

USS Board of Directors 1/25/2021 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the conference call meeting on 1/25/2021 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President Mark Carleton, Vice President Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Treasurer Andy Kelly, Tony Liu, Pat Maxwell, Ryan Bedford, Carlijn Schoutens, Duncan White, and Brian Hansen. 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 Mr. Schoon.

1) Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm MT by Mr. Kelly. Mr. Carleton and Ms. Sandvig-Shobe arrived on the call shortly thereafter.

2) Finance Report

Mr. Schoon shared the January 2021 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. The forecast improved slightly from the prior forecast with better than expected revenue support from sponsors and donors, particularly related to the 88 & Counting Virtual Cocktail Hour events. USS has redirected savings from lack of international travel to development activities and initiatives.

With the favorable forecast and increased confidence for the future, Mr. Morris shared that the Communications Coordinator position has been posted. There has been very good response and he anticipates filling the position in the coming weeks with a strong candidate.

3) US Speedskating Foundation (USISA) Report

Mr. Schoon reported that the fund continues to perform well and an official update as of 12/31/20 will be shared at the next BOD meeting.

4) Legal/Safe Sport Update

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

5) USOPC Update

Mr. Morris reported that the USOPC is very confident that the Summer Games in Japan will take place. Mr. Morris also reported on political noise around a potential U.S. boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

There is an Independent Director position open on the USOPC board and the USS Board was asked to share with qualified and interested candidates.

Mr. Morris also shared information around the bi-annual USS board assessment. The USS BOD will receive an email from Boardspan with instructions on how to complete the questionnaire.

6) AAC Report

Ms. Schoutens shared that the USS AAC worked with staff in developing a strategy for next year's athlete funding considering the lack of competitions available to athletes during the 2020-21 season. She indicated that it was a very collaborative process and that a fair solution will be put in place. A committee of staff members and AAC representatives will review and approve the final strategy.

Mr. Morris shared that five USS athletes are competing in the Long Track World Cup / World Championships hub in the Netherlands. There was a discussion regarding testing procedures and protocols if an athlete were to test positive for COVID-19 while in the hub.

Mr. Hansen participated in an introductory USOPC AAC call and indicated that a formal report will be presented at the next BOD meeting once an official meeting is conducted.

7) ISU Update

The ISU Council is meeting on Thursday, 1/28/21. There is optimism that the Figure Skating World Championships will happen which is important for the over-all financial well being of the ISU.

The ISU Congress is scheduled for June in Phuket, Thailand. Mr. Morris is hopeful that it will be changed to a Zoom conference or moved to a more convenient location. It's important that an ISU Congress does take place, so important rule changes can be put in place ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) handed down a decision related to the Russian Federations participation in future Olympic Games. Russian athletes can compete individually and in team events but not under the Russian flag for the upcoming Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

8) Executive Director Report

a. Events and Membership

The US LT Junior Championships were recently held in Milwaukee with great success. Approximately 50 athletes participated. Very promising and exciting results by Jordan Stolz, Cooper McCleod, Greta Myers, Jonathon Tobon among others.

The US LT Championships has been re-scheduled for March 5-7 in Salt Lake City.

ST US Championships will be combined with an age group event in March. Mr. Morris is excited to provide opportunities for the younger athletes to compete within the same event as senior athletes.

USS will host a ST World Qualifier event this weekend.

Mr. Morris shared that USS is redirecting savings from travel budgets to support development initiatives including a focus on virtual training events for the entire membership, national challenge events and special grant opportunities for clubs.

Mr. Morris reported on the ongoing efforts to build a more comprehensive partnership with the speed Committee within USARS.

b. Fundraising

Staff recently sent out a Podium Club newsletter with highlights from the Team. Mr. Morris requested ideas from the BOD on additional content that they feel would be relevant. USS currently has 25 podium club memberships for the 2020-21 season.

Staff reported that the four 88 & Counting Virtual Cocktail Hour events were highly successful with motivating and insightful interactions that expanded our speed skating community. The video recordings of each Virtual Cocktail Hour were included with a link in the Podium Club Newsletter and will be made available to membership as well. USS intends to continue these sessions and is considering the best strategy moving forward.

c. Marketing

Mr. Morris reported on two new partnership opportunities that appear close to being finalized. It's good to see sponsors beginning to start planning for activation around the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

9) New Business

Ms. Schoutens inquired about compliance regarding a recent safesport decision. Mr. Morris provided a report to the BOD.

10) Conclusion

Mr. Carleton concluded the call at 7:34 pm MST.