

USS Board of Directors 9/25/2023 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the annual meeting on 9/25/2023 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President Mark Carleton, Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Secretary; Jane Lute, Pat Maxwell, Jeff Castelaz, Tony Liu, Carlijn Schoutens and Ryan Bedford. The listed attending members constitute a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, and Director of Finance Michael Burdekin were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Sara Bowles.

1) **Welcome**

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Carleton at 6:02pm MT

2) **BOD Disclosures**

No BOD members reported any conflicts regarding the agenda.

3) **Approval 7/31/23 BOD minutes**

Motion to approve by Ms. Lute. Seconded by Mr. Bedford; approved.

4) **Financial Report**

Mr. Burdekin reported that USS’ 2022-23 financial audit is currently underway. SLC based firm, Anderson Bradshaw, is conducting the audit.

Mr. Burdekin presented the 2023-24 financial forecast. The High Performance Team is currently booking Fall World Cup travel. Airline pricing for international travel has come down a bit and hopefully some savings will be possible. Mr. Burdekin discussed revenue areas with a focus on fundraising. USS has \$317,000 forecasted in this area which is a significant increase over last year. There is risk in this area of the budget along with sponsorship where USS is looking to find new partners.

5) **USS Foundation Report**

The USS Foundation BOD has an upcoming meeting scheduled for November 6. The fund continues to perform well given the current market conditions.

6) AAC Report

Ms. Shoutens shared that the AAC had a meeting with staff to discuss the USS Gender Policy. The AAC has also been working with staff on developing the Direct Athlete Support model for 2024-25 season. Mr. Hansen attended the Olympic Assembly in Los Angeles two weeks ago.

7) BOD Performance Assessments

Mr. Morris shared that BOD performance assessment conducted through audit board is now closed. A final report will be issued shortly.

8) Governance leadership

The BOD discussed possible candidates for membership positions and independent positions in 2024.

9) Executive Director Report

a. USOPC Update

The Olympic Assembly was held in LA two weeks ago. There is continued frustration from NGB's related to the audit process and the U.S. Center of SafeSport's handling of claims. The SLC Olympic Organizing Committee shared a very positive update with the winter NGB's. SLC hosting the 2034 Olympic Games is becoming highly likely. USS had strong representation at the Assembly with Lydia Murphy-Stephens there as part of the USOPC Alumni group and Brian Hansen there as part of the Athlete Committee.

b. ISU

The ISU Congress will be held in Las Vegas, June 9-14. US Figure Skating is the official host of the event, but US Speedskating will support. Staff submitted technical rule proposals for the Congress. Constitution rule proposals are due by December 1.

c. High Performance

The Short Track Trials went well. USS is excited about the team we're sending to the Fall World Cups. Training is going well with a few athletes fighting injuries. Long Track Trials are in three weeks. The High Performance Staff is very positive about what they're seeing in training and in time trials with several athletes making significant jumps over the summer.

d. Development and Membership

Membership renewals are currently tracking flat compared to last season. The U.S. Center of SafeSport conducted an event audit at the Short Track Trials. All went well and staff is expecting a clean audit. There will be an Alumni event during Long Track Trials in Milwaukee. The Short Track Trials were live streamed, and the plan is for the same the at Long Track Trials. Team USA Studios was filming content at the Short Track Trials and they'll send a crew out to the Long Trials as well.

e. Marketing / Fundraising / Communications

- 91 & Counting fundraiser – Save the Date going out tomorrow. Event will take place on December 15 with USS BOD Meeting on the 16th.

10) Legal Update

No new activity

11) Gender Guidelines

Mr. Morris shared USS legal counsel analysis on some of the open questions regarding gender guidelines for US Speedskating athletes. Staff removed language that is covered in the USS Safe Sport Policy and Code of Conduct from the guidelines. Mr. Carleton commented that this will be an ongoing discussion for the BOD which has a fiduciary responsibility to do what's best for the sport. Mr. Morris shared additional clarification that is being added to the Gender guidelines regarding national records. The BOD was in support of the additional language and clarifications that were discussed.

12) New Business

No new business.

13) Closing

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Carleton at 7:26pm MT.

14) Executive Session