



USA Racquetball Board of Directors Meeting – MINUTES
Monday, October 28, 2024, 7:30 pm ET
Via Zoom

Welcome/Call to Order -- 7:33 pm ET -- Stewart Solomon

A quorum was achieved; advance notice was given of the meeting.

	Roll Call
Stewart Solomon (President)	x
Tony Prater (Vice President)	0
Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)	x
Sandy Rios (Treasurer)	x
Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)	x
Ro-el Cordero	x
Steve Czarnecki (Independent Perspective)	x
Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)	x
Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)	X 8:30 pm
Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	x
Slemo Warigon	x
Kristin Wattz (Independent Perspective)	x
Mike Grisz (Executive Director/ex officio)	x
Michelle Key (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)	0

Guests: Chelsi Straubinger (COGEO), Karen Grisz, Jonathan Greenberg

Roll Call and Approval of October 7, 2024, meeting minutes – Cheryl Kirk

Minutes were forwarded in advance of the meeting.

Motion by Sandy Rios approve the Racquetball Board of Directors meeting minutes of October 7, 2024

Seconded by Kristin Wattz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder – Cheryl Kirk

****Directors were reminded to abstain/recuse themselves on topics that are a conflict of interest.**

Each Board member has the duty to adhere to the USA Racquetball Conflict of Interest Policy as an Affiliated Person.

USA Racquetball Board Strategic Planning Retreat

- a. Facilitated by Chelsi Straubinger (COGEO)
- b. Materials forwarded in advance of meeting: Agenda, Case Statement, SWOT Board
 - The Board reviewed the Case Statement and discussed/revised/voted on a SWOT compilation
 - Chelsi will prepare and forward recap materials for the Board's reference and action as well as suggestions on how to analyze and leverage the Board's work moving forward (3-4 weeks)

Chelsi Straubinger, Karen Grisz, and Jonathan Greenberg exited the meeting.

Executive Director Report – Mike Grisz (written report only, see below*)

Executive Committee Update – Stewart Solomon

No agreement is in place for a US OPEN in 2026 at the present time; more information will be provided to the Board at the November meeting.

Insurance will be retained on the USA Racquetball stadium court as one of the association's most significant assets.

Erika Manilla and Sleemo Warigon exited the meeting.

USA Racquetball 2025 Leadership Transition Proposal – Stewart Solomon

A proposal document was forwarded in advance of the meeting.

As Mike Grisz prepares to step aside from his volunteer Executive Director role effective December 31, 2024, Mike received thanks for his leadership and contributions. Three individuals have expressed the time and the willingness to take on significant leadership responsibilities. Mike stated that those stepping forward possess skill, experience, and passion for the sport as well as time to devote to the proposed interim role.

Motion by Sandy Rios to direct the Executive Director to establish the volunteer Office of the Executive Director (OED) as proposed on October 28, 2024, with a projected effective date of January 1, 2025, and an open end date subject to the Board's future determination. The ED will bring a detailed structure to the Board for approval on November 18.

Seconded by Ro-el Cordero

Discussion surrounding Board oversight; solution to keep the association moving forward; volunteer ED position was not posted; need for experience and institutional knowledge; another volunteer may emerge and gain experience as part of the OED group. A message to the membership will be crafted.

Vote: Motion passed

Jake Bredenbeck exited the meeting.

Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Sandy Rios

Reports were forwarded in advance of the meeting: 2024 budget; 2024 actuals through 8/31; remaining 2024 budget; proposed 2025 budget.

The reports illustrated what was budgeted for this year; the current budget position; and what is being proposed for 2025. Of note is the addition of a line item expenditure for Tewdilly (Jared Harding) that positions the association at achieving a narrower profit projection but provides change based on months-long strategic focus and analysis. Also budgeted for 2025 is \$20K for direct youth development, to be funded through dedicated monies donated by the late Geoff Peters. Holding to and improving the projected slim bottom line will depend heavily upon solicitation of sponsorships and donations as well as pushing for increased memberships.

Board members requested more time to view and compare the materials before voting for approval on November 18. Mike Grisz covered high level points of the 2025 budget, and Board members were encouraged to send questions before the November meeting.

Tom Fuhrmann exited the meeting.

Membership Committee – Ro-el Cordero

A slide deck was socialized at a high level for the eight Board members who remained in attendance. Ro-el will bring a full report to the November 18 meeting with the deck sent to the full Board in anticipation of discussion and consideration.

Legislative Committee – Cheryl Kirk

=> USOPC Audit Update

- All requested information has been submitted to date; next USOPC meeting 11/6/24.
- Tony and Cheryl are presently gathering COI docs from all committee members.

=> Committee Restructure - Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Per Bylaws stipulation Article IX, 901.0.B.A, a Legislative Committee Bylaws Revisions Report, Notification, and Voting Synopsis was sent to the Board on October 12, 2024, meeting the notice requirement of at least 15 days before Board deliberations,

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to approve the recommended USA Racquetball Bylaws revisions to Article IX, 903.0, Standing Committees as brought to the USA Racquetball Board of Directors by the USA Racquetball Legislative Committee on October 28, 2024.

Secoded by Sandy Rios

Discussion: Positive on the proposed change.

Vote: Passed

Hall of Fame of Committee – Stewart Solomon

The committee's recommendation for 2025 Hall of Fame inductees has been received for approval and will be voted on before or at the November Board meeting.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2024

Motion to adjourn -- Sandy Rios

Secoded by Kristin Wattz

Adjourned 10:20 pm ET

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Provided Materials

1. BOD Minutes 10/7/24 for approval
2. Conflict of Interest Guide from 10/7/24 USOPC training session
3. Strategic Planning Retreat Materials per above
4. Executive Director Report*
5. USA Racquetball 2025 Leadership Transition Proposal
6. Legislative Committee – Notification and Worksheet (initially sent 10/12/24)
7. Finance Committee Materials
8. Membership Committee Materials

*** Executive Director Report****Submitted by Mike Grisz****October 28, 2024**

1. Portland State student groups from the Capstone class (there are 2 groups working on USA Racquetball) gave me their initial strategic analysis. Happy to share for anyone who wants to see them.
2. USOPC audit is underway. First meeting with auditor last Wednesday. Process just beginning so nothing further to report. Next call is November 6.
3. Call scheduled with Denise Parker at USOPC 10/31 regarding 2025 grant allocation.
4. Proposed 2025 budget will be presented in this meeting.
5. Work has begun with Jared Harding. Harding has provided a draft of a Brand Identity Manual and a Content Strategy Guide.
6. R2 is up for High School and Intercollegiate Championships. Working on finalizing agreements for Intercollegiate and Indoor events.