

Minutes  
2024 USA Roller Sports  
Annual Fall Board of Directors Zoom Meeting  
November 1 & 2, 2024

USA Roller Sports President Heidi Permatteo called the meeting to order in closed Executive Session at 7:35pm CT on Friday, November 1, 2024, via Zoom.

The following USA Roller Sports Board members were present: Heidi Permatteo - USARS President, Stephen Carter - USARS Vice-President, James Trussell, Kelly Springer, Scott Bartell, Michelle Higby, Joe Hanna, Ed Harney, Allison Kiger, Patricia Leazier, Joyann Donaldson, William Mihay, and Erin Jackson. Kevin Houseknecht and Dustin Roux were absent. Ricci Porter-Kmetz - Executive Director and Stanley Leibowitz - treasurer were also present.

Heidi welcomed the Board members to the meeting. Topics of discussion were: Treasurer's report, update of World Skate and the USOPC, Strategic Plan, Committee on Committees report, Nominating Committee's report, and update of USOPC. Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm CT. Heidi asked the athletes on the Board to remain on the call to have an open dialogue on their positions in governance and how to better improve it with their suggestions.

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USA Roller Sports Annual Spring meeting started on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 10:05am CT. The following Board members were present: Heidi Permatteo - USARS President, Stephen Carter - USARS Vice President, Patricia Leazier, Scott Bartell, Joe Hanna, James Trussell, Joyann Donaldson, Michelle Higby, Allison Kiger, Ed Harney, Kelly Springer, Ricci Porter-Kmetz - Executive Director, and Stanley Leibowitz - treasurer. Dustin Roux, Erin Jackson, and Kevin Houseknecht were absent.

Guests that were at the meeting throughout the day were: Brent Benson - office staff, Twila Robinson, Michelle Wilde, Jerry Hutchinson, Annelle Anderson, Samantha Krusza, Jeffrey Foster, Jody Harrah, Drew Perry, Fred Bergeron, Rob Gould, Rachel Dols, Russ Newberg, Matthew Silva, Vickie Bateman, Janet Palovonis, Tosha Hill, Charlene, Ingram, Dan Brown, Coco Rivera, Robin Pedergast, and Misty Greer.

Heidi greeted Board members and guests.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to ratify the approval of the 2024 Spring Board meeting minutes. 2nd by Ed Harney - motion passed unanimously.

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

Heidi Permatteo declared she is running for President.

Stephen Carter declared he is running for Vice-President.

Joe Hannah declared he is running for his grassroots position and other Board positions.

Ed Harney declared he is running for the At-large Board position.

William Milhay declared potential conflict with his wife applying for a position on the rink hockey sport committee.

Kelly Springer declared he is running for a Board position.

#### C - Unfinished Business

C -1 Update on Strategic Plan. Ricci reported to the Board that the organization's Strategic Plan is no longer a public document. The Board was given the updated KPIs. The completed audit in June showed the organization's effectiveness is continuing to improve. USA Roller Sports had a very good audit and is working to correct any items that need improvement.

C - 2 Sport Committee Guidelines. Ricci discussed the history of the implementation of the sport committee guidelines. The Sport Committees are the experts in their respected fields and run the sport side of their disciplines. The office remains responsible for the administrative side of the sports.

Directive: Ricci will produce the administrative changes to the Sport Committee guidelines for the Executive Committee to review.

#### D - New Business

D - 1 was already discussed during C - 2

D - 2 World Team warmups. The 2024 World Team warmups were well received by all team members. Discussion of a multi-year contract with the vendor.

Directive: Heidi will reach out to the vendor to see if it would be possible to obtain a multi-year contract. She is to retrieve prices and feedback from the vendor and report to the Executive Committee.

D - Non-Sport Committees. Concerns for the Hall of Fame committee were having a variety of different sport committee members as well as clear guidelines. Historically volunteers for the committee have more of a background in speed or artistic. Discussion on how to engage the other sports members. This led to questions on how to diversify the areas of the country for the Nominating Committee as well.

Directive: Create two task forces to deal with the concerns of creating criteria and processes as well as populating the Hall Fame and Nominating Committee. Ed Harney, Joe Hannah, Annelle Anderson, James Trussell and Jeff Foster for the Hall of Fam task force. Ed Harney, Joe Hannah, Annelle Anderson, James Trussell, and Tracy Hansen for the Nominating Committee task force.

Deadline to complete recommendations 12/31/24.

