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Metropolitan Swimming

9/2/2025 Finance Committee Minutes

Attendees: Christopher Arena (Finance Vice Chair), Dom Boccio (Admin Vice Chair), Will Rankin (Junior Athlete Rep), Dave Ferris, Frank Seldin, Allen Wone

FY 2024-2025 Performance

The committee started out with a discussion of FY 24-25 performance (which is also attached), which yet again was a year in which Metro earned a large surplus income, well over budget as costs continue to remain lower vs previous years, and expectations met or passed from fees earned from athlete signups, meets, and more. It was noted by Finance Vice Chair that the books are still being closed / finalized for the year, and as a result the presented financials have some misclassifications to be corrected, namely large buckets for Uncategorized Costs and Income on the P&L that will be corrected so that things make it to the proper line items on P&L (in particular salary items and zone fees collected items)

The committee is pleased at what Metro has been able to achieve over the last few years and the fortunate financials position we are in where we have been able to cut expenses where appropriate, increase programming in areas, as well as reduce fees for clubs.

FY 25-26 New Budget

The Committee walked through each line item of the new budget proposed by the Finance Vice Chair. The budget discussed and agreed to is largely in line with FY 24-25 performance across the board. It is notable that the committee is budgeting in an expectation for receiving income from Sr Mets admissions fees in this budget, allowing the Board to use discretion on whether to continue that policy from Summer Sr Mets where admissions were not charged when the time comes.

While most line items are largely in line with previous year's performance and basic expectations for next year, the main point of discussion for the Committee was around further reduction of Metros' post-meet fees. Given that Metro has continued with multiple years of high cash surpluses, the Committee believes it is appropriate to yet again reduce the post-meet fee further from the 2.5% decrease from last year that was voted on by HOD as the largest driver in shooting for a more flat / balanced budget.

The Committee discussed whether to reduce fees to 12.5% or 10% in an effort to target a balanced \$0 budget. Discussed was that if fees are reduced to 10%, there would be less wiggle room for additional discretionary spending or any line item allocation for "To be determined LSC programming" as was included in the budget a year prior, which was useful for the Board to make inter-year decisions on things that were not explicitly budgeted for. At 12.5%, it leaves some additional wiggle room for discretion in targeting a balanced budget.

The possibility of "refunding" teams additional funds if Metro overperforms again next year was also discussed, in an effort to de facto target a lower fee, but given the LSC wiggle room depending on how the year comes out.

It was ultimately agreed to by the Committee to recommend a 12.5% post-meet fee (5% reduction vs last year, 7.5% vs 2 years ago), leave a ~\$20k discretionary spending allocation in the Budget draft, and to ask the Board to consider a mechanism for potentially rebating teams post-meet fees in the event Metro largely surpass budget expectations next year yet again. The Committee is happy to work on such a proposal.

Summary of Motions related to the budget discussion:

Allen Wone presented a motion to amend P&P 302.3 to increase the allotted pool for Distance Meet stipends from \$6000 to \$8000. The motion was passed, and the Finance Committee Recommends to the Board their recommendation to the HOD.

Finance Vice Chair motioned to amend P&P 104.9 and 304.2 to reduce the Metro surcharge on entry fees from 17.5% to 12.5%. The motion was passes, and the Finance Committee recommends to the Board for their recommendation to the HOD.

Finance Vice Chair motioned to approve and recommend to the Board the FY 25-26 budget draft as amended by the Finance Committee over the course of our meeting. The motion was passed, and the Finance Committee Recommends the FY 25-26 Budget Draft attached to the Board for their recommendation to the HOD.

Other Business

The Finance Vice Chair shared with the committee the proposed Engagement Letter from Metro's existing accounting firm Grassi for services in FY-25-26. The proposed engagement is of the same scope as recent years, with a ~4.5% increase in fees vs last year. Finance Vice Chair remains pleased with their services and continuity with Metro, and the Committee agreed this price increased seemed market.

Finance Vice Chair motioned to approve the proposed Engagement Letter for services in FY 25-26 from Grassi for continued accounting work. Motion was passed, and Finance Committee recommends approval of the EL by the BOD.

The Committee discussed if there have been any updates on getting out of Metro's current annuity contracts which was approved by the Committee and Board previously. Finance Vice Chair reported it has been a difficult process but is being worked on. The Committee agreed to reconvene in the coming months to discuss any updates and contemplate if using outside counsel would be helpful if escalation is needed. Finance Vice Chair will continue efforts and report back in ~60-90 days.

Admin Vice Chair asked the Committee to opine on possible courses of action for teams what do not pay their post-meet fees on time as a mechanism for handling these events is lacking. Committee agreed that while this is an issue, it may better be suited for BOD / Governance, and no proposals were voted on.