

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 2, 2014, 7:30 pm Teleconference

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Rick Lewis call the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

Present: Katie Cunningham, Ed Doernberger, Randy Erlenbach, Todd Gordon, David Heller, Brooke Hendee, Henk Jansen, Ellen Johnston, Sue Lecza, Rick Lewis, Jim Robison, Madeline Snow, and Kaeley Steinnagel.

Also Present: Nan Cooper

Not Present: Lauren Bullock, Chuck Clark, Rica Generosa, Ed Heath, Garrett Mazziotti, Dave Reilly, John Scaldini, Mark Sedlak, Judy Snow, and Nancy Wargo.

Agenda: Approved.

Announcements: Jim Sheehan, USA Swimming President, has been invited to speak at the May 2015 House of Delegates meeting. Jim has conditionally accepted. Maddie Snow was named to the USA Swimming Club Development Committee. Other CSI members serving on USA Swimming committees are: Ellen Johnston, Governance Committee; and Ty Seymour, Athlete Executive Committee and National Board of Review. Nancy Wargo will serve as an Eastern Zone sectional meet Meet Referee this spring.

Adoption of Minutes: The September 27, 2014 minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal to Reduce Meet Host Surcharge: Currently CSI collects surcharge on visiting teams' individual event entry fees including scratched events and time trials. The short course meet surcharge is 25%. The long course meet surcharge is 15%. No surcharge is collected on distance meets, relays, or home team event entries.

Motion made to approve the reduction in meet sanction fees for host teams as proposed from Technical Planning: Proposal to reduce the Short Course (SC) meet surcharge from 25% to 20% and the Long Course (LC) meet surcharge from 15% to 10% and eliminate the surcharge for 8/Under and 9/Under meets starting with the Short Course season 2014. Motion seconded. Discussion.

Kaeley Steinnagel, Program Development (PD) Chair, stated the proposal passed PD unanimously. PD feels CSI reserves are strong and that meet hosts benefit the community therefore should be rewarded. Furthermore, the reduction may encourage more clubs to host meets and/or not cancel meets.

Ellen Johnston asked Treasurer Sue Lecza for her input. Sue supports the reduction. CSI's reserves are strong.

Todd Gordon views the proposal as inequitable; the number of host clubs is small and the number of families that have paid entry fees to host clubs is large. The proposal doesn't benefit all clubs and families. Todd would like to see a proposal to spend down reserves that benefits the larger community. Because the proposal benefits host clubs only, Todd cannot support it.

Randy Erlenbach pointed out that the cost to run a meet continues to increase. Wilton Wahoos are paying more in increased costs than the 5% reduction.

Henk Jansen stated he has worked for clubs that need the money to pay coaches and at PSDY the money provides travel assistance for athletes. No one is making a lot of money.

Rick Lewis observes that entry fees are continuing to climb with some hosts charging \$9-10 per event. He suggests a system where surcharge is reduced if entry fees are reduced. Kaeley agrees and will ask PD Committee to explore this.

Kaeley Steinnagel does not want the proposal tabled again. Todd questions why the proposal hasn't changed and would have expected revisions since it has been tabled at previous meetings. He points out that suggestions have been put forth and the proposal has not changed.

Randy Erlenbach reiterates that costs have gone up due to increased facility requirements such as parking and facility monitors.

Ellen Johnston puts forth a friendly motion to make the proposed reduction in surcharge effective January 1, 2015. No action taken.

Jim Robison sees the increase in reserves as a budget issue. CSI has budgeted conservatively. He is in support of the proposal.

Ellen Johnston reminds the Board that in the past CSI ran a deficit and collected an athlete surcharges per meet entered. The surcharge was eliminated after the finances were strong. There is some concern that CSI could run a deficit again.

Question called and voice vote taken: Voting yes: Jim Robison, Randy Erlenbach, Henk Jansen, Kaeley Steinnagel, Sue Lecza, Ellen Johnston, Katie Cunningham, Brooke Hendee. Voting no: Rick Lewis, Todd Gordon, Ed Doernberger. Abstain: David Heller. Motion passes.

Meeting Schedule: 2 Board of Directors meetings were added to the schedule (attached). Ellen Johnston, Finance Chair, will forward a February date for the annual budget meeting.

FAST Online Entries for Clubs: Nan Cooper reviewed the proposal (attached) to enhance FAST Online Entries for club and hosts to use for regularly scheduled meets. This optional tool would be available if a club wishes to use it. Clubs were surveyed and 8 clubs responded. 4 clubs would use the option; 4 would not use it. Developer cost is approximately \$1000. Motion made, seconded and passes.

NEW BUSINESS

CSI Travel Assistance: Senior Committee proposes to provide athlete travel assistance for the USA Swimming 6 Grand Prix meets and Legends meet commencing with the 2014-2015 Short Course season. The request in increased funds is \$9,000. Seconded and motion passes. Randy Erlenbach will provide an updated list of travel assistance dollar amounts by meet.

Registration Coordinator Position: It was agreed the Judy Snow, Registration Coordinator, will be given an emeritus title honoring her 30+ years of volunteer service to CSI. The Nominating Committee will seek Registration Coordinator nominations.

Website Redesign and Integration with Third-Party Vendors: Nan Cooper presented quotes from 2 companies (attached) and is awaiting a 3rd quote. The purpose of the redesign is to modernize the existing website, create a custom ecommerce page, and integrate with third-party service merchants so users move seamlessly from FAST submittals to payment site and back to ctswim.org. The redesign will include website customization for mobile devices and incorporate the current SQL database (FAST). Motion made to approve a one-time expenditure to update the website up to \$39,000 to be spent choosing the best vendor for the required functionality and design. Seconded and motion passes.

Nominating Committee: At the request of General Chair Rick Lewis, David Heller agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Volunteering to serve are Kaeley Steinnagel and Todd Gordon. Omar Cruz will be invited as well as athlete(s) and other non-board members. The request was made to have the Nominating Committee in place by the next Board meeting.

House of Delegates Planning: The House of Delegates annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Jim Sheehan, USA Swimming President has conditionally agreed to speak. It was decided to hold the meeting at Hamden Hall Natatorium. Nan will make the room reservation. It was requested to hold a House of Delegates meeting in the fall. This will be added to the next Board meeting agenda.

CSI Financials: CSI Financials ending August 31, 2014 were reviewed. These will go to the independent auditor. FY ending 8/31/14 closed with a \$53,000 profit. CSI Financial Sept 1 through Nov 30, 2014 were reviewed and approved. Expenses/income are in line with previous year. Motion made, seconded, passed.

Report of Officers

General Chair: No report

Administrative Vice-Chair: Todd Gordon received 2 surveys from USA Swimming regarding coach satisfaction. USA Swimming seeks LSC Administrative Chair input. He will forward to the Board. He has reviewed CSI best practices and internal controls and feels CSI is on par with other LSCs.

Treasurer: No report.

Finance Vice-Chair: No report.

Senior Committee: No report.

Program Development Vice-Chair: Will meet in January to establish criteria for Eastern Zone Diversity camp; look into another location for the 12/U portion of SC Age Group Championship, and review the meet host obligation to attend the House of Delegates meeting.

Program Operations Vice-Chair: Jim Robison is collecting comments regarding an additional site for the SC Age Group Championship 12/U portion.

Technical Planning Committee Chair: Henk Jansen reports his committee has been tasked with considering a second Age Group Championship site, travel assistance for college athletes, and revitalizing the camps program.

Athlete Reps: Maddie Snow reports that USA Swimming Safe Sport has sent out a survey to athletes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Submitted by Nan Cooper