



USLA Board Meeting
Teleconference
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
5:00PM

Members Present: Mr. Dwight Bell, Ms. Erin Warren, Mr. Pete Gillwald, Mr. Don Simkin, Mr. Chris Mazdzer, Ms. Julia Clukey

Members Absent: Mr. Matt Mortensen, Ms. Mary Ann Deignan, Mr. Terrance Burns, Mr. Adam Berlew, Mr. Paul Baribault

Staff Present: Mr. Jim Leahy, Ms. Amy Chapin

Call to Order- Mr. Dwight Bell

The meeting was called to order at 5:10PM.

Mr. Bell commented that the Election Agenda item would be moved to after the Club Report.

Congratulate Chris Mazdzer – Silver Medalist

Mr. Bell congratulated Mr. Chris Mazdzer on his accomplishment at the Olympic Games. He also praised Chris on how he has conducted himself and represented the sport of luge in an extremely positive way since he won his silver medal.

Mr. Mazdzer added that it has been a lot of fun and the Olympics was a magical moment that will stay with him forever. Ms. Erin Warren added how wonderful it was to watch as a past athlete and to be steering along with him on his run. Mr. Bell added that the FIL has stated that Chris Mazdzer is the first active FIL Board Member to earn an Olympic Medal.

Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2018

Mr. Bell asked for comments or corrections to the January 18th minutes and with none:

Motion to Approve the minutes by Mr. Pete Gillwald, seconded by Mr. Don Simkin. **PASSED**

CEO Report – Mr. Jim Leahy

PyeongChang Winter Games:

Mr. Leahy echoed everyone's congratulations to Chris Mazdzer. Other than Chris's medals, the Games were successful for USA Luge. Mr. Leahy overviewed the results and said that we look forward to the core of that Olympic Team returning next year. He reported that several sponsors attended the Games and really enjoyed the experience. He reported that USA Luge hosted the entire FIL delegation at USA House. Mr. Larry Probst, Chairman of the USOC, presented on behalf of the USOC and USLA gifts of

appreciation to Mr. Josef Fendt, President of the FIL and Mr. Svein Romstad, General Secretary of the FIL. USA Luge was the only National Governing Body from the United States to host their entire International Federation at the USA House.

In addition to sponsors and the FIL, Mr. Leahy let the Board know that Dmitry Feld hosted the family of Otto Wambier during the Games. The Wambier family was part of U.S Vice President Mike Pence's delegation.

He continued reporting that since the Games, USA Luge has been busy with Youth and Junior Nationals that took place in Lake Placid. He stated that our Coaches have been doing post season exit interviews with our Athletes and that our focus in the off season will be look at improving our Junior National and Development Team programs.

SafeSport Update:

Mr. Leahy thanked the Board for their participation in completing the SafeSport training. He stated that USA Luge is 100% compliant with the SafeSport policy mandated by the USOC.

He addressed with the Board the recent subpoenas sent to all heads of National Governing Bodies from both the US House and US Senate investigating matters regarding sexual assault, sexual misconduct, sexual mistreatment, sexual harassment, or other sexual offenses. He stated that every National Governing Body will be required to provide documents and information dating back to 2005 detailing any such abuses. He stated that he has worked with legal counsel, as well as former athletes, former board members and a list of former volunteers as part of our own due diligence in complying with the request for information. Mr. Leahy closed by stating that he was happy to report that we had no incidents to report on.

Facility Update:

Mr. Leahy reported that an engineering crew has been conducting soil sampling at our site in the last several weeks. He also reported that calls have been setup between ORDA and Dow Chemical to determine possible use of Dow's value in kind contribution to our overall building project.

Athlete Report- Mr. Chris Mazdzer, Ms. Julia Clukey

Mr. Mazdzer reported on the season and said that for him it ended well, but that he did struggle during the season. He added that our Starts have been very good and overall everyone is sliding very well, with most members of the Team medaling during the season. He stressed that there were many positives moments coming from the Athlete performances during the season. He praised the coaching staff for working hard on behalf of the Athletes. He stated that there is a good dynamic within the team organization but we still need to continue to improve if we want continued success.

Ms. Clukey reported that as a member of the Athlete's Advisory Committee (AAC) she has been very involved in the meetings with this group regarding SafeSport issues within the USOC and NGB's. She stated that with US Congress investigating such abuses and uncovering abuses throughout the Olympic Movement that future athlete safety will be a paramount concern for all involved.

Club Report – Mr. Pete Gillwald, Mr. Don Simkin

Mr. Gillwald reported that the Master National Championship was held in Park City and went extremely well. He continued reporting that the Wasatch Luge Club is preparing for their spring meeting which is a seasonal wrap up with members. He stated that the club has been conducting mini Officials clinics at the end of the races and he hopes this will continue next season. The hope is to get new parents involved in the club to become interested in becoming future officials for the sport. He finished by saying the club had a great sliding season and the kids really enjoyed their time on the track.

Mr. Simkin reported that he attended the Masters National Championship and that the Wasatch Luge Club did a great job as the host. The Adirondack Luge Club recently held their annual meeting and Mr. Tony Shimkonis, ADK Club president, reported that SafeSport was the major topic. The club plans to work with the USLA in putting policies in place to be SafeSport compliant.

He reported that the club has had discussions to possibly partner with USBSF in support of efforts to give back to community through the Wounded Warrior Project.

Mr. Simkin finished by stating that ADK Club elected Mr. Eric McKissick as Treasurer and Ms. Linda Gosnell as Secretary.

Nomination & Election – Mr. D. Bell

Mr. Bell again thanked the Board for their support the last four years. At this point he opened the floor for discussion and nomination for the role of President.

Motion to Nominate Ms. Erin Warren as President of USLA by Ms. Julia Clukey, second by Mr. Chris Mazdzer.

With no other nominees a vote was called for.

All in Favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Ms. Erin Warren is elected as the new President of USA Luge.

Ms. Warren thanked the Board for their support and looks forward to fulfilling the mission of the USLA in her new role.

In Person Board Meeting – Ms. Warren

After a brief discussion it was determined the next in person Board meeting will take place in Lake Placid. Ms. Warren will send out notices to determine the final date and time for the meeting. In keeping with previous meeting the USLF will also be invited to attend.

New Business

Ms. Warren said the only item under new business is a discussion on the renewal contract of the CEO. At this time Ms. Warren asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Motion to move to Executive Session made by Mr. Gillwald, seconded by Mr. Simkin at 6:03PM.

CEO Contract

The Board authorized Ms. Warren, as President of the USLA, to executed the renewal of the employment contract for Mr. Jim Leahy

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30PM