

## USS Board of Directors 12/07/2020 Meeting Minutes

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In attendance for the conference call meeting on 12/07/2020 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President Mark Carleton, Vice President Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Secretary Rusty Smith, Pat Maxwell, Tony Liu, Ryan Bedford, Carlijn Schoutens, Duncan White, and Don Mealing. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris and Director of Finance Dale Schoon were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by USS Membership Coordinator Sara Bowles

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### 1) Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm MT by Mr. Carleton.

Mr. Morris reported that the US Long Track Championships scheduled for December 4-6, 2020 was postponed due to National Team Athletes testing positive for COVID-19 two days before the start of the competition. With the spread of the virus impacting short track athletes as well, the US Short Track Championships will also be postponed to a later date. A selection committee will determine athletes for the upcoming Long Track World Cups and World Championships. A short track team selection competition is scheduled for the end of January to determine their World Championship Team.

### 2) Finance Report

Mr. Schoon shared the December 2020 Financial Forecast with the BOD. With daily changes being made to the 2020-21 plan given the COVID-19 situation, USS continues to forecast on a regular basis. Creativity will be used to keep members engaged through non-traditional activities. Revenue has been better than expected as staff and BOD Members focus on fundraising efforts including the selling of podium club packages and participation in the virtual cocktail hours. Staff has concerns about the residual impact on sponsor revenue with USS’s inability to provide contracted event sponsorship benefits.

### 3) U.S. Speedskating Foundation (USISA) Report

Mr. Schoon shared that as of September 30, 2020 the fund has performed quite well year over year considering the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The fund had a 4% increase from this time last year, net of contributions to USS of 5%.

### 4) Legal/Safe Sport Update

Mr. Morris reported on the on-going litigation of the Farrell Complaint.

## 5) **Bylaw Amendment**

Mr. Morris shared recommended changes to Article 14 of the USS Bylaws regarding complaint procedures. Reduced complaint filing fees were suggested along with specific wording to remove filing fees when a member challenges a USS safesport determination. Motion by Mr. Mealing; second by Mr. Carleton; approved.

## 6) **USOPC Update**

Mr. Morris reported that the USOPC rolled out a new Athlete Marketing Program (AMP) designed to facilitate marketing agreements between USOPC Sponsors and Olympic caliber athletes. This program was introduced to NGB's shortly after the Olympic Assembly. The details of this program are causing concerns among the NGB's as the AMP Program infringes on certain NGB Rights and marketing assets. NGB Leadership is working with USOPC Leadership to iron out details and create a program that works for all.

## 7) **AAC Report**

Mr. Bedford reported that Brian Hansen will be taking over his position as USOPC Athlete Representative to the USOPC AAC in January of 2021. Kristen Santos will be the alternate representative.

Ms. Schoutens shared that the USS AAC had a call to discuss team performance and communication with both the long track and short track teams.

## 8) **ISU Update**

Mr. Morris shared that the ISU announced it is moving forward with the Long Track racing hub in Heerenveen, The Netherlands consisting of two World Cups and the World Championships. The ISU has cancelled Short Track World Cups 5 and 6 scheduled for Germany. The only Short Track event remaining on the 2020-21 schedule is the World Championships which will be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. There's concern that our USS Athletes will be competing at the World Championships without any prior international events.

## 9) **Executive Director Report**

### **a. Membership**

USS is currently about 25% of normal membership for this point of the season. The lack of available ice and events around the country is making it hard for younger athletes to stay involved. USS is focused on creating virtual events that engage the memberships. One of

these events, the November National Challenge had 140+ participants with the largest category being Jr. E athletes.

Mr. Liu reported that the Garden State Speed Skating Club has been able to keep training sessions going by limiting the number of participants per ice session.

**b. Fundraising**

Mr. Morris reported on the success of the 88 & Counting Cocktail Hours. The first one with Lee Mazzili and Eddy Alvarez was incredibly well received by those in attendance. The second event featured Bonnie Blair-Cruickshank and Brittany Bowe and was equally impressive. The third event will be with Eric Heiden and the series will wrap up with Apolo Ohno.

USS currently has 17 Podium Club members, which is tracking ahead of last year. Mr. Morris thanked the Podium Club Members on the call and for everyone's help in spreading the positive word about the program.

**c. Marketing**

Mr. Morris shared that USS signed a partnership agreement with University of Utah Health. This agreement will provide important medical support of our athletes. The partnership has already significantly impacted USS' COVID testing program. USS has also extended its partnership with Dairy West through the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. USS is incredibly fortunate that sponsors have been supportive on the NGB's direction and understanding of the limited amount of events dictacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**10) New Business**

No new business.

**11) Conclusion**

Mr. Carleton concluded the call at 7:37pm MT.