D - 4 National Team for Speed apparel. Ricci explained that when the athletes make the National team it is an honor, but there has been some confusion recently regarding the vendors and the apparel. The team is announced in January.

Motion: Kelly Springer made the motion to accept the current Team USA vendor to fulfill the National Team's apparel for 2025. 2nd by Patty Leazier - motion passed unanimously.

#### E - National Office and Officers Reports

E - President's report. Heidi praised the office staff and thanked Ricci for her leadership and all she does for the organization. Heidi also thanked Stephen Carter for being her sounding board. Heidi stated USA Roller Sports is continuing to grow in membership. The US had a great year at the 2024 World Skate Roller Games in Italy. The US placed 6th overall in the medal count. Heidi explained to the guests that USA Roller Sports amended the Articles of Incorporation to Skate USA. The organization will continue to use the DBA USA Roller Sports here in this country. She has reached out to other organizations with ideas to help the growth of roller sports in the US.

E - 2 Executive Director's report. Ricci started off by thanking the members who were on the call as well as the Board members for their time and service. Ricci was grateful to the staff for such a great audit with the USOPC. The audit is a public-facing report and can be found online.

E - 3 Treasurer's report. Stanley Leibowitz reported USA Roller Sports has a new accountant and auditor. The organization received approval to combine the 2023 & 2024 audit. Membership is growing. USA Roller Sports is financially sound. Stanley thanked the members of the finance committee for supporting him throughout the year.

#### F - Committee Reports

F - 2 Artistic Sport Committee report. Jody Harrah, chair of the artistic sport committee reported had an increase in members and clubs at the 2024 National Championship in Lincoln, NE. At the Pan Am country qualifier, the US qualified 3 out of the 4 events. At the World Skate World Roller Games, the US won gold in the men's inline free skating event. There will be additional training during the season from the Academy Leaders as well as a seminar being held at the America's Cup in FL. Coaches and officials' tests have been updated for this skating season.

Motion: Scott Bartel made the motion to approval of the minutes from June - September 11, 2024. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approval motion #1 from the October 23, 2024 minutes. 2nd by Ed Harney - motion passed. One abstention.

Motion: Kelly Springer made the motion to approval David Adamy as the 2025 Artistic National Championship meet director from the October 23, 2024 minutes. 2nd by Joyann Donaldson - motion passed. One abstention.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approval motion #3 & #4 from the October 23, 2024 minutes. 2nd by Scott Bartel - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joe Hanna made the motion to approve the ASC minutes. 2nd Scott Bartel - motion passed. One abstention.

F - 3 Culture Roll Sport Committee. No reports or minutes received by the office. No one was on the call to give an update. Board discussed how to help Culture Roll committee members understand their roles in the sport committee and how it applies to sport governance.

F - 4 Rink Hockey Sport Committee. Report given by James Trussell. Rink hockey enjoyed being other the other sports at the 2024 National Championships. In October, the committee made changes to the age groups. The Senior mens qualified, for the first time in 30 years, to the A bracket going into the World Skate Roller Games. The committee is working on improving the National Team selection.

Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approve the Rink Hockey's minutes. 2nd by James Trussell - motion passed unanimously.

F - 5 Roller Derby Sport Committee. Report given by Misty Greer. Roller Derby's men's and women's teams dominated at the World Skate Roller Games. World Skate is mandating more participation from other countries to keep the sport in the Games. USARS was able to schedule more games within Roller Con. The sport committee will be hosting a town hall to have an open dialogue with its members. The committee is also working on the creation of a USARS junior division.

Motion: Kelly Springer made the motion to approve Roller Derby's minutes. 2nd by Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

F - 6 Scooter Sport Committee. Matthew Silver, chair of the committee gave the report. 2024, marked the first season of 4 qualifiers and a National Championship for the sport of scooter. It was held in Salt Lake City, UT with over 100 riders. The women riders received double gold at the 2024 World Skate Roller Games. The committee is working on youth participation in the grassroots division as well as increasing women's participation in the sport too.

Motion: Scott Bartel made the motion to approve the Scooter Committee's minutes. 2nd Joe Hanna - motion passed unanimously.

F - 7 Speed Sport Committee. Kelly Springer gave the report to the Board. Kelly reported no action items requiring Board approval was part of the speed committees work since the spring board meeting. The committee decided to extent the Grandmasters age event to another season as they were informed that many in the speed community were not aware on this trial event. The committee is also working on an indoor qualifier for when indoor is included in the World Skate Championships. This past season residency was brought back for the athletes before traveling to the World Skate Roller Games which had a role in building the camaraderie and team dynamics. The U.S. brought back 6 medals at the Games.

