

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.

Board of Directors

Thursday, June 4, 2020

7:30 PM, Zoom Meeting

Vision Statement: Connecticut Swimming...better life through swimming.

Mission Statement: Connecticut Swimming provides opportunities for swimmers to enrich their lives.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Ellen Johnston (EJ) called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Present Board Members: Dennis Flores, Kristen Finnegan, Todd Gordon, Ellen Johnston, Susan Lecza, Rick Lewis, Jen Lyman, Joan Lynch, Meghan Lynch, Davide Mendonca, Kathleen Mendonca, Claire Michalik, David Modzelewski, Duffy Mudry, Richard Nolan, Greg Pinchbeck, Dave Pite, Matt Pohlman, John Scaldini, Kaeley Steinnagel, Mark Wollen

Absent Board Members: Kyle Brown, Maddie Haley, David Heller, Jason Paige

Also Present: Ginger McCurdy, Nick Cavataro, Spencer Hartman, Kait Moss

Announcements – Ellen Johnston

No announcements, will cover everything in agenda items.

Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

None

Adoption of Minutes from May 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Deferred until next meeting.

Old Business

House of Delegates – TBD – Ellen Johnston

Not yet rescheduled.

Swimposium – TBD – Ellen Johnston

Several ideas being considered for the fall, possibly in September. Thinking of having a few high level swimmers come to do clinics or presentation, etc. EJ asked for feedback. Matt Pohlman offered to assist with setting it up, if move forward with this.

New Business

Safe Sport Recognition – Greg Pinchbeck

Greg Pinchbeck presented a slide which reviewed items from the recent USA Swimming Safe Sport Zoom Meeting, which included:

Safe Sport Recognized Programs (7% of CSI so far), several teams are in process of applying. In future, only Safe Sport recognized teams will be able to host USA Swimming sanctioned meets.

USA Swimming will award \$500 to each of the first 1,500 recognized clubs. CSI is lagging in recognized Clubs – about 42nd of 59 LSCs in the US.

Greg asked if anyone thought CSI stimulus help on top of the USA Swimming \$500? Perhaps not really...many clubs already under way...just need to communicate importance and get it done.

Dave Modzelewski did a Zoom meeting, sent in attendance of ZOOM meeting which gave credit for those people getting the training.

Nick Cavaturo shared how he kept reminding parents to take the Webinar, and it recently caught on. Largest incentive is that meet hosts of USA Swimming sanctioned meets MUST be a Safe Sport recognized club.

Greg also mentioned some new tools, resources for coaches and athletes 12+ (Boys into Men, Athletes as Leaders, Activity books for the youngest kids).

Meet 360 – Safe Sport in a box, everything a home team needs to run a meet. Safe Sport web-site is a bit of a mess. This site is for home teams hosting meets...clarifies what host teams need to have in place to host a meet. Goal to have info better organized for everyone to use a better resource.

Safe Sport Enhanced Web Design

Club Grants – Ellen Johnston

USA Swimming - Total \$1.4MM of grants in first round, looking to do another round.

CSI has wanted to help teams start up. Todd Gordon discussed how it seems that in current term, people are doing ok, most teams were not incurring abnormal costs while shut down.

CSI considering offering supplies to teams, procured by consolidating purchases to get advantageous pricing – and perhaps offering supplies to teams needed to reopen. (1) Would ask clubs what they will need in terms of face masks, gloves, etc...and procure supplies on their behalf. (2) Teams may need to have cash flow support to get started up – may not be generating meet or other incomes while paying pool and staff and cleaning costs. CSI would like to offer interest-free loan. EJ going to distribute note, have finance discussion with the Club, and CSI could assist with start-up clubs. Want to make sure nobody is limited in getting started up.

TG – all our investments are extremely liquid, so would not be an issue to provide these funds.

Term of loan...would vary by Club depending on what their business plan looks like. May be 6 months, less than year, just to bridge the Club until they get started up.

Covid-19 Waivers – EJ

Ginger McCurdy asked if anyone from Connecticut Swimming had reviewed the two waiver templates that USA Swimming had provided to all teams. In their transmission letter, USA Swimming noted that each state/jurisdiction has different rules, and that the templates should be reviewed by each LSC to determine if the waiver language meets local requirements. To date, the supplied waivers have not been reviewed, but they will be in the next week or so, so that teams could be given guidance on their applicability in Connecticut before the June 20 opening date slash start of practice.

