A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Statement of Conflict of Interest, Quorum Determined

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm ET by Chairman Mike Babuin. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was established. No conflicts were reported.

Members present:

Mike Babuin, Chairman of the Board (COB)
Peter Scudner, Independent Director
Anne Cribbs, Independent Director
Kagin Lee, National Organization Director
Jim Kahler, Independent Director
Jim McQueen, At Large Director

Also in attendance:

Mike Cavanaugh, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Dennis Taylor, Secretary & General Counsel
John McFadden, Foundation Representative (Attending for Carl Danner)
Lee Kondo, Assistant Secretary

Mr. McFadden manages the Foundation Board's endowment fund, and the fund has been performing well this past year. He previously worked for J.P. Morgan Chase.

Larry Rose, TAC Chairman, entered at 5:08 pm.

B. Minutes of the 2013 Las Vegas Board Meeting; Minutes of the 1/21/14 Teleconference Board Meeting

MOTION 1:

MOVED to approve the Board's December 19-20, 2013 Las Vegas Meeting Minutes.

Movant: Jim Kahler
Second: Jim McQueen

**The Motion was passed unanimously.**

Discussion: Regarding the publication of the USATT Board meetings’ motions and minutes, the CEO stated that motions will be published relatively quickly. However the minutes will be published within about one month as an aspirational goal. To help publish the minutes in a more timely manner, an Assistant Secretary position was added.

**MOTION 2:**

MOVED to approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2014 Board teleconference, as amended.

Movant: Anne Cribbs
Second: Peter Scudner

Discussion: Ms. Cribbs suggested amending the Minutes to include a minor sentence change. She also suggested that the 2014 Budget, which was approved by the Board at its January 21, 2014 meeting, be attached to the Minutes.

The Motion was passed unanimously.

**C. Chairman’s Opening Remarks**

Opening remarks were waived.

**D. Status of COI/COE Forms (i.e., conflict of interest, code of ethics)**

Separate sets of COI/COE forms were sent to Committee members and Board of Directors members. With receipt of a good initial response rate, the goal was to have received all completed forms by the end of the month. One follow-up request has been made, and a third reminder will be emailed before the end of the month. Committee Chairs should also help obtain timely return of the completed forms from committee members. The COB and CEO will take appropriate action regarding any individual's continued failure to submit the COI and COE forms on time.

**E. TAC Recommendations to the Board**

The CEO invited Mr. Rose, TAC Chairman, to present TAC's recommendations. Mr. Rose said that regions throughout the country have been requesting increasing numbers of tournaments. TAC noted that a tournament scheduling system which allowed only one tournament per weekend was becoming problematic. As expected, in sparser regions, there were lower numbers of tournaments held. However, on the East Coast, California, and in the Midwest (e.g., Chicago), there recently has been a huge
increase in the numbers of tournaments. In addition to increased numbers of
tournaments nationwide, the additional risk exists that Tournament Directors may hold
more unsanctioned tournaments on weekends where applications for sanctioned
tournaments were denied.

For reasons, including those presented above, TAC’s recommendation was to support
an open market system whereby date protection for all tournaments is removed. TAC
passed this recommendation by a 4 to 1 vote. Mr. Rose noted that tournament
sanctions for requested dates can still be denied if sanctioning guidelines are not met,
including not submitting applications in a timely fashion. He said that with an open
market system, tournaments would be competing with each other for both dates and
players. In arriving at its decision, TAC considered the impact of an open market
system on “traditional tournament” scheduling.

Mr. McQueen asked whether TAC also considered scheduling of the U.S. Nationals or
U.S. Open in its determination. In response, Mr. Rose said that TAC understood that
the Board possesses the authority to make any decision that the Board wishes
regarding the U.S. Nationals and U.S. Open tournaments. For example, the Board
could reasonably prohibit USATT sanctioned tournaments above a certain star level
(e.g., 3 star) from being scheduled on dates which conflict with the U.S. Nationals or
U.S. Open.

**MOTION 3:**

MOVED to accept TAC’s recommendation for USATT to implement an open
market system for tournaments whereby there is no date protection for applicants
requesting a specific date for their event.

Movant: Jim McQueen
Second: Kagin Lee

Discussion: Mr. Lee raised the issue as to whether the motion should be revised to state
that the Board can explicitly protect some tournament dates (e.g., U.S. Nationals). The
Chairman stated that since the Board now possesses this power, no motion is needed.
Mr. Taylor noted that the Board has several options regarding this matter. For example,
the Board can vote for complete date protection for the U.S. Nationals and Open.
Alternatively, the Board can opt to have date protection for tournaments at a certain star
level and above. Also, the Board can decide on an option, then change or readjust the
option at a later date.

