



USATT Board Meeting Teleconference Minutes February 6, 2023

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:03 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance: **Tara Profitt, Niraj Oak, Arjun Chowdri, Nikhil Kumar, Lily Zhang, Tahl Leibovitz, Kelly Watson, Thomas Hu, Will Shortz,** and **Board Chair Char**

Board Member not in attendance: **Brandon Lawrence**

Board Member Temporarily Suspended: **Dan Reynolds**

USATT Staff: **Virginia Sung** (CEO) and **Mark Thompson** (COO, Athlete Protection Officer, General Secretary), **Jasna Rather** (Para High Performance), **Josh Dyke** (Communications and Marketing Associate)

US Table Tennis Association, Inc. Foundation: **Tim Crowley**

US Olympic and Paralympic Committee: **Dragomir Cioroslan**

Other Persons Present: **Kagin Lee, Willy Leparulo, Larry Hodges, Daryl (from California), Sean O’Neill,**

Board Chair Call for Conflicts

Board Chair Char called for actual, anticipated or perceived conflicts. Mr. Char noted that he has a conflict with managing the election process for the Board Chair for Calendar Years 2023 and 2024, which is posted on the Board Meeting Agenda.

Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2023

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on January 13, 2023, are approved and formally entered into the record.

Election of the Board Chair for 2023 – 2024

The first order of business was the election process for the Board Chair position for the Calendar Years 2023 and 2024. Board Chair Char recused himself from the election process. Board Member Kelly Watson managed the election process. Ms. Watson opened the floor for nominations. Board Member Tara Profitt nominated Richard Char. Board Member Nikhil Kumar nominated Thomas Hu. Statements were made by the candidates. The floor was opened for comments from Board Members. Board Members Nikhil Kumar and Arjun Chowdri made statements.

Motion was made to conduct a Roll Call Vote. Votes were tallied as followed: Richard Char (7), Thomas Hu (2), Abstain (1).



Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved:

RESOLVED: Richard Char is elected to, and shall serve as, USATT Board Chair until December 31, 2024 or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

USATT Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung presented a report regarding the current status and developments within the organization. Ms. Sung acknowledged the considerable success and performance of the top USATT Member Clubs and noted that the Westchester Table Tennis Club in Westchester, New York, received the 2022 Club of the Year Award. Ms. Sung noted that the organization was particularly proud that several USATT Member Clubs were recognized for outstanding contributions to the well-being of their respective communities. Ms. Sung presented data regarding sanctioned events run by USATT Member Clubs and expressed USATT's intent to continue to encourage clubs to undertake and expand their efforts to host tournaments.

Ms. Sung presented data showing that USATT's current membership level is at the second highest peak in the organization's recent history, topped only by the membership numbers recorded in 2012. Ms. Sung credits the new membership model instituted in 2021. Ms. Sung stated that revenue based on membership has now exceeded pre-COVID pandemic numbers.

Ms. Sung reported that USATT's premier Five-Star events in 2022 were successful from a participation and operational standpoint – and also proved financially profitable events for the organization. With respect to financial growth, Ms. Sung noted that the organization generated over \$2.1 million in revenue in 2022 and continues to expand efforts to generate revenue from new sources, such as merchandising, licensing content, corporate sponsorships, and ticketing.

Ms. Sung congratulated the USATT High Performance Para and Able-Bodied Athletes for an outstanding year in 2022, which included capturing a Silver Medal at the 2022 World Para Championships and a Gold Medal at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. USATT currently has eight athletes with a World Ranking in the Top 100, including USATT Board Member Lily Zhang, who is ranked 26th amongst women in the world, and USATT Board Member Tara Proffitt, who is ranked 10th in the World for Para Class 2 athletes.

Ms. Sung highlighted the success of the Ping Pong Diplomacy tour which visited six major and important cities in the nation with a message of peace and international cooperation. USATT and the organization's athletes were honored with a spectacular Ping Pong Diplomacy event at the Pacific Palms Resort, which boasted an impressive crowd of Los Angeles area supporters and included ITTF's President Petra Sorling, at the conclusion of the 2022 US Open.

Ms. Sung set out the 2023 Calendar for USATT, which kicks off with the 2023 Junior US National Team Trials at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, in late February. The calendar includes a full slate of international events for both para and able-bodied athletes, as well as the 2023 US Nationals in Fort Worth, Texas (July 3 – 7) where USATT will also host the 2023 US Para Open.



Ms. Sung displayed USATT’s current organizational chart, which includes the addition of three new – and well-known in the USATT community – staff members: Barbara Wei (Marketing and Communications), Vlad Farcas (Event Operations) and Robert Mayer (Information Technology). Each staff member has been assigned to serve as a liaison for at least one USATT Committee during the next year. Ms. Sung noted the staff is currently focused on success in three important projects the organization has recently initiated: (i) USATT State Championships; (ii) USATT Regional Championships; and (iii) the year-long 90th Anniversary Celebration. Ms. Sung reiterated the organization’s commitment to the Three Pillars of Excellence – Athletic Performance, Organizational Structure, and Community Growth.

Athlete Protection Officer’s Annual Report for 2022

USATT Athlete Protection Officer Mark Thompson presented the APO’s Annual Report for 2022 to the Board. A written Report was previously submitted to Board Members regarding the current status of USATT’s Safe Sport Policy, as well as the outcome of Administrative and Event Audits conducted by the US Center for SafeSport. The APO’s Annual Report also included a break-down of the Safe Sport Complaints received by USATT during 2022. The APO requested confidentiality regarding this Report but offered to answer any questions of the Board, suggesting that this would be best conducted in Executive Session, if necessary.

Appointment of Tara Proffitt to Audit Committee on an Interim Basis

Because of the Temporary Suspension of a USATT Board Member, the USATT Audit Committee was reduced to just two members. Those Board Members, Kelly Watson and Niraj Oak requested that Board Member Tara Proffitt be appointed on an interim basis to serve on the Audit Committee. Ms. Proffitt successfully served on the Audit Committee for 18 months prior to the committee being reconstituted in February of 2022. Ms. Proffitt stated that she was willing to serve in that role. There was Board discussion regarding this interim appointment.

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved:

RESOLVED: USATT Board Member Tara Proffitt is appointed to serve on the USATT Audit Committee on an interim basis until the currently suspended USATT Board Member (and Audit Committee Member) is returned to full participation on the USATT Board or until the Audit Committee is reconstituted according to the USATT Bylaws.

Australian Club and Membership System Applicability to the United States

Board Member Tahl Leibovitz presented information regarding the Australian system of Club Membership and Membership within the Australian Table Tennis Federation. There was certain discussion amongst the Board Members regarding this system. Mr. Leibovitz stated that he would provide additional information to Board Members regarding this system.



Dates for Board Meetings for 2023 – 2024

After discussion, it was concluded that going forward the USATT Board would meet quarterly. The remaining Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2023 were established as follows:

Monday, May 1, 2023

Monday, August 7, 2023

Monday, November 6, 2023

Executive Session

Upon Motion properly presented, seconded and approved, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session.

Adjournment

It was properly moved, seconded and approved that the Board return to General Session and adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:23 pm US Mountain time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson
USATT General Secretary

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