

Board Meeting  
February 20, 2024  
7:15-8:15

In attendance: David Leonard, Russ Whitaker, Matt Leach, Kirstin Frichette, Jacob Hogg, Priscilla Schmidt, Roseanne August, and Darcell Myers (apologies to nonboard members in attendance)

Absent: Hongyen Chen, Jennifer Ellsworth, Heather Sandberg, and Dave Jones

Minutes prepared by DJL and Zoom AI; additional detail and subsequent information added since meeting to ensure communication, transparency, and most up to date information.

The meeting was initiated by David, who sought approval for the meeting minutes.

**Spring Meets, ASCA, Swimathon, and Budget Adjustments**

Russell reported that entries for the spring meets would be due and that the team had the largest group in its history. He mentioned upcoming meets including sectionals in Federal way and age group regionals the following weekend. He also shared that Sam had been placed on the American Swimming Coaches Association's Women's Coaches Advisory Group. Furthermore, he discussed the upcoming meet bids due at the end of March, the schedule for next year, and the budget adjustments made by the board. David then presented a proposal for a swim-a-thon in May, which required for all registered athletes to participate in and raise a minimum of \$200.

**Proposal, Concerns, Rebate Program, Fundraising, Budget Uncertainty**

Russell proposed adopting David's amended swim-a-thon proposal as an alternative to their current handbook. The proposal would be 200 per athlete; all would be required to participate; any amount under 200 would be billed June 1

Marcos expressed concerns about the commitment level and financial implications of the proposal.

David clarified that these were separate issues and the next item on the agenda was to develop a rebate program.

Priscilla raised concerns about a perceived \$400 fee associated with the club's activities.

David reassured the group that significant cuts had already been made and any additional savings would be returned to families through a rebate program.

Jacob and Darcell discussed their experiences with mandatory fundraising in club sports. Jacob mentioned his involvement in various clubs, including baseball, soccer, basketball, and swimming, where fundraising was a common requirement. He also mentioned the advantage

they had during Covid when they didn't have to fundraise. However, he acknowledged that fundraising might be necessary to cover the costs of running a nonprofit.

Collette agreed with these points and mentioned her experience with mandatory fundraising in soccer and swimming.

### **Swimming Club Finances and Volunteer Hours**

There was a discussion about the financial situation of the swimming club, with Collette expressing concerns about the volunteer hour requirements and the budget.

Matt acknowledged the challenges and emphasized the need for forward planning. He highlighted the importance of providing opportunities for all swimmers and the need for fundraising.

Darcell, Russell, and Matt discussed the financial situation and compared their budget to other clubs. Russell suggested adopting the budget model of Tri City Channel cats, relying on dues, family registration fees, and meet earnings. He also proposed making fundraising optional and mandating volunteer hours.

A motion was proposed by Russell to accept a rebate program suggested by David, which was seconded by Matt and approved by all present.

### **Board Meeting and Swimming Competition Updates**

David planned to share documents with the board and requested clarifications, particularly about swim-a-thon and rebate eligibility. He agreed to distribute the materials after the swimming championships.

Russ suggested postponing the March board meeting due to upcoming commitments and proposed a parent meeting on March 11th to present swimming competition information.

David agreed to this and planned to send an email to the board to confirm this date. The discussion about pausing policies was deferred to the April meeting.

### **Registration Reimbursement and Safe Sport Regulations**

David requested board members to send him their registration receipts for reimbursement or credit. He emphasized that the club should cover such expenses and asked for understanding on this matter. There was also a discussion about the necessity of USA Swimming registration for all board members, coaches, and officials. Russell clarified that this requirement is part of the new safe sport regulations and is crucial for maintaining insurance coverage.

### **Deadlines, Sponsors, Upcoming Meetings**

Kirsten informed the team about the deadline for shirt orders for the athletes and coaches. She emphasized the urgency of the order, needing it by 9 PM the next day.

David highlighted the importance of acknowledging their sponsors on their web page and in their newsletter.

The team was reminded about the upcoming March meeting and the work to be done to prepare the necessary documents.

Matt expressed his gratitude to the board for their hard work and efforts in registering for meets.

Board members need to send their receipts for registration reimbursement to David or Darcell.