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New England Swimming
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts
April 1, 2014 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Joe Bernal (BGSC), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Priscilla Davis (UN), Chris Downing (CRA), Joe Frazier (UN), Ray Grant (SSA), Nadine Johnson-Jesioneck (UN), Ali Lie (EVO), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Paul Memont (UN), Bob Menck (UN), Rick Osterberg (UN), Chris Sheppard (CRA), Tori Weinstock (PSC)

Absent: Arthur Athanas (YNS), Sarah Bartholomae (SAC), Christie Batchelor (ABF), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Matt Craven (SAC), Laura Matusak (GMA),

Guests:

Lisa Black Sholudko (UN), Kathy Dacey (UN), Ken Galica (UN), Carol Healey (NES-Office), Mary Riddell (UN), Mary Ellen Tynan (PSC), Dan Warner (NSSC)

7:03 pm – Quorum (11/21) Established –

1. BOD Meeting Called to Order by Ray Grant, General Chair

2. Secretary's Report, Judi Lombardi: Minutes for the February 10, 2014 meeting reviewed. Priscilla Davis identified a few typographical errors. Motion to approve Secretary's report for 2/10/2014 with typographical corrections made by Bob Menck and seconded by Priscilla Davis. *Motion Passes 11-0*

3. Treasurer's Report, Carol Healey: Carol presented current balances on accounts. All current treasury reports as of 4/1/2014 are on file at the New England Swimming Office and available upon request. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Paul Memont, seconded by Bob Menck. *Motion Passes 11-0.*

4. Annual Meeting, Ray Grant: Ray reported that the Annual HOD meeting is set for Saturday, May 3rd at 3pm. There will be an Officials Meeting at 1:00pm and a Meet Managers Meeting at 1:15pm. In addition, there will be a change in procedure this year. All HOD members are required to check-in at one of 3 stations set up alphabetically. Voting members will be required to show an ID before being given their perforated ballot and name tag with a colored dot that identifies them as a voting member. Ballots will be numbered to keep count. All ballots submitted will be tallied and kept at the end of the election. Results will be published including what ballot number voted for what candidate. Ballot takers will come from the Nominating Committee. These changes will allow us to keep the process transparent.

(Chris Sheppard and Tori Weinstock arrive – 13 voting members in attendance now)

5. Nominating Committee, Ray Grant: Ray reported that the Nominating Committee informed him that they are still working on the nomination slate but it will be posted soon. In addition, more than one name if available will be listed under each voting office unlike years passed.

6. HOD Nominations, Ray Grant: Ray nominated 10 at-large members to the HOD for voting rights.

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| a Rosemary Meissner | f Ken Galica |
| b Kathy Dacey | g Joanie Beisel |
| c Mariella Allard | h Brian Cameron |
| d Lisa Black Sholudko | i Paul Maker |
| e Staci Bowen | j Paul Memont |

Motion to accept the nominees made by Rick Osterberg and seconded by Priscilla Davis. *Motion passes 13-0*

7. Budget Presentation – Joe Frazier: Before presentation, Joe informed the board that the 990 form and others have been filed with the IRS. He also shared that the process of our budget included reviewing historical trends and budget modifications. He pointed out a few changes. Under Income, Joe reports that we have increased our expected income by \$72,000 from previous year because we not only expect more swimmers but also, because we have to increase fees by \$2 per USA Swimming's vote at the National Convention in September 2013 that requires us to increase all swimmer fees by \$2 each year over the next 10 years. In addition, part of that income increase is from the Travel Surcharges approved by the BOD after the budget was finalized last year. Lastly, under Income, we decreased the Zone income because of new plans to decrease the team size heading to Zones. On the other side, under Expenses, we have an increase by 10% in

National Athlete Reimbursement, an increase by 20% in meet subsidies and lastly and an increase in Athlete Scholarships to allow the committee to give out one male and one female scholarship next year. Overall, we are expecting a Net increase of \$17,250 next year. Motion to accept the budget as presented made by Bob Menck and seconded by Rick Osterberg. *Motion passes 13-0.*

7. **Zone Meet Plans - Mary Ellen Tynan:** The Zone Committee reviewed our LSC results over the last few years. Historically, the 13-14 boys and the 15-18 swimmers generally do not show well at this meet. With some changes, they believe they can get some of the better swimmers to commit to the summer zone team. Proposed changes are as follows.
- 13 & up swimmers need to have 4 cuts to attend the meet.
 - Any swimmer within 3% of a Winter Junior National Cut Time will be encouraged to continue training and attend zones. The Zone Committee will pay for that swimmer to attend. With the savings of not having a third bus as well as the hotel costs, the committee believes they can subsidize 17 swimmers without any additional cost.

