

# **Devilfish PAC Minutes**

## **March 4, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Meg Myers, Chris Ouellette, Keri Giordano, Maureen Sahm, Debi Kapuscinski, Susannah Lucas, Adrienne Manahan, Catherine Matera, Allison Levitt, Ann Marie Peterson and Bryan Peterson

- **February 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
  - Approved via email
- **New/Old Business (Lucas)**
  - Policy for financial assistance requests will be dealt with later in the spring.
  - Greta's Run: May 19, 2024.
  - The 13/14 girls volunteered at the Food Bank of New Jersey. They did a really great job. We were limited on the number of swimmers who could volunteer because only 20 people can help per session.
- **Coaches Update (Myers)**
  - 12U States went really well. All the stats are listed in Fred's email but some highlights are 64% of the swims were best times and 82% of the swimmers had a least one best time at the meet.
  - The 8U Pentathlon went really well. We had only 3 DQs at the meet.
  - Spring Registration went out last week. Registrations are starting to roll in. Spring schedule is very similar to fall schedule. We rearranged practice groups a bit. We did not get any more hours in Cranford. We possibility could get more hours in Cranford in the Fall.
  - 13 Over States. We are sending the largest team since pre-Covid. We have 31 swimming this year and sent 25 last year. A lot of kids with multiple events. There is a huge time jump for 13 Over states. This should be a really good meet.
  - Jeff Knight made noodles for practice. They are PVC pipes covered in a pool noodle with duct tape. The high school team will also use these. We will definitely use these this spring.
  - Would like to buy Tempo Trainers. These help match stroke rate to tempo. They are a really great tool to help swimmers. Can set to any tempo you want. Amazon has them for \$52 each. Swim Outlet sells them for \$55 each. Hoping to get at least 10 for the spring. Cannot use in races but can use in warm down pool. Some kids have their own.
  - Meg has a Zoom call with a company called Triton Wear. These are like a Garmin for swimming. They track tempo and heartrate with info sent to coaches' Ipads in real time. Meg is going to also get feedback from other coaches on this. There is a membership fee for the service. Does the team pay for it or do parents pay for it? Meg will report back.
  - Gold Information finally went out on Friday, March 1. The coaches carefully looked at schedule. It is a 4-day meet which gives kids three days between Golds and States. This is too quick of a turn around. For younger kids, schedule is set up so they would need to miss school. We will not be going to Golds.

- Email coaches if you cannot make Spring Tryouts and they will do their best to accommodate. We have had the biggest response ever to survey gauging current swimmers' interest in Spring Season. There may not be as much room as there has been in past for new swimmers trying out. There will be room on the pre-team but not on the Angelfish.
- Judy and Meg brainstorming where to keep bags. Looking into possibly getting deck box.
- **Treasurer's Report (Ouellette)**
  - Financial update
  - Swim a Ton info not yet reflected in financials. DFC brought in more than budgeted. Balance will probably go up.
  - Purchase of 30 tempo trainers was approved.
  - We are in very good financial standing.
  - Assistance needed to verify a few items in the budget report. Chris will follow up with PAC members on specific budget questions.
- **Secretary's Report (Levitt)**
  - It was agreed that the new agenda process is working well and it helps streamline our meetings.
  - Thank you for submitting agenda items/air time requests on time.
- **Standing Committee Reports**
  - Fundraising (Crall)
    - I am working with Chris and Susannah to come up with a structure for National Team Fundraising and will present when finalized.
    - The main item is to vote on how much to give to our National Team for Short Course Nationals. Last year we gave a per swimmer amount which totaled to \$2,250. We do not have a record of having given anything for Long Course Nationals but would like to give to both events going forward.
    - I have suggested that the number be determined each year based on the financial strength of the PAC.
    - For this Short Course Nationals, I would like to propose \$2000 or \$2500 and a similar amount for Long Course Nationals. This should be a decision by the whole PAC with input from Chris.
    - An equal amount of PAC funding should be given to Short and Long Course nationals. The amount approved was \$2000 for both Short and Long Course Nationals for a total of \$4000.
    - We have never exceeded 10 swimmers for either National Team. If either National Team exceeds 10 swimmers, we will revisit the amount the PAC donates. Long Island gives coaches a good idea of who may make Nationals.
    - National qualifiers (and senior swimmers in general) should be more involved with helping out on team. The money will be given to the National Team as a whole and not given as a per swimmer amount. In the future, volunteer hours may count towards how much money each swimmer receives but Meg is concerned that this structure is unfair to kids who don't qualify early on in the season. While there are many benefits of older kids helping with the team and community in general, we need a broader plan on how to foster volunteerism and service hours amongst the entire team. This will help foster the volunteerism we want to encourage for the team as a whole.

