

These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes

May 16, 2023 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

David Rodrigues, General Chair called the 05/16/23 Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:48 PM with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Christopher Arena, Dom Boccio, Jeff Chu, Lamar DeCasseres, Ethan Fergus, Dylan Gallub, Keith Green, Zac Hojnacki, Annette Mackrel, Jonah Montgomery, Phil Paspalas, David Rodriguez, Bob Vializ, John Yearwood

EXCUSED

Robert Frawley, Sandy Graham

GUESTS

Elaine Ang, Ken Graham, Monique Grayson

STAFF

Kimberly Wyer-Ferraris

Mr. Rodriguez opened the meeting by reading Metro’s Mission and Vision Statements.

MOTION: *Mr. Rodriguez motioned to approve the Agenda for the meeting. Seconded. APPROVED.*

The first agenda items were for Closed Session. Mr. Chu motioned to proceed.

MOTION: *Mr. Chu motioned to go into Closed Session. Seconded. APPROVED.*

Non Board Members were placed to stay in the Zoom Waiting Room.

CLOSED SESSION

To discuss a) Board Composition and b) Election Inquiry

After the Closed Session ended the guests from the waiting room were readmitted to the Zoom meeting.

Mr. Chu proceeded to give a brief presentation of Robert’s Rules as orientation for new and old board members.

General Chair Report

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his excitement to be our new GC, he is inspired to be continuing in Dom’s and Lamar’s footsteps. Areas in Metro that need focus post COVID are a shortage of swim officials,



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

support for meet hosts to help facilitate more meets in our LSC, and building up athlete membership again, especially in the 11-12 age group. He is looking forward to helping the LSC grow and wants to encourage building strong committees.

Admin Vice Chair

Mr DeCasseres has submitted his registration, he will continue until a successor has been elected or appointed. He has worked on the Post Meet Report Template and is getting it ready for his successor.

Finance Chair

Finances are positive, Mr. Arena is looking forward to a more accurate budget in September. Quickbook issues are being fixed together with the office.

Coaches Rep

Nothing to report. Mr. Yearwood stated that coaches complain about session length.

Athlete Rep

Mr. Gallub, the newly elected Junior Athlete Rep was welcomed to the Board.

Secretaries

Website continues to be updated. Mr. Chu encouraged the coaches to submit news and material for the website.

Senior Chair

Mr. Hojnacki shared that the Senior Mets meet information is being finalized and will be published shortly..

Age Group Chairs

Mr. Green and Mr. Fergus are putting their committee together, looking forward to getting input and working on improving AG Championships.

Safe-Sport

Mr. Paspalas and Ms. Graham are working on encouraging and assisting teams to get Safe-Sport certified.

Technical Planning

Mr. Montgomery stated that Age Group Chair, Senior Chair and Technical Planning are all in agreement that future changes should be made to championship events and meet schedules. Moving forward no more changes will be made on already bid and approved events. He had two



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

recommendations that had been discussed and approved at the Technical Planning Committee meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Montgomery motioned to approve the softer LCM Age Group Championship cuts from 2022 for this summer. **Seconded. APPROVED**

He added that the Senior Committee additionally wanted to add the 200 Medley Relay to Senior Mets. Mr. Hojnacki then presented an omnibus motion for Senior Mets that had been discussed and approved in the Senior Committee and Technical Committee.

MOTION:

P1: To add the 200 Medley Relay for M&W to Friday PM, at the start of the session prior to the first individual events, utilizing the 400 Medley relay standards.

P2: To remove the relay NS penalty and move to a positive check-in for all relays.

P3: To resume standard practice of top 16 relays swimming in finals, with the exception of the 400 Free Relay on Sunday, for which teams will be permitted to indicate for their relays to compete in the AM or PM.

Seconded. APPROVED

DEI

In regards to the splash fee reimbursement program, Mr. DeCasseres explained that we had a cap of \$50 per swimmer reimbursement per year. We now have more money and less outreach swimmers. One club requested to be reimbursed more for splashes this year. If there is money allocated for it in the budget we should use it and adjust the budget accordingly next year. Several Metro swimmers were chosen for various regional and national camps. Traditionally Metro reimbursed travel to regional and select camps because USA Swimming does not.

Operational Risk Chair

Mr Vializ wants to compile information related to insurance programs USA Swimming currently offers like workers comp and such for the next HOD meeting.

