

Minutes
2023 USA Roller Sports
Annual Fall Board of Directors Zoom Meeting
November 3 - 4, 2023

USA Roller Sports President Heidi Permatteo called the meeting to order in closed Executive Session at 8:35pm CT on Friday, November 3, 2023, via Zoom.

The following USA Roller Sports Board members were present: Heidi Permatteo - USARS President, Stephen Carter - USARS Vice-President, Kelly Springer, Annelle Anderson, Joe Hana, William Mihay, Ed Harney, Allison Kiger, Patricia Leazier, Joyann Donaldson, James Trussell, and Kevin Houseknecht. Erin Jackson and Dustin Roux were absent. Ricci Porter-Kmetz - Executive Director and Janet Pavilonis - guest were also present.

Heidi welcomed the Board members to the meeting. Topics of discussion were: financial report, review committee on committee report, review nominating committee recommendations, sport committees, World Skate, and legal procedures. Meeting adjourned at 10:39pm CT

USA Roller Sports Annual Spring meeting started on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10:11am CT. The following Board members were present: Heidi Permatteo - USARS President, Stephen Carter - USARS Vice President, Joe Hanna, James Trussell, Annelle Anderson, Joyann Donaldson, Allison Kiger, Ed Harney, Kelly Springer, Patricia Leazier, and Ricci Porter-Kmetz - Executive Director. Erin Jackson, Dustin Roux, William Mihay, and Kevin Houseknecht were absent.

Guests that were at the meeting throughout the day were: Brent Benson - office staff, Fred Bergeron, Rachel Dohls, Rob G., Vickey Bateman, Charlene Ingram, David Marenstein, Mary Allmond, Eli Liu, Jeffrey Foster, Tori Carter, and Misty Greer.

Heidi greeted Board members and guests.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to ratify the approval of the 2023 Spring Board meeting minutes. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously

Heidi asked if there were a new potential conflicts of interest since the last Board meeting.

Heidi Permatteo declared conflict running for president
Stephen Carter declared conflict running for vice president

Annelle Anderson declared potential conflict with daughter being on World Skate America Artistic Technical Committee

Patricia Leazier declared potential conflict being associated with Bont and having a child on the World team.

Allison Kiger declared conflict for working in the same rink where AARS was founded.

Unfinished Business - C

C-1 Update was given on the USA Roller Sports app. The app is close to the testing phase. The developers are waiting on speed information. Once received, testing will begin.

C-2 Update on USA Roller Sports Strategic planning task group. This season will continue to develop building skaters and clubs. More town halls are planned to communicate with the membership.

C-3 Extreme Sport Committee update. Only 2 known possible candidates. No one applied for the committee.

Directive: Stephen Carter and Kelly Springer will reach out to the community for more applicants and report back to Committee on Committees.

New Business - D

D-1 Sport Committee Guidelines. Working group was created to review and update the Sport Committee guidelines. Group members are: Ed Harney, Patricia Leazier, Heidi Permatteo, and Ricci Porter-Kmetz. Deadline for group suggested updates 1/15/24.

D-2 The Artistic Sport Committee requested that a new official positions (data operator and technical specialist) be added as commissioned positions within the Sport80 platform. Data operator will have C-B-A levels of commissions. Technical specialist will have only A and B levels commissions.

Motion: Ed Harney made the motion to add data operator and technical specialist commissions to Sport80. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously

National Office and Confederation Reports

President's report. Heidi Permatteo started off by thanking Executive Director Ricci Porter-Kmetz for all she does for USA Roller Sports. Ricci has been amazing dealing with Safe Sports audits that USARS has been dealing with over the past season. USA Roller Sports is all ready preparing for the upcoming USOPC audit.

Heidi also thanked Stephen Carter for continuously being a sounded board. She also recognized and thanked the USARS staff members Brent Benson, Stacey Randell, and Kevin Kmetz for doing an amazing job.

Executive Directors report - Ricci Porter-Kmetz reported that USA Roller Sports had an event audit for Roller Derby at the 2023 Roller Derby National Championships. The audit went well, and she thanked the derby community, committee, officials and staff for their leadership and willingness to assist throughout the audit. Ricci let the Board know that USA Roller Sports will be audited by the USOPC in quarter one of 2024. She gave a quick update on the day-to-day operations' updates which include plans to work with Altruic, the USOPC preferred accounting services provider. There are several plans being implemented in hopes of providing better communication to the membership for 2024.

Museum report given by AnnelAnderson. The Museum's Board met last April. The Oral History project is still being worked on. The project was funded by a grant the museum received. The museum held a raffle at the RSA convention as well as a golf tournament to raise funds.

The museum always receives more attendance when the National Championship is held in Lincoln. Looking at more ways to attract attendance for the upcoming year. Possible photo contest. Annel thanks Brent Benson for opening the museum when needed.

Committee Reports - F

F-1 Culture Roll Sport Committee. No report or minutes submitted.

F-2 Artistic Sport Committee. Chair Joyann Donaldson gave the Board an update. The committee is working on 3 seminars for the upcoming months.