Dave Pite was asked his legal opinion. Per Dave, waivers are not required as long as protocols are followed. Dave has drafted waivers for salons, bars, etc, and there is standard language. In his opinion if teams are opening under the State-mandated guidelines, the teams should be fine. However, you cannot waive your own negligence, so the published protocols must be followed.

Must be signed by parents of the swimmers for all athletes under 18.

Club Membership Fees – Ellen Johnston

As of June 1st, all new membership fees go through end of season 2021. New fees will keep club membership fees at \$300. Will need to be revisited as the 2022 budget gets put together, as USA Swimming will be looking to increase fees at that time.

Town Hall Meeting Prep – Ellen

Tuesday June 9th – will host a Town Hall, to include representatives from all teams, a rep from USA Swimming as well as a rep from Red Cross. CT State guidelines will be coming out in next two days with all the USA Swimming guidelines and protocols for opening on June 20th. Will walk through all the guidelines on the Town Hall Meeting. Asked Jack Carter with Red Cross to come on – to discuss certifications, updating of teaching skills training, etc. Open again to all teams and CSI Board members...need to make a reservation.

Reports of General Chair, Ad-Hoc, and Other Committees

USA Swimming Updates – Ellen Johnston

Nothing new, no governance meeting this week, will be next week.

CSI Stimulus Committee Update – Ellen Johnston

Want to be supportive of teams, but most are not asking for anything. Thinking ahead...how can CSI help teams.

Budget Committee Update – Todd Gordon

Looking at a budget without surcharges, and deferring some team payments. Trying to run a budget with expenses in the low \$200K, which is on the very thin range of what has been done in past. Income from registrations may be down. We spend money modestly, until we know if income is coming in. In summary, the primary budget is what we are calling ‘austerity budget’.

Interim Nominating Committee Update – David Heller

Postponed Nominating Committee to next week, so no updates today.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee Update – Dennis Flores

Started a committee, been gathering info so he can put together a presentation with the Board regarding meet entry fees for DEI athletes.

Reports of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Coordinators

General Chair Report – Ellen Johnston – nothing additional.

Administrative Vice-Chair – Rick Lewis – no report.

Treasurer – Sue Lecza – nothing to report. No money coming in and no money going out at this time.

Finance Vice-Chair – Todd Gordon – nothing additional to report

Age Group Committee Chair – Dave Modzelewski – nothing additional to report

Senior Committee Chair - Jason Paige – no report.

Technical Planning Committee Chair – Kaeley Steinnagel – nothing additional to report.

Program Development Vice Chair – Jen Lyman – no report.

Program Ops Vice Chair – Mark Wollen – no report.

Officials Committee Chair - Dave Pite – had a meeting last week, and sent out survey. 170 replies to date, still need to consolidate the results. Having another meeting next week, preparing for meets to start up again.

Operational Risk Coordinator – Duffy Mudry – nothing to report.

Coach Representatives – Kristen Finnegan – nothing to report

Athlete Representatives – Richard Nolan/Claire Michalik/Meghan Lynch/Maddie Haley
Just got election process started...8 have applied for Athlete Rep so far, with applications open for 10 more days. Per Dave Pite discussions with CT state reps, it seems there is desire to get schools to reopen in September – probably blended learning model with some remote learning. Trying to get info by early July for schools opening in Fall.

Safe-Sport Coordinator - Greg Pinchbeck – nothing additional to report

Coach-at-Large – Matt Pohlman – no report

Registration/Membership Coordinator – Kathleen/Davide Mendonca

Davide – discussed CPR/Lifeguarding training, for waterfront, the Red Cross is not yet offering any type of training, will likely extend certifications another month. EJ's understanding is that organizations should be able to do the training, with alterations for skill tests, but this will be covered at the Town Hall Meeting by the Red Cross representative. Per the CT State Guidelines being released tomorrow or Saturday, people are allowed to get into pools for employee training the week of June 15th.

Zone Team Coordinator – John Scaldini – nothing new to report.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Dennis Flores – nothing additional to report.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25th via teleconference at 7:30PM. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Lynch
Secretary*