

Draft
CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
MINUTES
May 20, 2014

General Chairman Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at the Beckerman Athletic Center at 225 Skiff St. Hamden, CT at 7:30 p.m.

Present Board Members: Rick Lewis, Susan Lecza, Todd Gordon, Lauren Bullock, Dave Reilly, Randy Erlenbach, Henk Jansen, Nancy Wargo, Jim Robison, Kaeley Steinnagel, Matt Hurst, Katie Cunningham, Josh Furth, Garrett Mazziotti, Maddie Snow, David Heller, and Ed Doernberger.

Absent Board Members: Jeffrey Gray, Jeff Scobee, Ed Heath, Mark Sedlak, Coral McNary, Judy Snow, Chris Hug

Clubs Present: AJSC, ARAC, BEAR, CAC, CAT, CCAT, CCSU, CDOG, CPAC, GLAS, GRYM, HHAC, HMST, LEHY, MJCC, NCY, NMEG, OAK, OMNI, PACK, PSDY, RAC, SHKS, SMST, SNCO, SYS, TAC, VSYM, WAC, WHAT, WRAT, WWRX, WYW, ZEUS

Also Present: Ginger McCurdy, Brooke Hendee, Rica Generosa, Ty Seymour

Approval of the Agenda: A motion to accept the Agenda as written was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2013 House of Delegates Meeting was unanimously approved.

Welcome/Announcements/General Chairman's Report:

General Chair Rick Lewis welcomed all in attendance to the Spring 2014 House of Delegates Meeting. In addition, Mr. Lewis thanked Hamden Hall for use of facilities for meeting. Statements were made that besides issues using the Wesleyan facility for competitions, Connecticut swimmers are swimming faster and everything else is running smoothly. Finally, Mr. Lewis announced that the 2015 SC Eastern Zone Age Group swim meet will be held in Webster, New York, just outside of Rochester.

Reports of Officers

Administrative Vice Chair – Jeff Gray - No Report.

Treasurer – Susan Lecza

The Treasurer was pleased to report that the CSI audit was successfully completed and that CSI remains in a strong financial position. The budget year ends in August and most registration occurs in the fall. As a result, numbers will fluctuate. Overall, compared to last year, CSI is a little behind. However, this is normal.

Finance Vice Chair – Todd Gordon

The Finance Vice Chair reserved most remarks for the budget presentation. Overall, compared to other LSCs across the country, CSI is in the top 3 and ahead of other LSCs. The audit showed reporting is accurate and CSI has good control of finance. Gordon announced that CSI is increasing funding for national swim meets and coach budgets. Gordon was also pleased to report that CT Swimming is one of the most successful LSC's in the entire country.

Age Group Committee – Dave Reilly

Reilly discussed regional championships maintenance and the committee would address the Wesleyan situation later in meeting. See Handout. Henk Jansen requested that the Age Group Committee re-evaluate Eastern Zone Championships based upon cost and athlete safety issues. The request was taken under advisement.

Senior Committee – Randy Erlenbach

See Handout.

Technical Planning Committee – Henk Jansen

Jansen reported most technical planning proposals were rejected this year or tabled. However, it was an eventful year for the committee. Jansen reviewed proposal for Senior Circuit SC/LC 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons to promote Senior swimming in CT. "Grand Prix" style scoring to be accrued for all Sr. Circuit meets with high point awards at banquet. See Handout.

Program Development – Jeff Scobee

No Report. See Handout.

Safety Committee – Ed Heath

No Report.

Officials – Nancy Wargo

Wargo reported the biggest change was annualized officials including 100 officials. The committee is continuing to hold clinics across the state. See report and handout. See Report.

Program Operations – Jim Robison

Robison reported bidding opened on Friday for 2014/2015 SC meets. Equipment is available to rent for meets including extension cable, \$25.

Coach Representatives –Matt Hurst

The coach representatives reported the 2013 Coaches Clinic had 60 registered, while 100 are registered this year. Speedo attended one day. They will do it again and encourage attendance.

Athlete Representatives – Katie Cunningham, Josh Furth, Garrett Mazziotti, Coral McNary, and Maddie Snow

The representatives reported they are using social media to reach out to athletes – Facebook has 273 members. They are also using Twitter. Rica Generosa and Brooke Hendee are new athlete representatives. They also reported the T-shirt contest at Age Groups had 50 submissions and they will repeat the contest next year. The representatives appointed athletes on various committees and stated there are issues with attendance at meetings by athletes. They asked that the committees please contact Athlete Reps with info regarding issues to correct the matter and benefit all.