Skaters have multiple opportunities for international. USA received a gold medal and the World Championship and 2 placements at the Figure World Cup. The committee has plans to have conversations with the team staff from the World Championship as well as the Figure Cup.

Motions for action items requested by the sports committees to be voted by the Board of Directors was voted on individually.

The Coaches Certification was discussed with the Board. Additional conversations needed before motion can be voted on by the Board.

Motion: Ed Harney made the motion to combine Rollart Technical Subcommittee and Officials Subcommittee. 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously

Motion: Allison Kiger made the motion to change minimum score to be based on total score instead of technical only. 2nd by Kelly Springer - motion passed. One opposed.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion for changes for this season events - Advanced (all), Classic Gold International solo, creative solo, and Classic events and to add Tot solo to the World Skate youth events. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to add to adult rule book AR AD.114 "Petitions on the basis of gender identity can be submitted to the Artistic Sport Committee. 2nd by Annelle Anderson - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approve the 2023 Rule Books. 2nd by Patricia Leazier -motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Ed Harney made the motion to approval of the Artistic Sport Committee minutes. 2nd by Allison Kiger - motion passed unanimously

F-3 Inline Hockey Sport Committee. No report or minutes due to suspension of the committee.

F-4 Rink Hockey Sport Committee. James Trussell gave the Board the update. The committee is working on a tournament. They are looking at awarding members for participation. Members will need to renew membership earlier in the season to participate in the tournament. Status and awards will be based on stats for the games.

An officials subcommittee was formed with Pat Ferguson and Kevin Hayes.

The rink hockey is also looking at creating another type of league that is more based at the club level. James explained the points and stats for the league.

Motion: Joe Hanna made the motion to approval of the Rink Hockey Sport Committee minutes. 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously.

F-5 Roller Derby Sport Committee. Misty Greer, chair, discussed the committee's work with the Board. National Championship went well. Safe Sports audited the Championship in person.

At Roller Con, USA Roller Sports rule set tournament was played with 4 new teams. The committee is working on official training for it's membership. There was official training done at Roller Con.

Motion: James Trussell made the motion to approval of the Roller Derby Sport Committee minutes. 2nd by Kelly Springer - motion passed unanimously.

F-6 Scooter Sport Committee. No oral report was given to the Board. There was a question submitted to Heidi Permatteo regarding sport committee members and participation. Heidi will check into it and get back to the committee.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approval of the Scooter Sport Committee minutes. 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously.

F-7 Speed Sport Committee. Patricia Leazier, chair, briefed the Board on the committee's work during the season. Athletes were getting ready for the Pan Am Games.

Tosha Hill was the meet director for both Indoor and Outdoor National Championships and qualifier. Both events went well. Outdoor Nationals and qualifier had challenges with the heat and rain. Patricia thanked both Kelly Springer and Mikey Ratliff for getting the water off of the track.

The Speed Committee is reevaluating the selection process.

Motion: Patricia Leazier made the motion to approval Webber Skate Way for the location for the 2024 Outdoor National Championship and Trials. 2nd by Stephen Carter - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Annelle Anderson made the motion to approval of the Speed Sport Committee minutes. 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously.

F-8 Finance Committee. Janet Pavilonis, finance committee member presented the minutes and addressed the Board.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to pay the entry fees for the athletes skating the World Skate Figure Cup. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to 2023/2024 USA Roller Sports budget. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Kelly Springer made the motion to approval of the Finance Committee minutes. 2nd by Allison Kiger - motion passed unanimously.

Annelle Anderson presented the Foundation's update. The Foundation held it's annual meeting at the USA Roller Sports office on July 20th during the National Championship. Scholarships are now being offered for athletes. Grants were awarded to each sport for grassroots programs to develop athletes.

Standing Business - G

The Board members had previously reviewed the Nominating Committee and Committee on Committee candidate recommendations for open board and committee seats during it's closed session on Friday night.

The first position to be discussed and voted on was treasurer. There were two candidates - Stanley Leibowitz and Charles Sgrillo II.

Motion: Allison Kiger made the motion to approve Stanley Leibowitz as treasurer for USA Roller Sports. 2nd by Joyann Donaldson - motion passed unanimously.

The next board seat to be voted on was Rink Hockey Athlete. Only one candidate applied, William Mihay. Only athletes on the Board vote on this position.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approve William Mihay for the Rink Hockey Athlete position on the Board. 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously by athletes on the Board.

Discussion moved to the Board positions open. First discussed was the Grassroots position. The two candidates for the position were Scott Bartel and Stephanie Moore. The Board voted and Scott Bartel won the position.

The Speed Athlete and Club Officer position will be sent out to the eligible voting members to vote for the athlete on Monday November 6th. The 2 candidates for the position are - Michelle Higby and Samuel Johnson. As soon as the voting period closes, USA Roller Sports will announce the new Board member.

Motion: Patricia Leazier made the motion to go into closed session. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was on bylaws.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to go back into open session. 2nd by Kelly Springer - motion passed unanimously.