Office

Ms Ferraris said things are going smoothly, meet recons are much better, less mergers of IDs. USA Swimming is working on a bulk renewal option for clubs to renew registrations in the fall. They are also working on an ACH option to avoid credit card fees.

New Business

- Eastern Zone budget, short course Zone going back into becoming LSC meet.
- P&P language around single age for championships.
- Time standard for 200 Free Relay for Senior Mets.



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Hojnacki motioned to continue with the current practice of having the 400 Freestyle relay as a time standard for the 200 Freestyle relay for the 2023 Summer Senior Mets. **Seconded.**

APPROVED

Ms. Mackrel interjected that is not customary since athletes have individual 50 Free times.

Mr. Montgomery circled back to the proposed Zone meet changes. Eastern Zones is trying to put together an exploratory committee. It is unclear how Metro should plan and budget for this moving forward. 2023 seems too soon to budget for anything. Need more clarifications from the Eastern Zones Board.

New Business

Vacancy Appointments

MOTION: To appoint Kate Hallex as Admin Vice Chair. **Seconded. APPROVED**

MOTION: To appoint Eddie Oyola as DEI Chair. **Seconded. APPROVED**

Mr DeCassares will stay on until his successors have been confirmed.

Committee Chair Appointments

MOTION: To reappoint John Mclhlagry as Hall of Fame Chair. **Seconded. APPROVED**

Mr. Mclhlagry declined the appointment via message to Mr. Vializ later during the meeting, which was followed by the

MOTION: to table the Hall of Fame Chair appointment. **Seconded. APPROVED**

MOTION: To appoint Bob Vializ as Meet Host Chair. **Seconded. APPROVED**

Mr. Yearwood initiated discussion to potentially create 2 meet host committees/chairs to better service the meet hosts in the different geographical areas of the LSC. Mr. Vializ explained it was not necessary.

MOTION: To reappoint Elaine Ang and Ken Graham as Officials Chairs. **Seconded. APPROVED**

MOTION: To reappoint Jeff Chu and George Fleckenstein as Open Water Chairs. **Seconded. APPROVED**

Strategic Planning: Mr. Boccio described the job of the Strategic Planning Committee. To look at the next 4-8 years and project where our LSC wants to be, in terms of age group swimming, senior



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

swimming, club development, officials, etc and map out a plan. Likewise with our finances, our investment and savings, and with our leadership and staff. Goal setting for the LSC. Mr. Graham suggested creating a committee first, representing a cross representation of all the different functional areas of the LSC, and have the committee appoint its chair then.

MOTION: *To table the appointment of Strategic Planning Chair. Seconded. APPROVED*

Mr. Chu pointed out that Mr. Graham’s suggestion would require either a Bylaw or a P&P amendment in order to make the Strategic Planning Committee an elected or appointed regular committee, and then have the members select their own chair.

Mr. Rodriguez moved on to the **USA Swimming House of Delegates Appointments**, 1 non-coach non-athlete member and 3 non-athlete coach members need to be selected by July 15th. The suggestion for best practice by Mr. Boccio was to collect recommendations and then have the Board decide. The appointments are important positions as the appointees will represent the LSC on the national stage, and will have voting capacities.

MOTION: *Mr. Arena and Mr Hojnacki motioned to table the USA Swimming House of Delegates appointments to have more time to consider best possible candidates. Seconded. APPROVED*

Athlete-at-Large Appointment. Mr. Chu specified that the at-large athlete appointments from the last term ended with the spring HOD meeting. Based on our number of non-athlete members presently, at least 1 athlete needs to be appointed in order to maintain the 20% athlete that is required.

Mr. DeCassares recommended Jamila Smith from the NuFinmen.

MOTION: *Mr. Montgomery motioned to appoint Jamila Smith as Athlete-at-Large. Seconded. APPROVED*

Late Meet Bid Approvals

Mr Rodriguez explained that at the HOD it was voted to streamline the late bid/sanction approval process. There are now 2 options for late requests. Option 1, the expedited option for very short term requests, will go to the Technical Planning Chair, the Meet Host Chair and an Athlete Rep for approval. Option 2, if more time is available, the late bid will be approved at an upcoming Board meeting. Before a decision is made, the secretaries reach out to other teams hosting in the same time frame as the late bid. The input will be used to make an informed decision.

2023/2024 SCY - late bids

RFAC at Marist College, Oct 21-22, 2023. LIAC hosts the same weekend, no objections.

