



Minutes

Maryland Swimming Inc. Town Hall Meeting

July 2, 2020 at 7PM-8PM

Zoom Meeting

What: Town Hall Zoom Meeting with Maryland Swimming Board: *Communicating and sharing information*

Who: Board Members, Coaches, Athletes, Parents (Space is limited so be in the first 300 folks to sign in)

Welcome/Introductions: Anna Summerfield, General Chair of Maryland Swimming began the zoom meeting by recalling the Mission Statement and reading the Community Guidelines for Zoom meetings developed by the National Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. The Board members on the call were introduced (16 in total). There were 28 total participants in this inaugural Town Hall Meeting. Thanks go to Eagles Swim Team and Danny Russell for allowing us to use their expanded Zoom link; and, to Danny Russell and Nick Poulos for being on the call to admit participants to the meeting and manage the chat room.

USA Swimming Connection: Anna shared the following statistics:

- 350,000 swimmers in USA Swimming comprising 3,000 clubs
- 4 zones, Maryland Swimming is in Eastern zone
- Maryland Swimming (MDSI) is one of 59 and covers all areas of Maryland (except Prince Georges & Montgomery Counties; they are part of the Potomac Valley LSC.
- 43 teams in the MDSI LSC
- Board of Volunteers including an active Athlete Committee

General Chair Opening Comments: Anna gave an overview of current state of swimming in the LSC

- USA Swimming priority is health and safety of our members. We are looking to the CDC and local health organizations to lead the way for appropriate return to operations
- Return to practice with slow and safe return to competition
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Black Lives Matter – Committee is developing further initiatives and invites new members to accomplish the work
- House of Delegates – August 2, 2020 virtual with electronic voting; Governance process was explained by Anna and Wade Atkins, Vice General Chair and ad hoc Governance Chair
- Committees and volunteers are the back bone of progress in MDSI. The Board would like to see one name from each team submitted to the Governance Committee so equal participation in committees can occur across the LSC

USA Swimming Support Highlights: Anna presented the following information

- Upgraded USA Swimming website roll-out June 22nd
- Grants for clubs – 2 million dollars from Foundation. First round has been dispersed. Three Maryland clubs received grants.
- Second level will focus on Re-Opening Clubs in the new season. The applications are out and due back July 10, 2020

LSC Support Highlights



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- COVID Task Force headed by Chris Kaplan published and distributed two documents to Head Coaches using State, Local, and USA Swimming guidelines on 'How to reopen for outdoor pool practice' and 'What to do when you have a positive COVID test on your team'. Remember – COVID is not over – Wash your hands, Wear a face covering, Social distance
- Lobbying at local, state and national level has occurred so swimming can re-enter the water and hopefully stay open when we have to move indoors
- MDSI Finance Committee developed a COVID Grant program with criteria based on 'unrecoverable loss' resulting from COVID circumstances. The money was drawn from the reserves that MDSI keeps per USA Swimming recommendations, not from the operational budget. \$75,000 was appropriated by the Board for the Grants
- MDSI is upgrading its website, thanks to Satoshi Katsumoto, for launch after House of Delegates (HOD)
- CARES Act/PPP support – Several clubs applied for and received funds
- Coach forum support – Coach Representative; Coaches message Board

20 Minutes: Questions from the group

Several questions and points for discussion were presented by the group. The following is a synopsis:

- Maryland Swimming Finance Committee has heard of other ways that LSC's across the country distributed COVID support funds. The best practices have been shared with all General Chairs by USA Swimming. Maryland Swimming discussed the best practice for this LSC and chose 'unrecoverable losses as the primary criteria. For teams who were furloughed and not able to apply during the application period, \$5,000 was set aside so they could apply if they met the criteria; those folks need to contact Robert Fisher or Jamie Cahn.
- Athletes have been working hard during quarantine to keep athletes active and engaged with Instagram IM Challenge; Talent Show and Senior Spotlight. 81 seniors were spotlighted from various swim clubs. Athletes have been working with DEI committee to discuss history of swimming as it pertains to Black people, racial bias, and acceptance of all people to swimming. Decks in Maryland are amongst the most diverse but we can do better especially in the officials' ranks. Work is being done to promote inclusivity and equity as well
- Officials have been working with National Committee to establish process for Virtual Meets; Safety for all is the key
- Finance Committee is working on the upcoming year's budget. The fixed costs will remain, expenses will be evaluated based on amount of income (60% of revenue for MDSI comes from swim meets), and a flexible budget will be presented at HOD for adoption
- Splash fees for virtual meets are being discussed – but, it stands to reason that if there are no officials at a virtual meet there will be not fees. Virtual meet times will only count for LSC times not for any national times.
- Julia Milner and Nick Poulos will be staying on the Governance Committee as post-grads.
- Athletes are needed for the upcoming elections – Athletes meeting is July 26th from 1-2 pm (Zoom)

Closing remarks: Anna thanked everyone for attending and by show of thumbs up the majority of the attendees thought there should be more Town Hall Meetings.