The vacant ex officio board seat was the next topic of discussion. This position is held for a USA Roller Sports member who holds a position within World Skates governance. Stephen Carter is on the World Skate Roller Derby Committee as well as World Skate America's Speed Technical Committee.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to place Stephen Carter into the Ex Officio Board seat. 2nd by Kelly Springer - motion passed unanimously.

With Stephen Carter being placed into the Ex Officio Board position, the At-Large position was now vacant. Joyann Donaldson nominated Kelly Springer from the floor. No other candidates were presented. No vote needed. Kelly Springer was placed into the At-Large Board position.

Next on the agenda was election of Board Officers. The Nominating Committee nominated Stephen Carter for Vice President and Heidi Permatteo for President. As declared earlier,

Heidi Permatteo recused herself from the voting section of the board meeting. Ricci Porter-Kmetz took over this portion of the meeting.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Stephen Carter to be Vice President. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously. Stephen Carter will remain USA Roller Sports Vice President.

Motion: Allison Kiger made the motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Heidi Permatteo to be President. 2nd by Ed Harney - motion passed unanimously. Heidi Permatteo will remain USA Roller Sports President.

Heidi thanked the Board members for being present and as active as possible with their duties to USA Roller Sports. She also understands that everyone has busy lives and are not always able to attend board calls between the fall and spring annual meetings. Due to the difficult time getting the board members together in off times, Heidi suggest repopulating Executive Committee and notify and allow all Board members to attend and be part of the discussions. The Board agreed that the Executive Committee should to be repopulated.

Executive Committee members: Heidi Permatteo - President and Stephen Carter - Vice President, AAC Rep Joyann Davidson, Ed Harney, Kelly Springer, and William Milhay.

Next on the agenda was to populate the open committee positions.

No applicants for Culture Roll, Scooter, or Extreme Sport Committees.

The Artistic Sport Committee had 1 voting position vacant.

Motion: Ed Harney made the motion to place Amy Waters in the voting position and also add Stephanie Moore as a non voting member to the Artistic Sport Committee. 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously.

The Inline Hockey Sport Committee was being completely repopulated. The Committee on Committee made the recommendation to the Board to populate the committee with 5 members at this time.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to add Rob Chornomud, Allison Era (athlete), Dave Inouye, Charles Sgrillo Sr, and Laura Veharanta (athlete). 2nd by Patricia Leazier - motion passed unanimously.

The Rink Hockey Sport Committee had 2 voting non athlete position open as well as 1 voting athlete position.

Motion: James Trussell made the motion to add Shawn Schmelcher (voting), Lucas Tompson (voting), and Justin Bradford (voting athlete) and Pat Ferguson (non voting) on the Rink Hockey Committee. 2nd by Joyann Donaldson - motion passed unanimously.

The Roller Derby Sport Committee had one voting position available. The committee asked for a non voting committee member as well.

Motion: Allison Kiger made the motion to add Carmen Leininger (voting), and Misty Greer (non voting) on the Roller Derby Committee. 2nd by Kelly Springer - motion passed unanimously.

The Speed Sport Committee had two voting athlete positions open. One was a 4 year term and the other a 1 year term. The Speed Sport Committee asked for additional non voting athlete and non athlete positions. The Athlete Advisory Committee discussed and made recommendations for the athlete positions.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to add Darien O'Neil - athlete 4 year term (voting) and Brian Talley - athlete 1 year term (voting) as well as Erin Jackson (non voting athlete), Jay Ingram (non voting) and Sam Johnson (non voting). 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

The Committee on Committees made the same recommendation for both the Compliance and the Finance Committee to not change or add any new members. The Board agreed and no action taken to add or remove any members.

The Committee on Committees made the recommendation to continue to run the Elite Coaches Selection Committee to be run the same way it was last year. The Board rejected the recommendation.

Motion: Patricia Leazier made the motion to create a committee for the Elite Coaches. 2nd by Ed Harney - motion passed. One abstention.

Directive: The office will send out a call for applicants to submit resumes for the Elite Coaches Selection Committee.

The last committee to populate was the Hall of Fame Committee. Committee on Committees recommended 7 applicants for the committee.

Motion: Patricia Leazier made the motion to add Joe Hanna, Jeff Foster, John Peck, Rene Johnson, Ed Harney, Annelle Anderson, and Buggy Almond to the Hall of Fame Committee. 2nd by James Trussell - motion passed unanimously.

The date for spring board meeting will be held on April 27 & 28, 2024.

The Board was informed that there are multiple cities interest in host the 2025 National Championship. The cities showing interest are: Cleveland OH, Reno NV, Ocala FL, Savannah GA, Waco TX, and Wichita KS.

In closing, Heidi Permatteo thanked Annelle Anderson for her years of service to USA Roller Sports. Joyann Donaldson made the motion to keep Annelle Anderson on the Board as a non voting member. Allison Kiger 2nd the motion. Ricci Porter-Kmetz will check to see if this motion is possible.

Stephen Carter made the motion to end the meeting. Annelle Anderson 2nd - motion passed unanimously. Meeting end at 2:45pm CT.