MOTION: *To accept the RFAC late bid for that weekend. Seconded. APPROVED*



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

QNS at Queens College, Oct 28-29, 2023 and

NCAC 1st Sprint Meet at Mark Twain Pool, Oct 29, 2023.

Other meets hosts that weekend are MWDA at Valley Central and HAA at Hauppauge HS. No objections from either host

MOTION: *To accept the QNS and NCAC late meet bids for that weekend. Seconded. APPROVED*

QNS at Queens College, Nov 24-26, 2023

NCAC Sprint Meet at Mark Twain Pool, Nov 26, 2023

Other meet hosts that weekend are LIE at Hofstra and NDAC at Bard College. No response from LIE, no objections from NDAC.

MOTION: *To accept the QNS and NCAC late meet bids for that weekend. Seconded. APPROVED*

NCAC Sprint meet at Mark Twain, Dec 10, 2023. Other meet host that weekend is HAA at Hauppauge HS. No objection.

MOTION: *To accept the NCAC late bid for that weekend. Seconded. APPROVED*

RFAC at Marist College, Dec 15, 2023 and

QNS at Queens College, Dec 15-17, 2023.

Other meet hosts that weekend are EAST at Purchase, FREE at Brooklyn Sports Club, TRI at Lehman, NDAC at Valley Central, SSC at NCAC.

East - no response, FREE - no objections, TRI - no response, NDAC - no objections.

SSC - especially the QNS meet in the Metro Central location could cause issues with the SSC meet as they expect to be losing swimmers to TRI and FREE meets already. It is also the same weekend some Metro teams will attend competition in Lancaster, PA. With 5 meets already scheduled, 2 more meets will put a strain on officials' availability.

Since one bid was contested Mr. Chu made a motion to approve the RFAC bid first

MOTION: *To accept the late bid for RFAC for that weekend. Seconded. APPROVED*

MOTION: *Mr. Chu motioned to accept the QNS late bid for that weekend. Seconded. APPROVED*

Approval was unanimous.

After the vote a discussion ensued. Mr. Yearwood inquired about the point of asking the other host teams for their input if the Board was voting on the bids and approved them all. Mr. Chu replied it was to ensure that the Board listened to the potentially affected teams. In the past the Board had approved meets without contacting any of the other team hosts for input.



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Mr. Vializ pointed out that for a long time it took just one team to object for a late bid to be automatically rejected but several years ago the Board superseded the objections of teams and did not even ask for their opinion anymore. Late bids were not rejected.

Mr. Hojnacki added that in his experience in the past the decision was made unilaterally by Technical Planning or by Technical Planning and the office; it was never brought to the Board specifically. He thinks the new process is better. Two objections were brought up before the last vote, there was no discussion, but this would have been the opportunity to object if anyone felt this approval was not appropriate. Mr. Hojnacki shared that it is difficult to get into meets at Metro. It is Metro's objective and responsibility to provide as many opportunities as possible for the athletes.

Further discussion ensued about the input of other host teams and how that input should be evaluated, weighing the benefit of the athletes against the impact to the meet hosts. It was also noted that if these late bids would have been submitted on time they would have been accepted; there is no process in place to reduce too many meets on the same weekend. Hosts may drop out or move their meets before the calendar is approved.

Mr Boccio pointed out that the Board had been working on improving transparency. Instead of having the office collect all the bids, put them into an Excel file, and mail it to the involved meet directors only to review in a certain time frame, bids were now posted in real time on the website, allowing meet directors to make informed decisions in real time, too.

Discussion was closed as there was no motion on the table to vote on.

MOTION: Mr. Fergus motioned to amend the last motion. Seconded.

Mr Fergus inquired who objected and what the objections were. Mr. Chu read the objections sent in from SSC.

Mr. Graham interjected that RFAC submitted their bids late because of the 4 officials requirement. He only has 2 officials on this team, bringing up the question if teams submitting late for such a reason should be penalized at all.

Mr. Arena inquired if a Motion that had passed could be amended at this point. Mr. Chu explained a Motion that had passed can be amended if there is a super majority.

Mr. Fergus pulled his amendment. Mr. Hojnacki pointed out that this new process allowed for teams to give their opinion but it did not mean that a bid was automatically rejected because of it. It allowed the Board to make an informed decision. In the future the Board should make sure to have the discussion before the vote so that members could be heard at the appropriate time.

