

USS Board of Directors 12/16/2023 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the 12/16/2023 USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) meeting were USS BOD Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Treasurer; Andy Kelly, Jane Lute, Duncan White, Pat Maxwell, Jeff Castalez, Tony Liu, and Ryan Bedford. The listed members in attendance constitute a quorum of the Board. Team USA AC rep. Brian Hansen, USS Executive Director Ted Morris, Director of Finance Michael Burdekin, High Performance Director Shane Domer were also in attendance. USS Speedskating Foundation Board Members Mike Plant and Tony Sargent were also in attendance as guests.

Meeting minutes were recorded by USS Membership and Safe Sport Manager, Sara Bowles.

1) **Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 9:02am MT by Ms. Shobe.

Mr. Morris shared a brief recap of the 91 and Counting fundraiser held the night before. It was another successful event. The Board discussed emailing alumni about joining the Podium Club which staff supported. Mr. Morris shared some successes from the ST team as they compete in Korea.

2) **BOD Disclosures on possible agenda conflicts.**

Mr. Morris asked for the Board to review the agenda and to disclose conflicts with any of the agenda items. No conflicts were disclosed.

3) **Approval of 9/25/2023 BOD Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kelly motioned for approval. Second by Ms. Shobe. Approved.

4) **Financial Report**

Mr. Burdekin provided a report on the 2023/23 budget forecast. Staff is doing a good job managing expenses budgets and we’re seeing some savings reflected in the forecast. Mr. Burdekin provided detail on the purchase of a new machine that will help tremendously with blade adjustments.

Mr. Burdekin shared an update on the 2022/23 financial audit which has not been issued yet. The auditor is making changes to how USS sponsor revenue is reported due to changes in the tax code. This will result in immaterial changes to the 2021/22 financial statements. Moving forward, USS will follow the new guidelines for reporting sponsor revenue.

5) **US Speedskating Foundation (USSF) report**

Mr. Burdekin provided a financial report on the recent performance of the USS Foundation. Mr. Plant and Mr. Sargent added comments on performance from the USSF Board's perspective.

6) **AAC Update**

Mr. Hansen shared information on the upcoming athlete elections for positions on the USS Board of Directors and USOPC Athlete's Commission. The USS AAC brought forward some concerns on self-funding for athletes who cannot commit to attending all World Cups due to conflicts.

7) **USS Congress**

Mr. Morris discussed dates for the USS Congress which will be held in SLC in 2024. The Board agreed to target May 16-18, 2024. USS will look at opportunities to add other elements like a camp or clinic to the week of activities.

8) **BOD Elections**

Mr. Morris shared that Mr. Liu will run for re-election in the Club Director category. The board discussed candidates for the independent director positions.

9) **Executive Director Report**

a. **USOPC**

Mr. Morris reported on the Salt Lake City (SLC) bid for the 2034 Winter Olympics Games. SLC has entered into targeted dialogue with the IOC around hosting these games. All looks very positive and the award to SLC should be made around the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. Mr. Morris shared his continued work with an NGB working group on a new content platform. The USOPC is opening up the athlete marketing program to allow athletes to engage with any and all sponsors. This will enhance revenue generating opportunities for Olympic Athletes.

Mr. Morris went on to share that the USOPC has a Sport Ambassador program to connect donors to individual sports. Staff will work hard to find a speed skating sport ambassador. Mr. Morris went on to share that all summer NGB's got a 10% increase in support from the USOPC.

b. **ISU**

The ISU Congress will be in Las Vegas, June 9-14. Ms. Sandvig Shobe, Mr. Carleton, Ms. Lute and Mr. Morris will represent USS. The Board discussed and decided on USS proposals to put forward for the ISU Congress. ISU Secretary General Fredi Schmidt is leaving the ISU at the end of 2023. He will likely stay on in an advisory position. Colin Schmidt assumes the role of ISU Secretary General effective January 1, 2024. Mr.

Morris had dialogue with ISU President Kim on hosting a Short Track event in a major US City. Mr. Castalez offered to help engaging the entertainment industry to combine an event with a concert.

c. High Performance

Mr. Domer shared a report on season to date success verse the High Performance goals set in the annual plan. Mr. White suggested having a running medal count compared to other countries posted in the speed factory. Mr. Domer went on to share notable sport science projects staff and the commission are working on. Mr. Domer went on to share some ideas on long term planning as we look forward to the 2034 Winter Olympic Games.

d. Development / Membership

Mr. Morris shared we are tracking up 5% this year on membership. USS continues to ship out Learn to Speed Skate skates to clubs. USS has delivered 8 fleets to clubs this year. Mr. Liu reported that he is seeing an increase in participation at club meets with most meets hitting maximum numbers of participants.

e. Marketing and fundraising

Mr. Morris shared a fundraising program around a VIP trip to the Calgary World Championships in February of 2024.

10) Legal Update

There was no new legal activity to report.

11) Gender Policy

There was no new information to discuss.

12) New Business

No new business.

13) Conclusion

Mr. Shobe concluded the meeting at 11:42am

14) Executive Section

The Board held an Executive session.