

Virginia Swimming Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021
7:00 pm
ZOOM Conference

MINUTES

Call to Order

Bryan Wallin

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from October 25, 2020

Emily Fagan

- **The minutes were approved.**

Treasurer's Report

Bob Rustin

- Treasurer's Report is attached.
- Revenues are coming in strong. Expenses will pick up now that we are into championship season.
- In February, Bob moved \$20,000 (\$10,000 per fund) into the endowment fund. There has been a \$4000 return on the investment. BAC account totaled \$125 for the year.
- Rebates will be a shortfall through February. Revenue for SC was down for meet rebates because the meet sizes were small.
- For meets through January, we have received \$14,000 from PVS and Maryland Swimming. DC and MD are not holding meets so PVS is looking to VA to hold meets. Tim Husson has asked about considering a different fee structure for out of LSC athletes.
- **The motion to approve the Treasurer's report passed.**

General Chair's Report

Bryan Wallin

John presented the report for Bryan.

- USA Swimming Board of Directors and Committees – Athlete Representation. In response to the passage of the Empowering Olympic, Paralympic and Amateur Athlete Act (EOPPA), USA Swimming will hold a special HOD meeting on June 30 to vote on proposed bylaws changes needed to comply with the new regulations. Delegates to the convention in 2020 should have received an email to attend the meeting. Key highlights:
 - The number of athletes must be one third of the USA Swimming Board of Directors and committees.
 - The athletes must be 10+ year athletes and competed at an international level for USA Swimming.
 - It is not clear how it will affect LSCs. No LSC bylaws changes are necessary for 2021.
- Steve said we need to be prepared for it to trickle down to the LSC Board and committees.

Administrative Vice Chair's Report

John Stanley

See report in New Business

Senior Vice Chair's Report

Steve Hennessy

Report Attached. There were many observations expressed by committee about Senior Champs.

- Differences in the starting apparatus at the two facilities.
- Rotation of warmups with three warm up periods.
- Clubs who experienced meets in Richmond this year were aware of the COVID restrictions. Teams who had not been to the facilities were less aware and communication could have been better to not the avoid confusion.

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- Discussion of Order of Events on deck was done way in advance prior to Senior Champs was a frustration with the number of questions.
- The committee was unanimous in their appreciation of the efforts of Mary and Emily for their work to make the Age Group and Senior Championship meets.
- The Senior Committee also appreciated the officiating staff at Senior Champs and to Dan Demers for leading the team.

There was considerable discussion about coaches unaware of the details/changes to the meet.

- It was suggested that the Senior Committee with the Age Group Committee, partner with the Coaches Committee on educating coaches on the importance of engagement in the LSC and where to find things on the website.
- Mike suggested that the Coach, Senior and Age Group committee meet combine efforts to help get the word out. Senior and Age Group champs had a lot of changes. He also noted we are in unique times with the pandemic. He suggests starting the discussion at the Coaches Committee level.
- Most coaches do not read the meet announcement until it is time to do entries.
- Drew proposed that we examine larger boundary LSCs about keeping information flowing. With smaller meets, the coach interaction has been lost. Athletes were best served by being flexible and changing the meets once the numbers were realized.
- John suggested a Zoom presentation for the Senior and Age Group announcements are released. The board does not come up with the meets. The Age Group and Senior committee come up with the Championship meets.
- Mike asked if the district meets could have been better. There were facility limitations were a huge factor with the SE District meet. Weather was also a factor with the 9-12 District Champs. The Senior Committee focused most of their attention on Senior Champs leaving the 13 & O Districts to the hosts and Age Groups. For the summer meets, we need to determine what is wanted out to the meets.
- Much was a done for the betterment of the athlete but in some cases it fell short. The meets will not be perfect or make everyone happy.
- For LC season, there are three Summer Awards, Senior Champs and Age Group Champs meets that are hosted by great hosts. The board is happy to facilitate communication between committees and meet hosts.

Age Group Vice Chair's Report – Drew Hirth

- Drew felt like the meet at both sites was the best that could be offered. The athletes were inside and it felt like a real meet.
- Drew noted that we can be proud of what we have been able to provide for our athletes and the hard work of everyone involved.

Finance Vice Chair Report – Bill Geiszler

The budget will be put together in the next month. Budget items for consideration that not included in previous budgets or changes should be sent to Bob, Bill or Dave.

