

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
October 15, 2024
8:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Jeff Sargent called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm.

Board Members: Jeff Sargent, Greg Pinchbeck, Jim Robison, Sue Lecza, James Doak, Lauren Lazar, Jason Paige, Adriana Schack, Ronnie Vaughan, Margy Sargent, Steven Cusano, Robert Adams-Michaud, Sarah Basile Avery, Caroline Ward, Samantha Haley, Niall Easton, Kristen Finnegan, David Heller, Davide and Kathleen Mendonca, Rick Lewis, Bill Natlo, Keeley Steinnagel, Seana Bedard

Absent Board Members: Jeremy Virgil, Dennis Flores, Emmanuel Lanzo, Brandon Foster, Sara Omar, Lily Archibald, Penny Lazar, Ava Ward, Dylan Lee

Approval of Agenda

***MOTION made to adopt the Agenda as distributed
Passed unanimously***

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September leave as an open item. Any changes please send to us by the end of the week. If we don't hear from anyone by Friday at 5 pm we will publish them.

OFFICER REPORTS

General Chair Report – Jeff Sargent -

1. Very productive meeting in Denver for coaches, officials and general chair tracks. Spoke to Samantha about increasing athlete participation in everything. Need to find ways to increase participation that fits their schedules. Working on getting Zone Open Water Meet back to CT- need more athletes to vote.
2. We now have a decrease in memberships in our LSC. Greater decrease than USA Swimming. It is a decrease of 16.78% over 6 years. We need to look at new ways to do things to improve this number and increase athlete participation in events. Need to be open to change when it improves the athlete's experience. Need to be open to change the way we do things to improve. Need to help our LSC move forward.

3. Open water task force coordinator- 2 people came out that are interested. I am reaching out to them now. 3 people are interested in adaptive swimmer coordinator position. Struck out on governance. Extended to two people but they declined. Want to get it filled by end of the year.

Administrative Vice-Chair –Greg Pinchbeck-

Annual business meeting- CBO seclusion committee- if you have concerns in CEO of swimming search let Greg know. We need people for governance. Following up on board consolidation survey. Pairing back roles to USA Swimming set of roles. That is our direction from 21 to 13 roles. Doesn't eliminate any positions just makes the voting body smaller. Wesleyan contracts have to be signed by 11/1. Banquet- have MC and everything is set. Need to find finance turn over so Jim can take over properly. Working on transition meeting now. Open water- have come up with 7-8 focus areas. Whoever is elected as open water chair will share this.

Finance Vice-Chair – James Doak- nothing to report

Program Development Vice-Chair - Jason Paige- defer to Adrianna to discuss request to modify athlete travel reimbursement qualifications. CT swimmer for 2 years. Adriana looking to change this to 1 year. Partial reimbursement due case by case for swimmers that don't comply with the 2 year requirement. We should support some athletes not here for 2 years. In current policy for college swimmer- here for one year- 50% reimbursement, here for two years- 100% reimbursement. Will come back and on November 7th to discuss the policy. Two people- will put on hold for now to get reimbursed. Will come back with revised athlete travel policy.

Program Operations Vice-Chair – Jim Robison- requests for combining sessions in early mets. A couple of requests for observed meets- questions about level of officiating that is required.

Athlete Representatives - Samantha Haley, Caroline Ward- nothing to report

Treasurer-Susan Lecza- Fiscal year ends August 31. Net operating income of 55K another 36K for investment return. 130 K over budget. Surcharge revenue increased to 25K. Didn't host Senior invite. Savings from salaries/benefits. Henk has been doing more work so haven't had to rely on Dale as much. Big savings as well. Definitely better than August 2023. 65K revenue more than 2023. 270 K in operating account. 770K in fund, 80K in accounts payable.

Senior Committee Chair – Adriana Schack- Had 2nd meeting. Working on meet announcements for Senior Championships. Some changes to the meet. Will stay with FAST. Adjusting times since pandemic. More changes on female side. Moving events around. Moving them to different days during the meet. Making the language clearer. Will continue working on the standards meet announcement- will have it out by the end of the month.

Age Group Committee Chair – Ronnie Vaughan- nothing to report

Coach Representatives –Sarah Basile, Steven Casanova, Robert Adams-Michaud- nothing to report

Coach-at-Large – Kristen Finnegan- working on women’s leadership task force addressing the underrepresentation of female coaches.. 54% of coaches in USA Swimming and 11% of registered coaches females at USA trials.

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

Open Water Coordinator- vacant

Adapted Swimming- vacant

Operational Risk Coordinator – Brandon Foster- nothing to report

Registration/Membership Coordinator – Kathleen/Daive Mendonca- Ran report to make sure all board members are in good standing. Which they are.

Zone Team Coordinator –Seana Bedard- nothing to report

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

OLD BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS

- March 7-9 10 & U Age Group Championship Bid motion- Jason Paige-

MOTION made to bid out the 10/U Age Group Championship to be held March 7-9, 205. Want to enhance the overall experience for all athletes, particularly the 11-14 year olds, by moving the 10/U to an earlier weekend.

Passed unanimously (with the understanding that if no team bids for the meet, it would remain with the 11-14 year olds at Wesleyan.

- This would allow for a slower pace of the meet giving them time for awards etc. and celebrating their hard work. Allows the 11/12, 13/14 to slow down their meets- giving officials a break between prelims and finals. Volunteers and officials didn’t have enough down time.
- The team hosting would supply awards, beverages and up to 2K of hospitality reimbursement. This is the same weekend as seniors. Voted to have it earlier- farther from the zones cut off date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Banquet- 11/3
- HOD- 11/7- at 8 pm via zoom

- BOD- 11/19- at 8 pm via zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Lazar

Secretary