



**USLA Board Meeting**  
Teleconference  
December 15, 2015  
5:00PM EST

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Dwight Bell, Ms. Mary Ann Deignan, Mr. Chris Mazdzer, Mr. Jeff Stratton, Mr. Pete Gillwald, Mr. Adam Berlew, Ms. Julia Clukey, Ms. Erin Warren, Mr. Terrance Burns  
Members Absent: Mr. Brian Martin, Mr. Paul Baribault  
Staff Present: Mr. Jim Leahy, Ms. Amy Chapin

I. **Call To Order**- D. Bell – The meeting was called to Order at 5:07PM EST

II. **Approval of the Oct. 22, 2015 BOD meeting minutes** - D. Bell

With no comments or corrections, Mr. Bell called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Ms. Mary Ann Deignan/Mr. Pete Gillwald/PASS**

III. **Board Giving Update**- J. Leahy

Mr. Leahy reported that 4 Board members have made donations to date. He also stated that the major goal is to have 100% participation by the Board. Ms. Deignan reinforced the notion of 100% participation. Funds from the Board are targeted to go towards new jackets for our volunteer and toward prize money for the Athletes via the three World Cups in North American. The jackets have been purchased and distributed. Mr. Leahy also reported that a private donor will match the Boards prize money contribution.

Mr. Bell reported that the USLF has the intention of following suit with their Board on a 100% participation rate for giving.

IV. **RFP Update** – J. Leahy

State of NY grant monies - This area did not receive the URI grant money that we were working for. The grant monies went to the Rochester, Syracuse and Binghamton communities. Mr. Bell and Mr. Leahy continue to discuss opportunities with the UOP and Utah Sports Commission as well as the working group in Lake Placid. The most recent discussions with the UOP addressed the need for an indoor start facility.

Mr. Leahy noted the three critical areas of our RFP.

1. Upgrade, or build a new indoor facility.
2. Increase office space.
3. Add technical space.

Mr. Leahy will continue to work with both communities and will report to the Board when more information is available.

V. **World Cup Review-** J. Leahy

i. **Lake Placid – December 4-5, 2015**

ii. **Park City – December 11-12, 2015**

Mr. Leahy reported the success of both events. He reported the live streaming initiative undertaking for the first year by the FIL is going well. With regards to TV broadcast, the Lake Placid World Cup was on NBCSN on December 10<sup>th</sup> and Park City World Cup will air on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Calgary World Cup will air on December 27.

Both races provided an opportunity for a majority of our sponsors to be in attendance. Mr. Leahy also thanked those Board members who were in attendance.

He reported that our athletes won six medals in Lake Placid and five medals in Park City for a total of eleven medals to date. This medal count number is only two off our season high of thirteen. Both events helped solidified our relationship with NBC.

On a final note, Mr. Leahy noted that media coverage was very good for the Lake Placid event but a little disappointing for the Park City event.

Mr. Mazdzer added that from the athlete's perspective both races were successful. He also stated that the athlete's involvement with the live streaming broadcast as color commentators added a nice touch to the broadcast.

Mr. Bell commented that the interviews done by our athletes for the press and TV were very professional and projected a great image for themselves and our sport.

VI. **Athlete Report-** C. Mazdzer, J. Clukey, B. Martin

Mr. Mazdzer stated that finishing up the first half of the season in North America has been easier physically and mentally on the athletes. He reported that our athletes are doing well in the World Cup Standings. As a side note he stated that he and Ms. Clukey will graduate from College the end of December. The entire Board congratulated them both.

VII. **Club Report –** J. Stratton, P. Gillwald

Mr. Stratton reported that the Adirondack Club has begun sliding. He also stated that he is working with the USLA staff to get some clarity on insurance liability issues that may have an impact on all sanctioned clubs of the USLA. Mr. Stratton also addressed the lack of USLA funding for the UP/Natural Track club and suggested that this group could be a good development vehicle and suggested that the USLA staff work to repair the ill will perceived by this group.

Mr. Gillwald reported that he was the Race Director for World Cup in Park City. He added his enthusiasm with two World Cups on US soil. He stated that keeping annual events at both tracks keeps the organizer and officials more engaged. As a final note, he stated that he heard from a large number of USLA Officials and they were all very appreciative of the new jackets provided by the Board.

I. **New Business**

Mr. Leahy recapped that the Junior National Team had been on the road this fall and just returned. He stated that through the Youth Olympic Games Qualifying Process we have four athletes that we will nominate to represent the USA in the Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer this February. He also reported that the Development C Team is back from a trip in Calgary and all went well.

With no other New Business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00PM