Ray loves the idea and thinks it makes the meet more competitive but also asked the coaches at the meeting what their opinions were on the changes. Chris Sheppard believes the meet is currently bloated and doesn't support sending 150 swimmers to come in 6th place as the largest LSC in the East, so he believes changes are necessary. Carl Cederquist supports zones and is still digesting the info but thinks the changes could work. Joe Bernal believes it is better to put a quality group of kids into the meet. It also maybe a motivator for kids who are within 3% of a Junior cut. Dan Warner thinks it is a great idea and that they have taken a dead meet and made it into something pretty good for NES swimmers. Ray asked the three athletes in attendance as well. Chris Downing likes the idea and thinks it reinstates the prestige of going. Tori Weinstock believes the 15-18's in Virginia have an advantage because they don't have to travel and this will allow us to be more competitive. Ali Lie thinks the idea is interesting and can work. Ray informed the BOD that the Zone Committee does not need a vote to make the changes but appreciates their willingness to talk to the board for feedback before initiating fundamental changes. Lastly, Mary Ellen asked what the status was on March Zones. Ray informed her that as long as the meet format remains the same, with no standards, then our LSC would not attend.

8. **Eastern Zone Meeting Plan, Ray Grant:** Ray reported that the meeting is taking place in May in Fort Lauderdale again this year even though many repeatedly ask for a more central location. USA Swimming has set some new rules and dictated some new procedures after the September convention. One rule being that no Sectional Meet can be held within 2 weeks prior to Junior Nationals to be fair to all swimmers by allowing them to be successful at Sectionals and have time to rest before Junior Nationals. The Eastern Zone decided that they would NOT conform to these changes and will continue to hold the Sectional Meet within the two-week period. USA swimming said that is fine but you will not use our money to do it. Therefore, our zone is not getting any subsidies from USA swimming to hold the meet. Ray reported that he will be meeting with two other General Chairs at the Zone meeting and will keep the board informed.

9. Committee Reports:

- Seniors: Joe reported that they are finishing up the Senior Format soon and it looks good. Thank you to Brown University for holding the meet. Ray thanked the Senior Committee for getting their standards done on time. Joe expects the format should be available within the next 10 days.
- Age Group Chair: Jamie is attending YMCA Nationals. Chris Sheppard could only report that the time standards for 13-14's that he and Matt are responsible for are still being worked on.
- Calendar Committee: Matt Craven not in attendance. Ray reported that he reached out to Matt regarding the quad plan and has not heard back yet.
- Officials: Paul Memont reported that on our websites there will be a two-tier listing of referee's who have done meets. He also wanted to note that we are fortunate in our LSC to have our officials because in Ithaca, he experienced some of the worst officiating he has seen with no live results, decisions being made very late for a championship meet.
- Coaches: Chris Sheppard reported briefly because Christie Batchelor has the detailed notes and is home sick. However, he did report that 13-18 Age Group Championships went off well and swimmers were able to show off in the new 15-18 format. He also spoke to many coaches at 13-18's and the main message he heard was "make a decision and stick with it." Regarding the summer format due to restrictions at YNS, the plan is that trials/finals will occur only on Saturday and Sunday for 200's or less. Distance events will occur on Thursday and Friday evening and Monday evening if needed.

Tentatively, in Dover, the 11-14 year olds are scheduled to be 4 days of Trials/Finals Wednesday-Saturday and the 10 & unders will have 3 days of timed finals. They have also added an IMX High Point Award. He is thankful for YNS and SSA for stepping up otherwise there would be no championship meets this summer. Also, thank you to NES for paying to have lights in Dover.