Registration/Membership – Judy Snow

Snow reported registration has increased and had nothing further to report.

Reports of Committees and Coordinators

Presentation and Approval of the Annual Budget for 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 Budget was presented and explained to all attendees. The 2014-2015 Budget was unanimously approved. The handout was reviewed and a verbal summary provided key assumptions. A comparison between years showed a good prior year with increased registration. This budget reduced the registration expectation/projections. Items of contingency for Zones and use of Wesleyan were referenced. On the expense side, coach education, travel, and officials travel as well as athletes were increased travel to national meets.

Other areas of operation were discussed including the timing equipment for rental. The expense was covered in last year's budget and CSI should expect income that hasn't been included in budget. Overall, it is a reasonably conservative budget. Both Age Group and Senior Championship meets were successful. This year has produced the most income in CSI history which is beneficial to the organization as well as the athletes. However, the LSC can't depend on those numbers in the future and they were not included in projections.

It was recommended CSI pursue areas to benefit the community and undertake a capital plan that will access where/how to deploy funds to the swimming community including the possibility of building a facility (donated land, corporate sponsors, etc)

Finally, a surplus not expected next year. No questions were raised and a motion was made to approve the budget. It received unanimous approval.

Elections

David Heller, Nominating Committee Chairman reported the following nominations for election to the CSI Board of Directors: General Chair: Rick Lewis (SHKS), Administrative Vice Chair: Todd Gordon (RAC), Program Development Vice Chair: Kaeley Steinnagel (LEHY), Finance Vice Chair: Ellen Johnston (WRAT), Senior Committee Chair: Randy Erlenbach (WYW), Secretary: Lauren Bullock (CPAC), Coach at Large: Jamie Barone (CPAC), Board of Review: Christina Guertin (WHAT), Omar Cruz (ZEUS), Jeff Gray (SHKS), Mike Smalec (CDOG).

Upon Review of Nominees, Chuck Clark (SMST) was nominated for Coach at Large from the floor.

The Slate of Officers, except Coach at Large, was unanimously elected by voice acclamation following a second by Ellen Johnston. Candidates for Coach at Large were given the opportunity to speak and Jamie Barone withdrew his candidacy. Chuck Clark was unanimously voted Coach at Large

Special thanks was given to the members of the 2013 Nominating Committee: David Heller, Todd Gordon, Bob Shearer and Kaeley Steinnagel.

New Business

CSI Bylaw Revisions (See Handout)

Rick Lewis requested any corrections to the proposed By Laws changes. Motion was made to approve and second by Kevin Stone. Todd Gordon asked if changes were flow downs from USA Swimming – Safe Sport and if those which were not from USA Swimming could be identified. Ellen Johnston raised a question regarding the change in Athletes from a percentage of members to a flat number. Ty Seymour explained the new athlete position is a way to distinguish who is Athlete vs. Jr. Athlete with out restrictions. The question was raised about how the positions will be distinguished. Todd Gordon noted the language is ambiguous and will need to be looked at in the future. Additionally, a question was raised whether all athletes are being represented or if there should be younger reps. Rick Lewis stated the other areas will need to be addressed in the coming year. Finally, the number of reps and board members from one team must be limited and the athletes should not all come from one team. All agreed limitations need to be put in place. The CSI By-Law revisions were unanimously approved.

Zone Meeting – Rick Lewis (See Handout)

Rick Lewis reported on the Eastern Zone Meeting including mandates from USA Swimming. A budget is now required. The Eastern Zone is the largest zone with over 82,000 athletes. Dues are discontinued. Various information about other clubs size, numbers, funding, need for private investigators, lawyers, diversity, and funds for travel expenses took place. The total 2014/2015 Eastern Zone budget is \$20k. Meet funding will be added in future years. Bids went to Ithaca, Star, and Fairport for 2015 Spring Sectionals and AG Zones. Lewis reported USA swimming insurance company moving on shore to Washington, DC from Barbados. Additionally, education is being offered on line and camps were discussed. The SC Jr. Nationals meet will split in the future and Legends meets will be added for those who don't meet the Jr. Nationals standards. The country will be broken in to 3 zones and Legend meets will be 2 1/2 slower than Jr. Nats. The development of national meets for younger swimmers is being investigated. All national committee appointments going to 2 year term rather than 4. Hall of Fame for Eastern Zone possibly in Lancaster, PA. The Safe Sport Chair, and Secretary and Treasurer, will be voted on at the convention. Ty Seymour will hopefully be elected in Sept. The meeting must move to Eastern Zone – Virginia in the future.