Mr. Lee stated his support for some date protection such as for the U.S. Nationals and
Open. Mr. Rose recommended that the Board draft a motion that specifically excludes
the U.S. Open and U.S. Nationals from the open market system. Mr. Lee said that this
can be a second motion, assuming that the motion for an open market system is
passed.
Mr. Lee proposed that the initial Motion 3 be amended to state that the Board accept TAC's recommendation for USATT to implement an open market system for tournaments whereby there is no date protection for applicants requesting a specific date for their event except for those tournaments that the Board excludes from this provision. Mr. Taylor suggested that if this amended motion was to be entertained, then the U.S. Nationals, U.S. Open, and any other tournaments approved by the Board should be specified in it. Mr. McQueen said that he recommended that the Board consider two separate motions, where Motion 3, if passed, implemented an open market system for tournament dates; and Motion 4 specified the tournaments approved by the Board (e.g., U.S. Nationals, U.S. Open) to be excluded from the open market provision. Mr. Scudner agreed with Mr. McQueen's suggestion.

**Motion 3 was passed unanimously.**

Discussion: At the Chairman's request, Mr. McQueen's proposed Motion 4 was read. However, the Board concluded that Motion 4 was unnecessary.

**F. Safe Sport Status Update**

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that USATT's Safe Sport program was published by the required deadline. He requests that the national coaches reach a consensus on how to best implement the Travel and Locker Room policies of the Safe Sport program. For example, perhaps parental approvals may be needed to permit minor age athletes who are traveling to tournament sites to share a room with an adult. Mr. Cavanaugh also noted the Board needed to determine how payment of the $18.25 background check costs should be handled. In relative order of importance, background checks should be performed for national team coaches, other coaches, then elected USATT leadership, USATT staff members, and committee chairs and members.

Regarding payment of background check costs, Mr. McQueen suggested that individuals themselves (e.g., coaches, committee members, staff members) should pay for their own background checks as a matter of policy. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that since new committee chairs and members will be appointed in December 2014, this would be a good time to impose the new requirement for them to pay for their own background checks. However, he suggested that only newly hired staff members should be required to pay for their background checks.

Mr. Kahler left the meeting at 6:02 pm.

**G. RailStation Status**

Mr. Cavanaugh commented briefly upon the status of the RailStation proposal. After he, Mr. Taylor, and Ms. Gray reviewed the RailStation proposal, Mr. Taylor, USATT General Counsel, suggested seeking outside counsel's review of the proposal. The U.S.A Volleyball general counsel was given the document for review by either their in-house or external counsel. Mr. Cavanaugh will subsequently report on their counsel's
findings. In the meantime, RailStation is prepared to start their program once USATT's review is completed.


Mr. Cavanaugh reported that after the successful 2013 America's Challenge tournament held in Las Vegas, the USATT plans to apply to conduct other major ITTF tournament competitions in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Ms. Cribbs said that USATT should bolster its 2015 America's Challenge proposal to meet ITTF's promotional and broadcast requirements. USATT also plans to submit proposals to conduct additional ITTF events in 2016 and 2017, culminating with a 2017 World Tour event.

The COB directed our CEO to immediately compile a detailed milestone (i.e., project manager type) schedule leading towards the ITTF proposal submittal for the America's Challenge events, in conjunction with the U.S. Open for 2015 through 2017.

J. Quad $5M Report

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that USATT's Quad $5 million fundraising plan was requested by the Board, with Mr. Xiao as movant. Although formulating this plan was initially seen as an ambitious one, the plan is proceeding smoothly and should be completed by March 2014. Mr. Cavanaugh, Mr. Babuin, Mr. Scudner, and Mr. Kahler are presently drafting the details of this Quad $5 million fund raising plan in preparation for their report to the Board of Directors at its March meeting.

K. Bylaw Review Task Force Update

The Chairman reported that bylaws have been reviewed through section 5.4. While the meticulous review of the bylaws sometimes has been tedious, the discovery of many important new issues has made the bylaw review process particularly worthwhile. Upon completion of this review process, the results will be presented to the Board.

L. Old Business/New Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that USATT issued an endorsement letter to the Table Tennis Charity Foundation. This Foundation, in which Mr. Dean Johnson volunteers, is an organization involved with fundraising for Virginia Beach schools. Recently, a neuropsychologist joined their project team after recognizing that playing table tennis has been significant in the treatment of Alzheimer's disorder, brain trauma, and other neurological conditions. USATT plans to issue press releases and permit use of its logo to support replicating this medically significant fundraising model in other school districts.
Mr. Cavanaugh reported that the Foundation, through the efforts of Mr. McFadden and Mr. Danner, is planning to provide matching grant funds (i.e., $5,000) to develop table tennis as a varsity sport for high schools in New York City, with full support from the USATT and the New York Board of Education. The Chairman complimented the Foundation for its role in this significant project.

M. Executive Session

The Board entered its executive session for the consideration of legal and other issues at 6:21 pm. Minutes are not kept for executive sessions. The Board returned to general session at 6:35 pm.

N. Legal Briefing

Mr. Taylor stated that there were no further legal issues to report.

O. Next Board Teleconference Meeting

The next Board Teleconference Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm, ET on Monday, March 17, 2014.

For the convenience of teleconference call participants, it was suggested that the agenda, when issued, should contain information regarding the dial-in phone number and participant code.

P. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee L. Kondo
Assistant Secretary