ms. Erin Warren, Mr. Terrence Burns

Staff Present: Mr. Jim Leahy, Mr. Mark Grimmette, Ms. Amy Chapin, Mr. Ron Rossi (USLF -joined at 9:32AM)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:04AM by Mr. Dwight Bell.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to Approve Minutes of May15-16, 2015: Mr. Jeff Stratton/Mr. Brian Martin/Approved

Financial Report: Mr. Bell first reminded the Board that we previously approved to move our fiscal year to end August 31.

YTD Financial Report Cash Flow Position – Mr. Jim Leahy reported on the Year End financials and stated that we will show a slight loss for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. He reminded the Board of how large a gap the organization had to close this past year and thanked all for their help and guidance. Our current cash flow situation is good as we have received our 1st payment from the USOC. The \$85,000 Line of Credit is still outstanding, but reported that we are not in a position to pay it off at this time.

2015-2016 Budget Approval – Mr. Leahy started by thanking Finance Committee Chair Ms. Erin Warren and Mr. Chris Mazdzer, as well as the entire Finance Committee for all their efforts and guidance in preparing the 2015-2016 Operating Budget. He also noted that Ms. Warren sent an email to the Board stating that the Finance Committee had unanimously approved the budget being presented today to the full Board. Mr. Mazdzer added that he believed that this budget properly addressed the needs of the association.

Mr. Leahy highlighted a number of revenue drivers for this budget year. Two World Cups in the US, four potential shows on NBCSN with funding coming from New York and Utah Tourism and the USOC funding increase of 15%.

World Cup TV Production – Mr. Leahy summarized the financial World Cup TV proposals including the out of pocket costs and the NBC proposed funding. He gave credit to Gordy Sheer and Mr. Bob Hughes of Carr Hughes Production for assisting with negotiating the coverage.

Discussion ensued on various budget related topics.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the 2015-2015 Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

Motion to Approve 2015-2016 Budget as proposed by Finance and Compensation Committee
Mr. Mazdzer/Ms. Julia Clukey/ Motion PASS

USLFF Nominations – Mr. Ron Rossi

Mr. Rossi gave the Board a recap of the United States Luge Foundation including the process for renewal of Members to the Foundation Board. He explained that the USLA Board must approve all potential nominees to the USLFF Board.

Currently, the following Class A Members, Ms. Clukey, Ms. Warren and Mr. Mazdzer, terms expire at the end of September 2015. Mr. Rossi stated that all three members have expressed an interest in remaining on the Foundation Board.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the nomination of the Ms. Clukey, Ms. Warren and Mr. Mazdzer to the USLFF Board.

Motion to Approve these Class A Members to the Foundation Board.
Mr. Brian Martin/ Mr. Adam Berlew/Motion PASS

These Nominees will now be put forth to the Foundation for election to a 2 year term.

Mr. Rossi stated that Group C Member Mr. Ray Weirzbicki's term is ending. Mr. Wierzbicki is interesting in continuing.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Wierzbicki to the USLFF Board.

Motion to Approve Mr. Ray Wierzbicki as a Group C Member to the Foundation Board.
Mr. Jeff Stratton/ Mr. Chris Mazdzer/Motion PASS

Mr. Rossi noted that the Honorary Membership of Mr. Paul Covill is also due to expire. This is a 3 year term and Mr. Covill is interested in continuing.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Covill to the USLFF Board.

Motion to Approve Mr. Paul Covill as an Honorary Member to the Foundation Board.
Mr. Pete Gillwald/ Mr. Jeff Stratton/ Motion PASS

Mr. Rossi thanked the Board and stated that along with the approval of these members, the Foundations annual grant of \$75K to the USLA is on the Agenda for Foundations annual meeting in September.

CEO Report – Mr. Jim Leahy

RFP Update – Via a number of letters sent out to various cities, Colorado Spring, Lake Placid and Park City requested to receive a copy of RFP. Per our August 14, 2015 deadline, Park City and Lake Placid responded with their proposals to have the USLA house its headquarters in their respective cities. Mr. Leahy stated that both communities want to continue dialog regarding the RFP timeline process.

Mr. Bell stated that the working group formed to work with the CEO needs to continue the process towards a more definitive path. At this point Mr. Bell invited the Lake Placid contingent to address the Board.

Mr. Jim McKenna, CEO of ROOST and Mr. Ted Blazer, CEO of ORDA joined the meeting and addressed the Board. They stated that they view our partnership as a long term relationship and that it is as good as it's ever been. The State of NY continues to invest in the Luge run and Mt. Van Hoevenberg.

It was Mr. Blazer's initiative to host the 2016 FIL Congress and also the 2019 World Championships. Although, he said we were not successful in getting the 2019 Worlds, it's important to note that the Region was behind the bid. Mr. Blazer expressed that continuing to host World events is something that ORDA wants to do.

Mr. McKenna and Mr. Blazer went on to discuss the following:

- NY State U R I - Upstate Revitalization Initiative. The State has a regional challenge where the top 5 finalist will be awarded amounts of state funding.
- Emphasis to get spectators to events to show that LP is a viable candidate for an Olympic Games or other major international events.
- Center for Sports Excellence – develop something unique for global athletes.

They are looking to position the venues to drive revenue and offer a bright future for this region and they see Luge as an anchor NGB for Lake Placid.

Some specifics were discussed regarding the work in progress as it relates to the Lake Placid RFP.

At this point Mr. Bell thanked Mr. McKenna and Mr. Blazer for their presentation.

World Cup Marketing – Much of this was discussed during the budget information though some discussion ensued regarding items that can be promoted during the TV Broadcast.

Athlete Report

No AAC Report as Mr. Brian Martin was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Mazdzer reported that he had polled the athletes on their major concerns and added the following:

- Equipment – they would like to ensure that they have reserve equipment while on the road.
- Athletes continue to have concerns over funding and would like to be proactive with sponsors. They would also like more communication between Marketing and their own personal sponsors.

Club Initiatives Report

Club reps Mr. Jeff Stratton and Mr. Pete Gillwald met with Mr. Mark Grimmette and Mr. Fred Zimny regarding the philosophy on how to integrate the Club activities with regards to athlete recruitment, races, and Official's recruitment.

Mr. Stratton reported the focus on these meetings is to find more appropriate methods for the Clubs to provide support to USA Luge.

He did add that the Club policies need to be updated and specifically would like to see the following items addresses:

- Insurance clarification
- Waiver Forms process elaborated upon
- Safe Sport – effect on Clubs
- Officials

Mr. Gillwald announced that the Wasatch Luge Club is celebrating their 20th Anniversary!

CEO Contract/Bonus Plan:

The Board retired to Executive Session to discuss the last item on the agenda at 11: 55 AM.