- f. Inclusion: Nadine Jesionek reported that they are still working on the Black Heritage Meet, Water Safety Day and the Equipment Drive. She will be speaking with Athlete Reps after the meeting.
- g. Athletes: Tori Weinstock reported they are currently emailing the athletes about attending HOD.
- h. Safe Sport: Mariella Allard not in attendance.
- i. Safety: Priscilla Davis reported that she is still working on the “Don’t Pee in Our Pool” campaign and has more posters if anyone is interested.
- j. Scholarship: Mary Riddell reported that she is very excited about being able to give two out this year – one male and one female. She also is looking for a couple of people to help formalize the process and requirements for the scholarship. Ray thinks we should appoint a committee because it is difficult for those who know the swimmers well.
- k. Office: Carol Healey reported we are at 8,277 athletes (300+ for summer), 591 Coaches and 479 officials. Also, Frank Bush has been secured for the Swimposium for October 4-6th as well as Sue Anderson for the parent clinic. As of now, she is in need of a pool for that day and is also going to be choosing an Olympian. Some of them have prices that are out of our budget but Brooke Bennett and Kristy Kowal come as a duo and reports indicate they do a fabulous job. Chris Sheppard offered to ask Anthony Irvin if he was interested since CRA has had him before and report that he does a great job. Lastly, someone asked if we should have a pool task force to help teams who are building 50-meter pools. Ray reported that the BOD wouldn’t discuss items of that nature with a team before a pool is even in the ground.

10. Other Business:

Ray Grant: After this season, here are “Ray’s Rants” and he has asked Technical to look into the possibility of some rule changes.

- a. Time Standards: In today’s day, all times should be in SWIMS. We need to clean this up for a clear and true championship meet and stop taking paper times from recreation leagues. Swimmers are now afforded the opportunity to get times in SWIMS at some YMCA Meets, High School Sectionals and States. I don’t believe there is a need to take paper times anymore for championships. There were definitely instances over the championship meets that times were suspect.
- b. Coaches on Deck: Teams having for example 6 coaches for 8 swimmers is unnecessary to say the least. First of all, it puts an undue burden on the meet hosts running the meet since these meets are not the financial bonanza that most think it is. Secondly, many coaches had a great deal of difficulty getting near the pool edge to coach their swimmer due to the liberties some teams took.
- c. Swimmers on Deck: We need to eliminate swimmers from the pool deck who are clearly not swimming in the meet. Sunday night at 13-18’s, there were numerous announcements made to remove these swimmers and eliminate some pool deck congestion to no avail.
- d. Incomplete Relays: I believe we need to issue a rule about teams that put in a relay with just 3 kids and then just stop with no real 4th swimmer available. It happened not once, but twice at the 13-18 Championship Meet. Not only is it unfair to the teams competing on either side of them but also, the teams who’s seed was affected by a inaccurate relay entry.
- e. Changing Information after publishing: For example, changing to allow Senior Elite kids to swim on relays at Age Groups? Not every team was aware of the change and these instances have to stop. Chris Sheppard stated that with the rush to get the standards out, we need time to get more eyes on the documents before we publish them.
- f. Get Ahead: I have to bring it up again, but there is no reason to keep chasing our tails. We need to get ahead of the curve and the biggest problem is that the quad plan is not getting done.
- g. Host Teams: We need to review whether our stipends are appropriate or not. Swimming is a business whether you want to admit it or not. We have host teams that are constantly having more regulations and fees imposed on them without proper compensation that we are risking losing teams to host these large championship meets.
- h. Officials: Once again, we need to evaluate the extra officials outside training meets. This is hard to do but it may help alleviate some pool congestion.
- i. Admission Fees: Facility charges are going up yet, we can’t charge more than \$3.00 to be admitted to

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a meet. Brown just raised their rents in one year by 30%. We are limiting what teams can do and so we need to fix and address some issues sooner rather than later.

Joe Bernal: Just wanted to say that our NES kids had some great swims at NCAA championships.

Carl Cederquist: I just have three items. 1. I had a problem at 13-18's and I went to Bob and he resolved it quickly. Thank you. 2. What is the resolution to the elite athletes on the relays? 3. What is the action against those coaches using questionable times since it is against the code of conduct? Ray reported that we can not prove anything because the times are not in swims.

Ken Galica: Wanted to thank Ray for sitting down with the officials.

Paul Memont: We need something standardized, not just changes at will.

Lisa Black Sholudko: Thank you for the HOD nomination. Also, Special Olympics are looking for volunteers. Contact me if you or anyone you know is interested.

Closing: Motion to adjourn made by Priscilla, seconded by Bob Menck. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,
Judi Lombardi, Secretary
New England Swimming

* Minutes approved on June 10, 2014