

USS Board of Directors 08/05/19 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the August 5th conference call of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President; Mark Carleton, Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Secretary; Rusty Smith, Pat Maxwell, Ryan Bedford, Ellie Ochowicz, Duncan White, and Don Mealing. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, Director of Finance Dale Schoon, and AAC Representative Carlijn Schoutens were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by USS Membership Coordinator Sara Bowles

1) **Welcome**

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Carleton at 6:04PM.

2) **Finance Report**

Mr. Morris reported that the USOC agreed to a financial commitment as part of their 2019-20 High Performance Grant. Mr. Schoon presented the 2019-20 budget to the BOD. Mr. Morris commented that despite a large percentage of uncommitted revenue, staff is optimistic that USS will hit its targets based on past performance. Mr. Morris stated that this is the first year, after many attempts, that USS will provide a living stipend to all NTP athletes.

Mr. Mealing motioned for approval of the 2019-20 budget. Second by Mr. Smith; approved.

3) **U.S. Speedskating Foundation (USSF) Report**

Mr. Schoon reported that the fund is stable and continues to perform above market averages. The USSF BOD has made recommendations on changes to the USSF Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for consideration by the USS BOD. The changes are intended to generate additional dollars to the corpus of the fund and include increasing the number of directors to help achieve this goal. There is a need to raise the corpus and the new bylaws are set up to help achieve that goal.

Mr. White motioned for approval on the changes to the USSF Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Second by Mr. Mealing; approved.

Five Directors of the USSF Foundation were presented to the USS BOD for appointment;

Mike Plant – President

Beth Jurgensmeyer – Vice President

David Demarist – Vice President

Brian Wanek – Treasurer

Tony Sargent – Secretary

Mr. Carleton motioned to appoint the above directors in the designated roles. Second by Ms. Sandvig-Shobe; Approved. Mr. Bedford abstained.

4) Proposed Bylaw Change

Mr. Smith presented information on section 6.8 of the USS Bylaws which defines term limits for Directors. Currently, the section outlines that no director should serve more than 2 terms. The Board discussed and agreed that term limits should not apply to Independent Directors.

Ms. Sandvig-Shobe motioned to change section 6.8 of the USS Bylaws to; no Director of the board, except for Independent Directors, shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Independent Directors will not have any limitation on the number of terms that they may serve.

Second by Mr. Maxwell; approved. Mr. Carleton, Mr. White and Mr. Mealing abstained.

5) USOPC Update

Mr. Morris updated the BOD on the *Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2019*, introduced by Senators Moran and Blumenthal. This legislation proposes amendments to the *Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act*. The BOD discussed the recommendations on athlete representation, the possibility of an Inspector General being appointed, and a greater focus on athlete safety. Mr. Morris shared that the bill is in its early stages, with many congressional voices still to way in.

The Olympic assembly will be held from Sept. 11th-13th.

6) AAC Update

Mr. Bedford shared that the USOPC AAC is considering forming a separate organization that would be outside of the USOPC. They have begun the process of forming a 501c3 and have engaged with an attorney and fundraiser, and have discussed bylaws. The proposal to form a separate group will be voted on at the upcoming Olympic Assembly. Ms. Schoutens mentioned that the USS AAC discussed and supports Mr. Bedford's point of view that this does not seem like the right direction for the USOPC AAC.

7) ISU Update

Mr. Morris reported on efforts among several countries (Canada, Netherlands, Japan, USA) to establish a working group to engage with ISU Staff on a mutually beneficial event hosting model. The idea being that we're more powerful as a collective group than as individual nations. There was a productive initial meeting held in Amsterdam in July with a follow-up meeting set for late September. Mr. Morris expressed optimism that the model would be changing in a more favorable direction for USS.

8) Executive Director Report

Mr. Morris shared that Gabriel Girard was hired as the Long Track coach for the distance program replacing Tom Cushman. Mr. Girard comes with a strong resume of coaching some highly successful distance skaters. Andrea Do-Duc has been promoted to the Short Track Program Director position, replacing LinLin Sun. USS is excited for her to keep our development programs rolling after their successful launch last year. Ms. Do-Duc's promotion opens the Short Track Assistance Coaching position which will be posted immediately. Andrea DiCristoforo has been hired as the Marketing Coordinator focusing on USS sponsorship and fundraising programs. She will begin with USS on September 16th.

- a. High Performance – The Oval ice is in and the Long Track is thrilled to be back on it. The Short Track Team continues to have an outstanding summer of training and is looking forward to some racing coming up in Calgary and SLC. There are currently no major injuries to report.
- b. Development / Membership – Membership is tracking up about 3% compared to last year at this time. Close to 300 people have taken SafeSport Training since we made it mandatory for all skaters over the age of 18. Mr. Carleton suggested that all BOD Members take the training.
- c. Marketing / Fundraising / Communications – 88 and Counting will be on November 1st this year in Park City. USS is looking for auction items especially new/fresh ideas. A save the date email will go out this week. USS is also looking at an additional fundraiser in Atlanta this fall and one in May in Silicon Valley.

9) Legal Update

No update

10) New Business

None

11) Conclusion

Mr. Carleton concluded the meeting at 7:22PM