

# METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CRISIS MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

ZOOM Board Meeting – 7:00pm

**Board Members:** Eric Fisher, Mary Fleckenstein, John Alaimo, Kate Hallex, Dom Boccio, Allen Wone, Stanley Wong, Dylan Cellamare, John McIlhargy, Jim Wargo, Thomas Cho, Mark Owens, Brian Hansbury, David Ellinghaus, BJ Reynoso, Monique Grayson, John Yearwood.

**Absent:** Robert Frawley

**Agenda:** To discuss the Covid-19 Pandemic and its continued repercussions on swimmers and Metropolitan Swimming Clubs.

**Call to order:** The Zoom meeting came to order at 7:08pm. All above members were in attendance: 13 adults and 4 athletes.

**Motion:** A motion to accept the minutes of April 2, 2020 was made, seconded and approved by all.  
**Motion carries.**

**Discussions:** Eric, Dom and Mary have had briefing meetings with USA Swimming. LSC's are trying to find ways to help their clubs financially (grants, stipends, etc.). They gave information about the Paycheck Protection program (check it on the Metro website).

USAS is working on a 45-days' timeframe for a gradual reopening program. They are supposed to let us know what will happen with May sanctions. There should be money coming from USA-Swimming. Once we get more information, we will post it on the website.

House of Delegates – As per New York State law, membership meetings and votes cannot be held virtually. The May meeting has therefore been postponed. If the meeting can't be rescheduled in a reasonable amount of time, the HOD meeting will be held in conjunction with the September HOD meeting. As per the By-Laws, BOD members whose offices are up for election will continue in their positions until such time an election can be held. All other business of the HOD will be handled by the BOD until such time a full membership meeting is held.

Eastern Zone Spring Meeting – Will be held virtually Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 2020. *Saturday:* General Chairs Meeting and Technical Planning Meeting. *Sunday:* Budget & Finance Meeting followed by General Meeting.

Welcome Thomas Cho (COND) – our newly elected Junior Athletes' Rep. This was Thomas' first BOD meeting!

Status of Finances – Allen Wone filed for Payroll Protection. Form was to be filled out manually (non-profit organization). The BOD has investigated GAP Insurance for clubs to be

able to do online training dryland for their swimmers. This is the most important issue at this time, and we must hold off on any other financial commitment until this is done. A motion was made to reach out for insurance and hopefully get a quote under \$40,000 would be agreeable. Motion was seconded and approved by all in attendance. **Motion carries.**

There are some delinquent teams (surcharges that are outstanding from some meets). Collection was suspended while we are on Crisis Mode. Mary reached out to David Ellinghaus as it is Bid time for the short course season 2020-21. Mary will send an email to all clubs with information on the bidding process. Clubs would have the ability to change, add and cancel meets with no penalties. Bids would be accepted without processing payment. Another issue about sanction fees – clubs whose meets were canceled because of the crisis will be refunded their sanction fees once we know the scope of cancelations.

Question – are board members still connecting with teams? It was suggested to contact them again once the GAP insurance is agreed upon – phone calls and/or emails to clubs' contacts. This is one of the reason why it is so important to have the correct information for all teams' contacts.

Athletes' Survey – The athletes Reps posted a survey on the Metro Website. As of April 11<sup>th</sup>, they had received 523 responses from 47 of 85 teams. All teams have stayed in contact with their athletes through email at minimum; most athletes were last in the water mid-March; most value short course season more than long course season; most are staying active through one or a mixture of running, cycling, weights, and calisthenics. 66 % are interested in racing short course during the summer 2020 season (21% maybe and 13% no).

Discussions followed on short course meets this summer, and even the possibility to have a SCY JO's makeup – but we must still wait and see what kind of meets we can hosts and how many athletes would be allowed to participate and what percentage of pools 'occupancy would be due to social distancing. No matter what, there will be no sanctions given for the month of May. USA-S recommends no championship meets but low level meets with only a few teams to provide an opportunity for the swimmers to be back in the water, to still race and be with their teammates again.

Age Group - situation with Zones has changed rapidly – some LSC's will not attend if the meet still exists this summer, or not travel as a team to the meet. Kate also gave a follow-up on bids for vendors for Metro apparel. Only one bid as of this meeting. Kate hopes to have updates by the next meeting.

Flex Membership – the USA Swimming Board of Directors approved some amendments to the Flex membership, effective September 1, 2020 for the 2021 membership year.

**Next BOD Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7:00pm**

**A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried at 8:10pm**

Submitted by Monique Grayson  
April 17, 2020