Motion: Joe Hanna made the motion to approve the Speed Committee's minutes. 2nd by Joyann Donaldson - motion passed unanimously.

F - 8 Finance Committee. Stanley Leibowitz, treasurer, gave the report. As reported earlier, USARS membership has increased this past season. USA Roller Sports is financially sound. There was one motion still pending needing Boards approval.

Motion: Stephen Carter made the motion to move the Bonds payable account into the general fund. Funds needed to be claimed by December 31st with evidence of payment with Board discussion and approval. 2nd by James Trussell - motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joe Hanna made the motion to accept the Finance Committee's minutes. 2nd Ed Harney - motion passed unanimously.

International Federation report given by Nellie Lilly (World Skate America Artistic Technical Committee member). World Skate America held a continental championship which was the qualifier for the Junior Pan Am Games last July. World Skate will be hosting an artistic seminar in Italy. This in January will be the America's Cup held in Florida. It is the first international competition (in artistic) for the season. The U.S. will be hosting a training seminar with Nicola Genchi after the America's Cup.

The National Museum of Roller Skating report was also given by Nellie Lilly (Vice President of the Museum Board). The Museum Board is so grateful to USA Roller Sports for hosting the museum. She thanked Ricci and staff for their support of the museum. The annual Board meeting was held at the USARS office during the Artistic National Championship. They are working on updating the exhibits and diversifying the collections to tell more stories about skating's history and culture.

The Foundation's report was given by Annelle Anderson. Annelle stated that the Foundation has a good working relationship with USA Roller Sports and the Foundation's president, Jim Ball. Heidi represents USA Roller Sports very well with the Foundation. Scholarships have recently been given to athletes from the Foundation.

#### G - Standing Business

G - 1 Election of USA Roller Sports Board members. Erin Jackson had been selected as the AAC Representative to the Board of Directors. Katelyn Rogers was voted on by the artistic athletes as Artistic Athlete to the Board of Directors. Misty Greer was voted on by the derby athletes as the Derby Athlete to the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following At Large candidates for the Board: Efforst Allmond, Susan McElhiney, and Joe Hanna. The Board members voted and Joe Hanna received the At Large Board seat.

The Grassroots Board seat only received one recommendation from the Nominating Committee Samuel Johnson. Joyann Donaldson nominated Kelly Springer from the floor and 2nd by Scott Bartel. James Trussell nominated Ed Harney from the floor and Patty Leazier 2nd the nomination. The Board members voted and Kelly Springer received the Grassroots Board seat.

The Board discussed the need for the Nominating Committee to submit more than one applicant per open position.

USA Roller Sports only received one application for Treasurer - Shawn Schmelcher. Shawn will be USARS Treasurer for this year.

Vice President position had two applicants submitted to the Nominating Committee - Stephen Carter and Joe Hanna. The Board voted for Stephen Carter as Vice-President.

Heidi asked Ricci to take over the meeting as she was running for President. Ricci announced one person applied for the position and asked if there were any other candidates from the floor. No other person applied. Heidi retained the President's position.

G - 2 Motion: Joyann Donaldson made the motion to approve the Committee on Committees recommendations with the Board made recommendation on 11/1 for all of USA Roller Sports Committees. 2nd by Scott Bartel - motion passed unanimously.

G - 3 Spring Board meeting dates - May 2nd & 3rd.

G - 4 2024 National Championship brief recap. Ricci reported Dan Brown and Kelly Springer were involved in laying the national floors. Artistic Championship went well. Rink Hockey came back to Lincoln and was competing the same time as speed. Roller derby was at the end of the event. The office has lots of ideas moving forward in regards the National Championships.

G - 5 2025 National Championship discussion. November 15th will be the announcement of the 2025 National Championships. More information is still needed by the Board in order to make a decision. Ricci briefly spoke about the Ocala, FL site visit. Dan Brown gave a brief description of the Reno, NV facility.

Heidi thanked Stanley Leibovitz for his service as Treasurer and the Finance Committee. She also thanked the Board members Joyann Donaldson, Ed Harney, Kevin Houseknecht, Allie Kiger, and Patty Leazier, who were leaving this term for their service and commitment to USA Roller Sports.

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

Heidi thanked the guests for attending and taking time out of the weekends to join USA Roller Sports Board meeting.

Meeting went into closed session and was adjourned at 4:20pm CT.