

USS Board of Directors 12/04/2021 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the meeting on 12/04/2021 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were President Mark Carleton, Vice President Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Treasurer Andy Kelly, Secretary Rusty Smith, Ryan Bedford, Carlijn Schoutens, Don Mealing, Duncan White, and Patrick Maxwell. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, Director of Finance Dale Schoon, High Performance Director Shane Domer and USS AAC Representative Brian Hansen were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Mr. Domer.

1) Welcome

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Carleton at 9:00 AM MT

2) Finance Report

Mr. Schoon shared the 2021-22 budget forecast. Revenue numbers are improving with new sponsorship agreements for the season with Salesforce, Dairy West and Rayus Radiology. The fundraising forecast is down versus the approved budget with the cancellation of the 88 & Counting fundraiser due to the ongoing Covid situation. Nevertheless, USS continues to be aggressive on fundraising targets for the 2021-22 year. Mr. Schoon stressed the importance of meeting or exceeding the Podium Club target to help mitigate the effects of not having the 88 & Counting event. Mr. Schoon shared that expenses are tracking well and that more will be finalizing as we get through more events.

Mr. Morris reported on discussions for an in-person fundraising event in Milwaukee during Long Track Olympic Trials if all goes well. Mr. Bedford suggested adding Olympic Trials tickets to the Podium Club packages in Milwaukee.

3) U.S. Speedskating Foundation (USISA Charitable Fund) Report

Mr. Schoon reported that the USSF fund is performing well with an overall balance of just over \$4,000,000. This amount includes the \$191,875 current fiscal year contribution yet to be distributed as well as the \$250,000 contribution that USS deposited with USSF from the prior fiscal year and that is available to USS upon request.

4) USOPC Update

Mr. Morris reported on the current partnership with the USOPC in sport, marketing and governance. Generally, NGB’s are frustrated with the lack of their involvement in LA28 marketing efforts. The USOPC BOD will be holding in-person meetings in SLC around the Short Track Olympic Trials in mid-December. USOPC leadership will hold meetings with the SLC Olympic Organizing Committee on planning and preparation for a future bid. There was a discussion among USS BOD members on what they can do to help push the bid recognizing the importance of a SLC Olympics.

5) AAC Report

Ms. Schoutens shared that the AAC has been working to appoint athlete representatives to the USS committees to meet the USOPC requirement of 33% athlete representation within NGB Governance. That work is just about completed and will be provided to USS Staff shortly. Mr. Hansen reported on delivery challenges for the speed suits this season due to supply chain issues.

6) ISU Update

Mr. Morris reported on the challenges the Russian Speed Skating Team had entering the U.S. for LT World Cup #3. They did arrive, but almost a week after they originally intended due to compliance issues with the new U.S. Travel policy for foreign visitors. The 2022 ISU Congress is still planned for Thailand in June of 2022. There is continued optimism around Pat St. Peter's ISU presidential candidacy. The election will be held at the 2022 Congress. The ISU has requested that USS consider moving the 2023 Short Track Four Continents Championships to the fall of 2022 around the SLC ST World Cup. USS supports this idea in theory but will evaluate further before responding formally to the ISU.

The BOD discussed other venues that could host International Short Track Events. Mr. Smith suggested the formation of a sub committee to investigate costs of pad systems and potential venues.

7) Executive Director Report

a. High Performance

Mr. Domer presented information on USS High Performance goals, strategies and status heading toward the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. Mr. Domer took the Board through the status of quota spots in Long Track and Short Track along with analysis of USS' medal expectations based on the results so far during the 2021-22 World Cup Season. Mr. Domer presented some of the logistical challenges the Team will face getting to Beijing.

b. Development/Membership

Mr. Morris reported on USS development activities. The organization conducted in-person JR Development competitions for Long Track and Short Track Skaters. USS has distributed 100 pairs of skates to seven rinks around the country as part of the Toyota Learn to Skate Program. USS development staff has made several in-person visits to clubs around the country in support of the USS Athlete Development Model.

c. Marketing/Fundraising

Mr. Morris presented the plan for the upcoming Short Track and Long Track Olympic Trials. USS has signed a new partnership agreement with Salesforce. Podium Club membership is off to a great start but there's more work to be done to get to 40 memberships sold.

8) Bylaw Amendment:

The Board discussed bylaw recommendations to meet the new USOPC requirements for NGB's. The changes focus on increasing athlete representation on the BOD and all committees to 33% (USS was at 20% athlete representation). The BOD also discussed changes to the definition of "Elite Athlete Members" to include skaters who have represented Team USA in World Cup Competitions in the last 10 years. This would expand the number of skaters available to serve on USS Committees and encourage more skaters to be involved with USS post skating career. Ms. Sandvig-Shobe motioned for approval of the bylaw changes; second by Mr. Bedford. approved.

The Board discussed transitioning an Independent Director to an ex officio position on the Board to comply with the approved bylaw changes. After discussion, Mr. Bedford motioned to move Mr. Mealing to the ex-officio Independent Director position on the Board. Second by Mr. Smith. approved.

9) Legal/SafeSport Update

There was no activity to report.

10) New Business

No new business.

11) Executive Session

Staff was excused, and the Directors held an executive session.

12) Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM MT