**CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes**

**September 17, 2024**

**8:00 PM**

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** General Chair, Jeff Sargent called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

Call to order at 8:02 pm

**Board members present:** Jeff Sargent, David Heller, Greg Pinchbeck, Lauren Lazar, Rick Lewis, Davide and Kathleen Mendonca, Margy Sargent, Brandon Foster, Bill Natlo, Ronnie Vaughan, Kristen Finnegan, Adriana Schack, Ellen Johnston, Emanuel, Peter, Seana Bedard, Lily Archibald, Caroline Ward, Jim Doak, Sarah Avery, Steven Cusano, Robert Adam’s- Machaud, Ava Ward

**Board members not present:** Sue Lecza, Jason Paige, Niall Easton, Penny Lazar, Dennis Flores, Sara Omar, Dylan Lee, Jeremy Virgil

**Approval of Agenda**

***MOTION made to adopt the Agenda as distributed with amendment to move program ops under new business.***

***Passed unanimously***

**Approval of Minutes**

***MOTION made to approve the July 2, 2024 minutes as distributed with corrections***

***Passed unanimously***

**Announcements:**

**General Chair**- Jeff Sargent

Want to start meetings on time. Want to thank those officers that timed out. Rick Lewis- 2 long terms as General Chair- left us in a strong position coming out of COVID.

Would like to focusing on increasing the opportunities for athletes. He proposed the formation of a Competition Task Force, led by Jason, to review the competition calendar and meet hosting strategies. It will consist of officials, athletes, program ops, Senior chair and Age Group chair. Jeff also highlighted the need for Open Water Task Force to improve the LSC’s open water offerings and suggested the creation of an open water coordinator position. He stressed the importance of considering the athlete’s experience in all discussions and decisions.

Good group going to Denver meeting. Good group attending virtually as well.

Task force formation for Women Leadership and Marketing- Discussed the formation of a task force aimed at increasing leadership opportunities for women in the LSC. He mentioned that the task force would be composed of women coaches, athletes and officials and would explore ways to enhance their roles. Jeff also announced the formation of a marketing task force, comprised of former CSI athletes, to work on creating a pitch book and sourcing sponsors. The goal is to expand revenues and potentially reduce the surcharge and meet entry fees. Jeff also mentioned that he is seeking additional members for the governance committee.

Governance has three openings.

Dennis Flores- ready to let someone else step in for DEI- will give one more year. Emmanuel Alonzo will work as the new co-coordinator of DEI, with both working alongside the Women in CT Swim and other groups.

Still looking for… Adaptive Swimming Coordinator

Program Operations Vice- Chair- Jim Robison has agreed to come back and serve for one year as an interim chair.

**Administrative Vice- Chair**- Greg Pinchbeck

Banquet- do expect 1400 again. Top 16 List is our. Some additions will have NEW awards for officials and adaptive male and female. Ongoing search for a speaker.

Looking to form and Open Water Task Force- looking for a coordinator with great ideas moving forward. Should we have our own Open Water Calendar in addition to SC and LC. will be at meeting next week.

CSI Financials- Sue- insufficient information to discuss at this time.

**Old Business**- none

**New Business**

* Junior Official position- Margy and Dylan

***Motion made to implement Junior official positions. 16 and 17 year old officials allowed to work at 12/U meets who meet stroke and turn requirements.***

***Motion Passes***

* Fall HOD date- Jeff

Could do it November 8,9 or 10th. Virtual or in person.

Meeting will be Thursday,November 7th at 8pm (virtual)

* NewTop 16 Open Water events for 2025- Greg- open water will be added. Taking a look at events in Sarasota, Open Water Zone meet and CT State Championship. Added a number of categories for male and female. Could have financial impact in the future, but not this year.

Every individual who ended up top 16 for open water has already qualified from pool events so no additional costs this year.

***Motion made to add open water categories to our ongoing CT Swim top 16 List. . Will be top 16 awards for several distances such as: 10K,7.5K,5K,2.5K,1.25K.***

***Motion Passes***

Opening in Program Ops- spoke to many people. Jim Robison is nominated- former safety chair and former program ops chair, long time official, master swimmer, parent of former CSI swimmer.

***Motion made to approve Jim Robison to fill the vacancy of Program Operations Vice-Chair.***

***Motion passes***

**Report of Officers-**

-General Chair Report- Jeff Sargent- nothing to report

-Administrative Vice- Chair- Greg Pinchbeck- nothing to report

-Finance Vice-Chair- James Doak- nothing to report

-Program Development Vice-Chair- Jason Paige- Not on call- working on organizing a committee for tasks for the year.

-Program Operations Vice-Chair- Vacant

-Athlete Representatives- Samantha Haley, Caroline Ward- Concerned about possible conflict between Open Water Championship and Swim Across America event. Would like to come up with s solution to increase participation.

-Treasurer- Susan Lecza- nothing to report

-Safe Sport Coordinator- Jeremy Virgil- nothing to report

-Diversity, Equity & Inclusion- Dennis Flores- nothing to report

-Senior Committee Chair- Adriana Schack- Had first meeting last Thursday. Working on Swimmer of the Year.

-Age Group Committee Chair- Ronnie Vaughan- had their first meeting. Already working on formatting new standards based on last three seasons of results. Looking at new USA swimming motivational time standards. Will have new standards soon. Continue to raise the bar for AG swimming. Looking for another official to join the committee. Looking for some more athletes as well. Splitting 10/U for SC and thinking about doing that for LC as well. This would create better opportunities for athletes and make the experience more enjoyable for athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers. Henk suggested to have a soft deadline for the bid process by the end of the week. The committee is ready to proceed with the bid process and the possibility of no one bidding this year was also discussed.

-Coach Representatives- Sarah Basile, Steven Cusano, Robert Adam’s-Michaud- The ballot for -Coach of the year and Staff of the year is out

-Coach-at- Large- Kristen Finnegan- nothing to report

-Officials Chair- Dylan Lee/Margy Sargent- nothing to report

-Open Water Coordinator- Vacant

-Adapted Swimming- Vacant

-Operational Risk Coordinator- Brandon Foster- 3 injuries

-Registration/Membership Coordinator- Kathleen/Davide Mendonca- nothing to report

-Zone Team Coordinator- Sean’s Bedard- Went well but people preferred Richmond. People also like traveling with their swimmer rather than as a team.

Will hold the board meetings the third Tuesday of each month. **Tuesday, October 15th** will be our next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lauren Lazar*

*Secretary*