Mr. Boccio added that Metro Central was an area that was extremely impacted by COVID. A number of teams were lost and there are less facilities available. Many of the athletes rely on public



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

transportation to get to pools/meets. Having more meets in Central helps Metro be more inclusive in one of the most diverse areas of the US.

NCAC Sprint meet at Mark Twain, January 28, 2024

Other meet hosts that weekend are PAC at Felix Festa, HAWK-AD at Valley Central and HAA at Hauppauge HS. PAC - no response, HAWKS - no written response(no objections from MD at meeting), HAA - no objections.

MOTION: To accept the NCAC late bid for that weekend. Seconded. **APPROVED**

Brief discussion about meet criteria. Market forces rule, Metro does not impose criteria.

NCAC sprint meet at Mark Twain Pool, Feb 18, 2024.

No other meets except for Senior Mets that weekend, so any other meet has to be 2 steps down. NCAC can only run the meet with a max of Bronze standards

MOTION: To accept the NCAC late bid for that weekend. Seconded. **APPROVED with the provision that the meet can only host swimmers with Bronze standards and slower because it has to be 2 steps down from Senior Mets.**

Bronze, open meet bids were tabled for the next HOD meeting.

LCM late bid

LC- QNS meet in July 8, 2023 at Lehman

Other meet hosts that weekend,HAA, SSC,TVSC -Open Water, LIE at Hofstra, Condors at Felix Festa, LIAC at NCAC, NCAC at Lehman (on the 9th)

HAA, TVSC - no objections, LIE - no response, Condors - no objections, NCAC - hoped it will not impact his meet the next day, LIAC - concerned that there are already enough opportunities that weekend.

MOTION: To accept the QNS late bid for July 8th. Seconded. **APPROVED**

The consensus was that the LCM meets are always in demand, all of the meets are Invitational meets, athletes from Queens have hardship getting to the other meet venues.

Board Orientation

In the past we sent the Board Orientation Manual to new board members. It was written by the past Board, non authoritative and includes no effective policy. It will be looked at by the Governance Committee, please send in any corrections or notes to the Secretaries or Governance Committee.



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Instagram Account and Board Meeting Schedule

Tabled for the next meeting.

Senior Mets

Evaluators from Colorado are coming in. Will require higher expense for the farther travel. No budget issue seen.