- We can explore a National Boosters sub chair under the Fundraising Committee Chair. We need to revisit volunteer hours.
- Officials (Tao)
  - WY Swim Officials Coverage in Feb/March: Sufficient number of WY swim officials volunteered at Y Silvers, and Y 12 and Under States. WY only had one available 8 and under swim parent official for SAY 8 and under Pentathlon. Thus far we have two WY swim officials signed up to officiate for Y 13 and over States.
  - Y Silvers Dinner
    - 72 paid and attending at \$25 each. (Alcohol and drinks were via the server on a cash bar basis.) We had capacity for Coaches to attend at no charge as the room had a capacity for at least 80. (Room was set up for 80 but could have fit at least 90.)
    - Total cost was \$1601.41, including tax and gratuity and \$200 room reservation charge.
    - \$198 will be donated to the WY Devilfish PAC as no attendee requested the \$2.75.
    - 5 trays of chicken parm; 4 trays of penne vodka; 4 trays of cheese raviolis; 2 salad trays; and 8 trays of chocolate chip cookies (25 per tray). All food was nut and seafood free.
    - Food was more than ample (but we did run out of cookies) and we had enough to feed at least 80 people.
    - Many other swim teams were envious that we had secured a private room at that restaurant (walking distance to the Courtyard Marriott) for our team dinner. I recommend we make early arrangements to reserve and hold our 2025 Y Silvers dinner at the same place and in the same room. The restaurant staff was excellent. The manager is Juliana Clemens and I verbally told her we would love to hold our event there again next year, same weekend. (Juliana Clemens, Manager, Landmark Americana- Glassboro, 856-863-6600.)
  - Y Silvers 12 and Under Escape Rooms
    - 21 swimmers participated (2 chaperone adults who accompanied the 9-10 year olds in their 2 rooms; 11-12 year olds were in 1 room).
    - The all in cost came out to \$34.60 per person including the group discount we received, which was spot on against the \$35 per player we collected.
    - Feedback from WY parents was that we hold our 12 and under Y Silvers team building event at the same location next year, because of the convenience of the location. There are enough Escape Rooms that kids won't do the same room next year. (Unfortunately, we are unable to do a team building event for the 13 and overs because of the timing of their swim session on the Y Silvers Saturday.)
- Social (Goodman (Sahm))
  - We're on track for the End of the Year party. I ordered some balloon stick centerpieces from Temu to try out for the party. If they are cute, I may try that for the banquet centerpieces which would save money.
  - I worked out the check issues with Greg and Meg. 54 families are scheduled to attend so far.
- Travel (Matera)

- For 13 & Over States, we have booked the block of 20 rooms plus two more. We have 61 people attending the team dinner Saturday night. All state swimmers except a few will be attending. Approximate cost for dinner is \$2260.
  - I will start booking hotels for next year in April/May. If anyone has hotel suggestions/recommendations they'd like me to look into, please let me know before or at the April PAC mtg. We will revisit 12U states hotel.
- Meet Coordinator (Manahan)
  - No updates.
- Parent Meetings (B. Peterson)
  - I am talking with someone regarding the Nutrition Workshop and hope to have a preliminary outline this coming week. It will be set up as a webinar so no need to deal with a room. Book something for April/May time frame. Presenter is a registered dietician associated with Weiss Supermarkets. The presenter is out until March 12. She can tailor it to athletes. First workshop in May.
  - Regarding the Parent/Swimmer support workshop, I am waiting on the details from Coach Fred so that can be scheduled. Once season winds down, Bryan will follow up.
  - College Prep Workshop: I want to discuss with Coach Meg. I will have a separate sit-down meeting once the season ends. Work to create a check list for what you need to do as you prep to swim in college. The college corner page on Devilfish PAC provides good framework. Smaller details to help swimmers and parents learn about process. Put together a do's and don'ts of what to do if you want to swim in college. Would be a good Zoom workshop. Ask contacts in college world to do a Zoom. Meg coached with the FDU coach and swam for Adam at Lemoyne College.
- Timing System (Kapusinski)
  - The cost for the Gen7 legacy Colorado system is \$6,300 but that does not include any user interface so we would also need to purchase a laptop. This is the most extreme case though and the CST6 that we have is generally working well enough. But, with the printer issues we have had, it does seem time for a new laptop that is dedicated to the booth.
  - There was no request to purchase the new timing system at this time so PAC approvals are not necessary. The pricing was provided for the purposes of future planning only.
  - Would like to discuss options of moving Meet Manager to the booth-dedicated laptop or if necessary, purchasing a separate Meet Manager account for the booth.
  - Meg needs a new laptop.
  - When we have exhausted CSTC 6, we should be prepared to buy Gen 7.
  - Just In Time does training.
- Publicity (A. Peterson)
  - Thanks to parents who've been sending me photos.
  - Will need photos from upcoming championship meets.
  - Working on:
    - 12 & Under YMCA State Championship write-up
  - Recently approved & sent-out

- Swim-A-Ton
  - Bronze
  - 8 & Under
  - Silver
- Apparel (Bregman (Young))
  - No updates
- Community Liasion (Giordano)
  - Unofficial social events:
    - 8&U - March 15- Bounce house party at the Y
    - 11-12- March 8 - Laser Tag
    - Perhaps next year we can give age group parents some free dates to choose from?
  - Arete summer swim camp will be held June 23-27. There are approximately 45 Devilfish swimmers registered.
- **Next Meeting: April 15, 2024**