



## USATT Board Meeting Minutes November 13, 2023

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:04 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance: **Tara Profitt, Nikhil Kumar, Kelly Watson, Tahl Leibovitz, Thomas Hu, Will Shortz, Brandon Lawrence,** and **Board Chair Char**

Board Member not in attendance: **Lily Zhang, Arjun Chowdri, Niraj Oak**

USATT Staff: **Virginia Sung** (CEO), **Mark Thompson** (COO/General Secretary to the Board), **Gao Jun** (High Performance Director), **Jasna Rather** (Para High Performance Director), **Barbara Wei** (Marketing – Media Contractor)

USATT Outside Counsel: **Brian Moran, Esq.**

USATT Committee Member: **Khoa Ngyuen** (High Performance Committee)

US Table Tennis Association, Inc. Foundation: **Sherri Cioroslan**

USATT Strategic Planning Facilitator: **Avery Wilson**

SobelCo: **Bridget Hartnett, CPS / PSA** (Member of SobelCo – USATT Audit Accountants)

Other Persons Present: **Tim Crowley, Willy Leparulo, Alex Figueroa, Larry Hodges**

### **Board Chair Call for Conflicts**

Board Chair Char called for actual, anticipated or perceived conflicts. Thomas Hu mentioned he might have a conflict related to discussions regarding the At-Large Board Director election, but after discussion, it was determined that there was no disqualifying conflict.

### **Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2023**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was unanimously approved:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on August 7, 2023, are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

USATT CEO Virginia Sung began her report by congratulating the US Team and National Team Coaches Gao Jun and Mark Hazinski for their exceptional performance at the recently completed Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. The US Women's team comprised of Rachel Sung, Lily Zhang and Amy Wang captured the Team Gold Medal, while the Men's Team of Sid Naresh, Nandan Naresh and Jishan Liang took home the Bronze. Ms. Sung also noted the individual successes of Lily Zhang, who won the Women's Singles Bronze Medal, as well as the performance of Rachel Sung and Amy Wang, who won the Gold Medal in Women's Doubles.



Ms. Sung discussed the 2024 Olympic Games upcoming in Paris, France, noting that the US Women’s Team has already qualified for the Olympic Games, and the US Men’s Team – and US male players, individually – still have several possible avenues to qualify for the Games. USATT will host the Olympic Trials for Men and Women in March of 2024 under the selection procedures implemented by the USATT High Performance Committee.

Ms. Sung reported that entries for the 2023 US Open Table Tennis Championships in Ontario, California (December 16 – 21, 2023) are already at 821 with the “Early Bird” entry deadline still two days away. Last year, the Open in Ontario had 941 entries, and it is somewhat likely that this year’s event will not only surpass last year’s number – but may even reach 1000 participants. There will be certain new features at the 2023 Open, including an Artificial Intelligence run data collection system that a Korean-based company, Pixelscope, is debuting free of charge that should provide a unique set of analytics for players competing on the US Open Show Court. Ms. Sung also stated that USATT will implement – on a “pilot” test basis – a new innovative digital scoring program that may prove valuable in streamlining administration of large-scale events.

Ms. Sung noted that, in addition to the competition, there will be a significant number of activities at the 2023 Open, including an ITTF Level 2 Coaching Course, a Competition Management Seminar, and a number of workshops covering topics such as Safe Sport, Club Membership, the new selection procedures for the US National Team, tournament and events operations, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. USATT will also host the 2023 General Assembly on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 5:30 pm (US Pacific). USATT is hoping for large attendance at the General Assembly where a panel will discuss a year end summary and the USATT Strategic Plan for the next four years. On December 20, USATT will once again host the Ping Pong Diplomacy Gala, which had tremendous success last year in Southern California.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Kelly Watson of the USATT Audit Committee introduced Bridget Hartnett of the accounting firm CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP), who was part of the team that conducted the 2022 Financial Statement Audit for USATT. In introducing Ms. Hartnett, Ms. Watson indicated the USATT’s Audit Letter for 2022 was “clean” with only one notation regarding a new accounting standard employed in this audit.

Ms. Hartnett began her presentation by confirming that the USATT audited Financial Statements were found to have no material weaknesses, and USATT received a clean unqualified opinion letter from CLA. Ms. Hartnett thanked USATT’s management team for the organization’s responsive cooperation in the audit process. She noted USATT’s financial statement did undertake to reclassify some investments that are held in cash. Ms. Hartnett also stated that, consistent with recent market conditions, certain investments decreased in value during the audited period. But overall, Ms. Hartnett spoke to the growth of USATT’s net asset value as was consistent with an organization and business environment coming out of the COVID pandemic.

### **Ratification of Committee Appointment – Jishan Liang (Nominating and Governance Committee)**

Board Chair Char stated that the USATT Nominating and Governance Committee required the addition of an athlete representative to fill a vacant position. Mr. Char requested that the Board approve elite athlete Jishan Liang for that position.



Following discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved:

**RESOLVED:** That Jishan Liang is appointed as the Athlete Representative for the NGC and that he shall serve in that position until his successor is duly appointed and qualified.

### **Election Update**

General Secretary to the Board Mark Thompson provided an update on the At-Large Director election currently being held by USATT. Mr. Thompson stated that the five candidates qualified for the ballot which was prepared and delivered on Monday, November 6, 2023, to the USATT General Membership through an independent election monitoring company, YesElections. Mr. Thompson stated that USATT's intent is to provide all eligible voters with an opportunity to cast their ballot. He stated that there are a variety of reasons that an eligible might not receive a ballot, such as the ballot being directed to junk mail or being sent to an email address that the member no longer uses. Mr. Thompson stated that he is vetting the eligibility to vote for all general members who contact him indicating that they have not received a ballot. Mr. Thompson then contacts YesElections who will transmit the ballot to the eligible voter. On Monday, November 13, YesElections sent a reminder for members to vote. The ballot will close on Monday, December 8, 2023, and Mr. Thompson expects to have certified election results no later than ten (10) days after the ballot closes.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm US Mountain Time.

### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion properly presented, seconded and approved, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session. The Board discussed matters related to:

- The USATT Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2028
  - Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was unanimously approved:  
**RESOLVED:** The USATT Strategic Planning Report for the 2024 – 2028 Quad is approved and adopted.
- The 2024 Budget
  - CEO Sung presented the Budget and answered a number of questions from the Board. Thomas Hu indicated he had further questions; none of the other directors did. It was agreed that Mr. Hu would talk to CEO Sung separately and then notify the Board Chair. An Action by Written Consent to approve the 2024 Budget can then be circulated to all Board members.
- Proposal for a National Training Center
  - Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was unanimously approved:  
**RESOLVED:** The proposal for the creation of the USATT National Training Center in Burlingame, California, is hereby approved, on the terms presented to the Board.  
  
**RESOLVED FURTHER:** The proper officers of USATT negotiate an agreement covering this matter; such agreement to be presented to the Board for final approval.



**Adjournment**

It was properly moved, seconded and approved that the Board return to General Session and adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:51 pm US Mountain time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson,  
USATT Chief Executive Officer / General Secretary to the Board

**End. 23 11-17a**