MOTION: To invite the evaluators from Colorado. Seconded. **APPROVED**

MOTION: Mr. Rodriguez motioned to go into Closed Session. Seconded. **APPROVED**

CLOSED SESSION

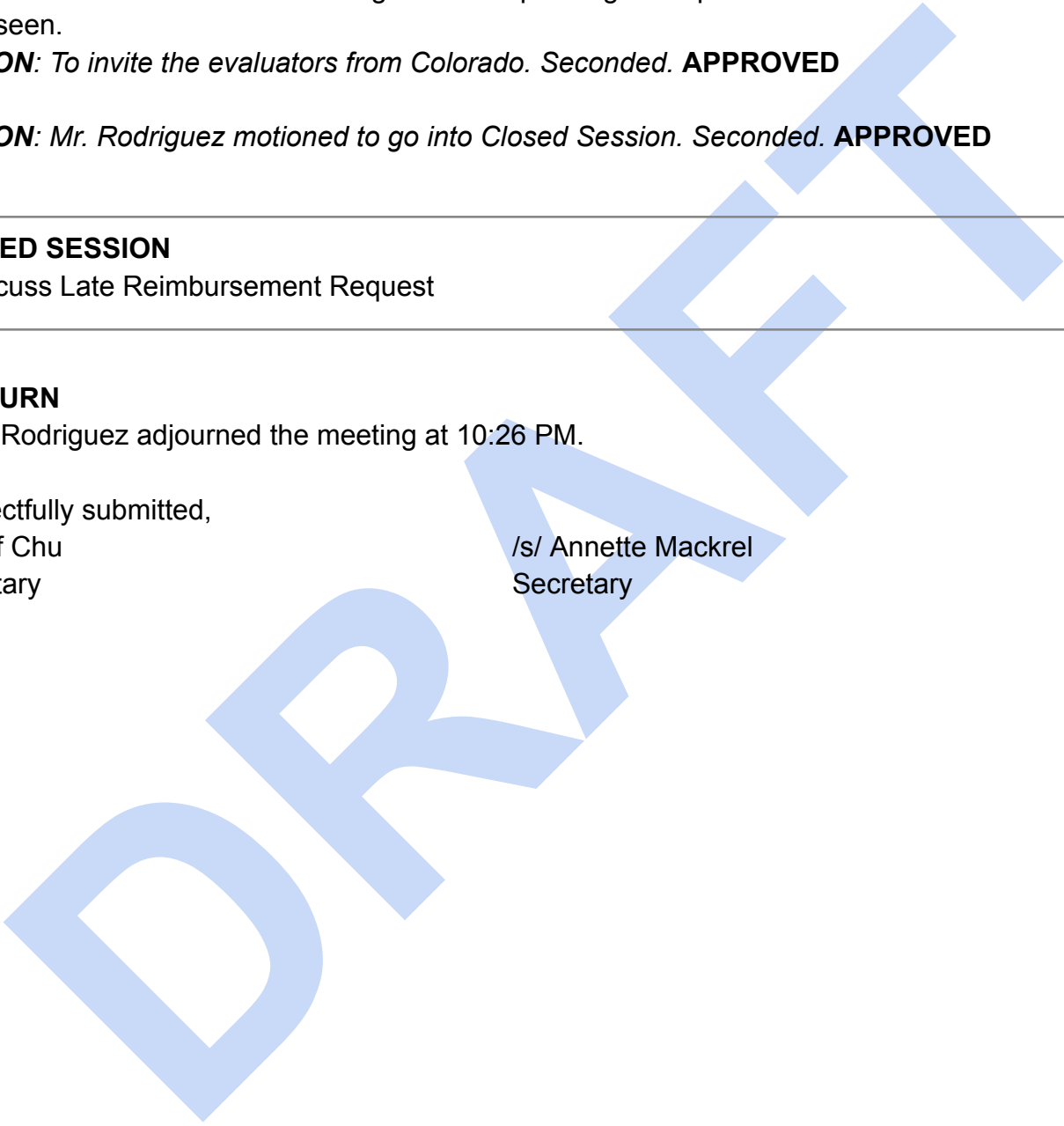
To discuss Late Reimbursement Request

ADJOURN

David Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 10:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jeff Chu
Secretary

/s/ Annette Mackrel
Secretary



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes Attachments
May 16, 2023 / Virtual

Attachment 1

Agenda: May 16, 2023

DRAFT





Metropolitan Swimming Inc.
4949 Express Dr North
Suite 205B
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

o 631-585-1346
f 888-813-8334
metroswimming.org

Annette Mackrel and Jeff Chu

annette.mackrel@metroswimming.org
jeff.chu@metroswimming.org

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
May 16, 2023
Held via Zoom

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Closed Session
 - a. Board Composition
 - b. Election Inquiry
4. Introduction to Robert's Rules
5. Reports of Officers
 - a. General Chair
 - b. Administrative Vice Chair
 - c. Finance Vice-Chair
 - d. Coaches Representative
 - e. Athlete Representatives
 - f. Secretaries
 - g. Senior Chair
 - h. Age Group Chair
 - i. Safe Sport Coordinators
 - j. Operational Risk Chair
 - k. Technical Planning
 - l. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Chair
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
 - a. Vacancy Appointments
 - i. Administrative Vice Chair
 - ii. DDEI
 - b. Committee Chair Appointments
 - i. Hall of Fame
 - ii. Meet Host
 - iii. Officials
 - iv. Open Water
 - v. Strategic Planning
 - c. USA Swimming House of Delegates Appointments



Metropolitan Swimming Inc.
4949 Express Dr North
Suite 205B
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

o 631-585-1346
f 888-813-8334
metroswimming.org

Annette Mackrel and Jeff Chu

annette.mackrel@metroswimming.org
jeff.chu@metroswimming.org

- i. One non-coach, non-athlete member from each LSC as selected by each respective LSC's Board of Directors
 - ii. Three non-athlete coach members from each LSC as selected by each respective LSC's Board of Directors
 - d. At-Large Athlete(s) Appointment
 - e. Late Meet Approvals
 - i. QNS LC
 - ii. SC meets
 - f. Board Orientation
 - g. Age Group Championship
 - h. Instagram Account
 - i. Board meeting schedule
 - j. Senior Mets Officials Evaluators
8. Closed Session
 - a. Late Reimbursement Request
9. Adjournment