Wesleyan – Rick Lewis

Wesleyan had issues with the number of people in the facility at Senior and Age Groups Championships. A discussion took place with Dave Reilly and CSI received letter regarding the various issues including not blocking fire exits (clubs had rows of chairs blocking, chairs in bleachers, etc.) Use of personal furniture at Wesleyan is now forbidden. CSI can only use what's supplied by Wesleyan. The fire marshall established maximum occupancy for the facility - 256 on pool deck, 287 in stands. 600 were people at seniors. Those involved are concerned about safety. CSI will deal with the situation this summer and talk with Wesleyan. Assoc. Athletic Director called to say some changes will be allowed. Jeff Gray, explained to Wesleyan how it's done at Fordham University and they can't hold meets with those numbers – NESCAC meets. CSI swimmers and families are Wesleyan guests and fire lanes should not be blocked. Safety first. The CSI meet marshalls will have to enforce or possibly hire a Wesleyan officer to enforce changes.

Randy Erlenbach discussed the use of a tent in the back area for swimmers when they are not competing.

Rick Lewis commented on Wesleyan rental rates going up the 1st of July. Tent is okay and we should look into that.

Dave Reilly summarized that everything is uncertain. Facilities and athletics are talking. The information submitted for AG Championships is changing including the number of swimmers and the meet announcement will not be released until last minute in hopes positive changes will be made. The meet announcement will not be available for 3-4 weeks.

Randy Erlenbach discussed changes to Senior Championships including the limits being raised, no folding chairs, and marshal or hired personnel to enforce restrictions. Currently, 256 will be allowed on deck = 170 swimmers. At Prelims, no swimmers will be allowed on deck when they're not swimming. Stadium seating in ice rink will be available (won't be cold?). Somebody will be assigned to count numbers. Finals sessions are still in question due to the number of swimmers at approximately 220 swimmers. Most teams will be able to sit on deck and Wilton will sit out under tent if needed. Seating for spectators will be limited by the use of lanyard, bracelet, etc. Passes will need to be coordinated by teams and the percentage of passes will be based on the number of swimmers entered in the meet. Last LC, approximately 400 swimmers competed.

Some stated Wesleyan should not increase CSI cost because they are put restrictions in place and they should be providing security.

To control swimmers on deck, the meet will be 4 day schedule instead of 3 ½. Relay only swimmers will not be permitted. The 200 medley relay and no 200 free relay may be removed. The number of people on deck won't include to the swimmers in the pool! So, warm ups/downs may be lengthened to 20 min. instead of 10 min.

Others began to offer suggestions for resolving the problems with Wesleyan. Jamie Barone of Chelsea Piers suggested splitting the championship meets to more than one location and possibly open the meets to other LSCs. He added that Regional championships are already being held at the CPAC facility. Comments were made that some have suggested telling Wesleyan to take a hike and, if CPAC could affirmatively say they will host, CSI could go back to Wesleyan to negotiate better terms. Wesleyan gets \$100k from CIAC and CSI. Then, Barone stated that CPAC can't hold the entire championship meet due to traffic patterns, other use of their facility (members, ice rinks, etc) and parking as well as insufficient seating for parents.

The possibility of using UCONN or other universities was suggested while others stated that Wesleyan is in a financial bind and CSI has sufficient leverage. Many agreed CSI needs to investigate other venues and the biggest number problem would be prelims.

Rick Lewis ended the discussion by directing thoughts or suggestions to be emailed to the Jeff Gray or himself. The committee asked that teams have flexibility to accomplish the goal within the constraints. Finally, a video feed or stream is being investigated to broadcast the championships outside the pool deck area.

A committee headed by Jeff Gray will talk with Wesleyan.

Next House of Delegates Meeting to be conducted on _____.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren A. Bullock
Secretary