Bill has started to examine the finances to see if there is money to offer more grants this year. He will review with the committee to project where we are financially and determine if we can afford to give grants.

Safe Sport Vice Chair Report – Maureen Tolliver

- As of February, VSI is 8th nationwide in percentage of teams who have achieved Safe Sport recognition. There are 12 additional teams still to achieve Safe Sport recognition. Maureen anticipates that all 12 will complete their Safe Sport Certification.

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- Trainings are posted on the website.
- VSI Logo has to be changed to remove the USA Swimming shield from our logo. New digital files are forthcoming. Anything already with the logo can still be used. **The motion to approve the updated logo passed.**

Governance Committee Report

There is an election coming up. The committee is charged with soliciting nominees for the next board. HOD will be virtual. The committee has to be announced 20 days prior to HOD. Nominations are done with a volunteer interest form.

Athlete Committee Report

- Scholarships were awarded to Blake Johnson (ODAC) and Tim Higgins (SRVA) at Senior Champs.

Coach Committee Report - Mike Salpeter and Morgan Cordle (Submitted)

- Coaches are reflecting about how they could have done more with the committee to squelch some of the issues that arose with the two meets.
- Was there a consideration of an AG and Senior Champs East and West combined meet?
- Regular season LC meets need to consider granting access smaller teams.
- There was discussion about consideration for spectators at meets. The Virginia Forward guidelines must be followed.

Executive Director's Report

- Our current registration numbers are:
 - 6500 athletes (flex, premium and outreach).
 - The outreach numbers are a little higher this year. There is a higher number of flex this year as well as flex upgrades.
 - We are down 7.2% compared to where we were this time last year.
 - Anyone who joined after June 1 will be valid through December 31, 2021.
 - 907 non athletes (955 last year)
 - 39 clubs (46 last year) – some clubs joined together or became satellites.
- Overall, our numbers are good relative to USA Swimming being down 30% across the country. Many LSCs are half of what they were in previous years. VSI is fortunate to have been able to have meets and in person championship meets.
- A club has requested a waiver for a \$278 service fee because the check was mailed and not received. There is evidence of a stop payment on the check. **The motion to waive the service fee was approved.**
- A club had to have their athletes unattached. The club is more than 60 days in arrears for the registration of their athletes. The club is not a coach owned club. The issue will be turned over to the Admin Review Committee. The coach indicated that there are two athletes on the team who chose not to register for 2021, but their registrations were included in their registration file. The organization will not pay for all of their athletes while there are two outstanding registration payments at the club. Every month without paying, there is another service fee added one.

Old Business - none

New Business

1. Proposal to continue VSI's Procedure 45 – Fees and Surcharges through LC

- a. We currently have a suspension of fees for failure to get sanctions in 60 days prior to the start of the meet. The board is requested to approve an extension of the suspension of the policy

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and the changing the re-sanctioning fee to the end of LC season (August 31, 2021). **The board approved the extension of suspension of the policy and waive the change fee to August 31, 2021.**

2. Discussion of fees received from PVS for Athlete Endowment

- There is a \$2.50 endowment charge per athlete participating in a meet held within the boundaries of the LSC. PVS does not like that the athletes are being treated differently than VSI athletes who are charged 20 cents per splash. PVS believes they are paying double than what they would be paying if the fee were the same as it is for VSI athletes. John will send the information received from PVS. This will be old business for the April meeting. Bob pointed out VSI would wait a full year to re-evaluate. **There was a motion to extend the out of LSC fee of \$2.50 for another year. The motion was approved.**

3. Governance Committee status – no report

- ## 4. Request to re-evaluate our policy on meets during Championship weeks.
- This item will be tabled with a proposal for the April meeting. Send John any thoughts about the policy change. Chad will assist with the evaluation of the policy. HOD will have to act on a change. The Senior committee also has a position on the issue. Mary will also be involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Next Scheduled Meetings

BOD: April 24, 2021

HOD: April 25, 2021

Other meetings:

BOD: June 6, 2021

BOD: August 29, 2021

BOD: September 18, 2021

HOD: September 19, 2021

Meeting attendees: Bill Geiszler, John Stanley, Drew Hirth, Bob Rustin, Maureen Tolliver, Mike Salpeter, Morgan Cordle, Chad Onken, Emily Fagan, Mary Turner, Steve Hennessy, Dave Henderson, Logan Euker