USS Board of Directors 10/05/2020 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the meeting held via video/telephone conference call on 10/05/2020 for the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President Mark Carleton, Vice President, Susan Sanvig-Shobe, Treasurer Andy Kelly, Don Mealing, Carlijn Schoutens, Ryan Bedford, Pat Maxwell, Tony Liu, and Duncan White. The listed members in attendance constitute a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, Director of Finance Dale Schoon and USS AAC Member Brian Hansen were also in attendance.

USS Membership Coordinator Sara Bowles recorded the meeting minutes.

1) Welcome
   Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm MT by Mr. Carleton.

2) Finance Report
   Mr. Schoon shared the 2020/21 budget forecast. USS is forecasting on a weekly basis given the daily changes to plans. Staff expressed concern around the viability of the two ISU Championships USS is set to host in early 2021; The Short Track Jr. World Champs and the Short Track Four Continents Championships. If these competitions are cancelled, it will have a negative impact on revenue for the year. There could also be a residual impact on sponsor revenue with USS’ inability to provide contracted event sponsorship benefits.

3) USISA Charitable Fund Report
   Mr. Schoon reported the fund is rebounding nicely from the COVID downturn. There is no other activity to report at this time.

4) Legal Update
   Mr. Morris reported that the Farrell complaint has been moved to Federal Court in Albany. USS’ written response to the complaint is due at the end of the month.

5) SafeSport
   The BOD discussed the recent safe sport complaint involving the Short Track Head Coach including some specific input from athletes. The BOD discussed how USS managed the process and what modifications should be made to handle future complaints.

6) USS Bylaw change – section 14 (complaint procedures)
   Mr. Morris suggested the BOD consider changes to section 14 of the USS Bylaws regarding complaint procedures. Currently, filing fees are required for complaints made by one member
against another member. In situations where USS makes a safe sport determination, a filing fee by the member would be necessary to challenge the decision within USS’ bylaws. The BOD discussed various options and directed staff to come back with recommendations at the next BOD Meeting.

7) **USOPC Update**
Mr. Morris shared updates on the upcoming virtual Olympic Assembly scheduled for October 7-9, 2020. Mr. Morris went on to share that The House passed the Empowering Olympic Act which has been sent to the President for signature.

8) **AAC Report**
Mr. Bedford shared that he would also be attending the Olympic Assembly later in the week as USS’ AAC Representative.

Ms. Schoutens did not have any new updates related to the USS AAC.

9) **ISU Update**
Mr. Morris reported on the ISU’s consideration of a Long Track bubble in the Netherlands in early December. Ultimately, the plan was not approved for the fall with too much uncertainty around Asian and North American Nations ability to travel to Europe. The ISU has cancelled or postponed all Short Track and Speed Skating events through the end of 2020. The schedule for the first three months of 2021 remains intact for the time being.

ISU Staff and leadership have not been able to conduct site visits for the competition venues in Beijing which is holding up confirmation that China will be able to host the Speed Skating World Championships in 2021.

10) **Fundraising**
Mr. Morris shared that USS is currently running a mask fundraiser to boost Alumni memberships. So far, the results have been good. Mr. Morris invited BOD Members to please share with family/friends/co-workers.

Mr. Morris also shared the details of the 2020/2021 Podium Package.

Staff is working on a series of 88 and Counting zoom cocktail hours with special guests from the speed skating world. These events will be open to donors as a special event and a way to bring attention to our athletes and sports during these unusual times. Mr. Kelly suggested keeping the groups small to create a more intimate setting for guests.
11) Executive Director Report
Mr. Morris reported that the 2019-20 Annual Report is close to completion and will be published soon with notice provided to the membership.

   a. High Performance
   Over-all the staff is pleased with training and progress by the athletes. The medical staff is doing a tremendous job of keeping athletes safe. There is weekly group COVID-19 testing for the NTP and close contact staff.

   b. Membership
   Mr. Morris reported that USS is tracking about 23% below where we usually are at this time of year in terms of membership renewals. Typically, renewals spike around competitions but it’s difficult with none scheduled. Staff is focused on keeping kids involved through various off-ice activities including a series of “National Challenges” to keep younger athletes engaged.

   Mr. Liu shared that we do need to find ways for the kids to have competition opportunities. Their club is low compared to previous years, but they have been able to get people to join. Mostly children 5-8 years of age. They are still able to maintain 6 training sessions a week.

   Mr. White asked if it would be possible to run a virtual national meet (not official) but run at the same time at multiple sites across the country with awards.

12) New Business
   Mr. Morris will send out BOD meeting invites for meetings through the USS Congress in May of 2021.

13) Conclusion
   Mr. Carleton concluded the call at 7:50pm MT.