

USS Board of Directors 9/30/2024 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the meeting on 9/30/2024 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President Mark Carleton, Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Treasurer; Andy Kelly, Robert Woodbury Jane Lute, Duncan White, Brittany Bowe, and Conor McDermott-Mostowy. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, and Finance Director Michael Burdekin were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Sara Bowles.

1) **Welcome**

Mr. Carleton called the meeting to order at 6:03pm MT.

2) **Approval of 7/29/2024 BOD Meeting Minutes**

Discussion and approval of the BOD minutes from the July 29, 2024 meeting. Motion by Mr. Kelly. Second by Mr. Woodbury; approved.

3) **Declarations of any Conflicts with Agenda**

Mr. Morris called for Board Members to acknowledge any conflicts with the agenda. Ms. Bowe and Mr. McDermott-Mostowy declared possible conflicts with the High-Performance section agenda item.

4) **Financial Report**

2024/25 budget forecast

Mr. Burdekin presented the 2024/25 budget forecast. There was an increase in the revenue forecast with an uptick in sales and marketing. There is still a big gap to close in fundraising revenue with much of the forecast including income from the 91 and Counting Fundraiser and Podium Club. The Board discussed fundraising revenue targets and additional opportunities. Mr. White requested a year-over-year comparison of High Performance expenses for the next meeting.

Mr. Burdekin shared that USS is working with a new auditor. The 2023-24 audit should be complete by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

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

Mr. Burdekin provided a brief report on the performance of the USS Foundation fund. The Board asked about donation opportunities. Mr. Morris shared that staff is engaged with USA Hockey and US Figure Skating on creating an Olympic Hospitality Program in Milan Cortina. Progress has been slow as pricing continues to be outrageously high.

6) AAC Update

Mr. McDermott – Mostowy provided a brief report on AAC activities.

Mr. Morris presented a comparison of allocations in the 2024 USS High Performance budget verse 2005 as requested by the Board at the last meeting. A discussion by the Board followed. Mr. Morris went on to share the annual USS Budgeting Process.

A discussion around budgeting priorities took place. Ms. Bowe commented on athlete disappointment regarding the new Long Track Team funding model for World Cups 1 & 2.

7) Membership / Club Report

Ms. Wheelock provided a written report that Mr. Morris shared with the Board. There are clubs that would like a clear understanding of how they can use the USS logo in conjunction with their club logo to help promotionally. Mr. Morris will work with staff on a clear policy. There are questions from club representatives on why Development Teams are not Member Clubs. Mr. Morris suggested that the USS membership task force discuss this at their next meeting to make sure we're handling appropriately.

8) Executive Director Report

a. USOPC

IOC President Thomas Bach visited Salt Lake City which included a stop at the Utah Olympic Oval. The Olympic Assembly will be held in mid-November in Colorado Springs.

b. ISU

Upcoming events include the Short Track World Tour and Short Track Four Continents Championships in SLC, and Long Track World Cup 4 in Milwaukee in early 2025. USS will not have the ISU requested Short Track Eagle suit ready this season.

c. High Performance

Maame Biney officially retired. She is an amazing ambassador of speed skating and USS. She will be missed. USS will have 17 men and 12 women short trackers competing this fall in various competitions including the Shanghai Trophy and Jr. events. Long Track season preparation is going well. Physiological testing results are good. Team Pursuit men and women are both looking good.

d. Marketing/Fundraising/Sponsorship -91 and Counting

Sponsorship activity continues to move in a positive direction. The announcement of the 2034 Olympic Games returning to SLC has helped build momentum with Utah based companies. The 91 and Counting fundraiser will be held at the Traeger headquarters in SLC on December 6. Mr. Morris requested help from the Board filling seats and in generating auction items.

9) Legal Update

No updates to share.

10) New Business

Mr. Morris suggested reducing the number of members on the judicial committee. Ms. Sandvig Shobe mentioned that Ann Henning (Olympian) lost her son.

11) Conclusion and Executive Session

Mr. Carleton ended the main session at 7:58pm MT. The BOD went into Executive Session.