

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, February 26, 2011

PRESENT: Mary Fleckenstein, David Ellinghaus, Mike Morrissey, Don Wagner, Keith Furey, Barry Roffer, Jeff Chu, Denise Byrne, Steve Newman, Gregg Byrne, Frances Warren, LiYan Yao, Larry Collins, Colleen Driscoll, Bob Vializ, Monique Grayson, John Yearwood and Bruce Brooks

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Corinne Cody, Rich Finkelstein, George Rhein, Rob Ripp, Ray Willie

1. **WELCOME:** Mary Fleckenstein called the meeting to order at 1:40pm at Lehman College APEX. Meeting took place between prelims and finals of Senior Mets.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to approve the minutes of the BOD of January 18, 2011 was made by David Ellinghaus, seconded by Mike Morrissey and approved by all members in attendance.
3. **APPROVAL OF BUDGET REPORT:** Budget report was available for review at the meeting and will be emailed to all members of the board.

4. **AGENDA ITEMS:**

A: **May Elections:** The following positions are open for nomination and election at the HOD in May: Age Group, Treasurer, Technical Planning, and Safety. Please get in touch with Bob Vializ if you are interested or know somebody that may be interested on being on the Nomination Ballot.

B: **Dave Ferris Request for Clarification on Long Time Member:** Long discussion about a lifelong swimmer from LIAC that swam in College for the last 4 years, during which time she attended the 2008 Olympic Trials. Since September she has been at practice with Long Island Aquatic Club and competing in Metro meets. She will be attending Senior Mets this weekend. Dave is asking for the swimmer to be able to get the Metro Stipend for the SCY National Championship that was held in December 2010, before Senior Mets.

What is the definition of a lifelong swimmer? David Ellinghaus made a motion that a lifelong Metro swimmer would be defined as a High School Graduate swimmer that has spent a minimum of 4 (four) seasons swimming and competing for Metro since the age of 11 (eleven). Lifelong Metro swimmers are still required to attend at least 1 Senior Mets Championship per year, with the exception for Metro swimmers on their first year back after graduating from college, since the SC Nationals fall in December, before Senior Mets. To be able to receive a stipend for SC Nationals, swimmers rejoining their team in September would then have to fulfill their entire requirement for the SC season: One (1) Senior Mets (in February) and four (4) other Metro Meets. Bob Vializ seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carries.**

Keith Furey made a motion to make an exception to this rule for Daphne Skelos who swam at SC Nationals in December. David Ellinghaus seconded this motion. All in attendance were in favor. **Motion carries.**

C: **Diversity Funding – Plane Ticket**: On April 3rd, Metropolitan swimming will be partnering with John Hutchins and the NYC aquatics program to enhance their opportunities for their coaches and athletes. Metropolitan swimming will provide a coaches clinic for all 50 coaches of the NYC aquatics program. Each coach will be provided the opportunity to bring swimmers from their program for a swim clinic. Metropolitan swimming will also provide a swimmers' clinic in the AM and a small "relay" meet in the afternoon. Metropolitan Swimming paid for a plane ticket for Olympic swimmer Anthony Ervin (Olympic gold medalist 50 free Sydney Australia 2000) who will volunteer his services at the Clinic.

D: **Hall of Fame**: Steve Newman has been in touch with Metropolitan Swimming Hall of Famer Tony Corbisiero, of Riccardo's Restaurant in Queens. They set a tentative date of Wednesday, May 4th. Steve gave information on the menu and price. Steve will work on what the new plaques will look like for the new HOF at Lehman College. He will collect everything that is still at the Nassau County Aquatic Center (NCAC Pool will close July 1st). Question: where there any nominees last year (when we canceled the HOF dinner). Answer: there was a slate of nominees but voting did not take place in 2010. For the 2011 HOF – more than half of the 45 or so people on the voting committee did not respond. We may need to recalibrate the formula. A long discussion followed about this year's inductees for the HOF and the voting process.

Question: Are we going to have nominations for "**Coach of the Year Awards**" – Larry Collins will organize the voting for the Senior Coach and Age Group Coach of the Year – he will take care of this within the week.

Contribution to Lehman – Steve will inquire about what would be appropriate.

E: **Open Water**: A request made by Bea Hartigan for running an Open Water Competition in July was tabled at the January HOD meeting. A long discussion followed on this subject and on situations that arose in previous years. Mike Morrissey made a motion to accept the Open Water Committee resolutions to deny the bid for the Open Water meet in July. Bruce Brooks seconded the motion. All members present were in favor of denying the bid. **Motion carries. Open Water meet bid was denied.**

Open Water Safety Clinic hosted by Masters – Bruce Brooks made a motion to fund travel (flight, registration of \$125 and hotel) for Colleen Driscoll to attend the clinic in San Francisco. Steve Newman seconded the motion. All in favor – **motion carries.**

Colleen wants to establish an event at West Neck Beach, probably June 26, 2011 - Age Group and Masters. That area is owned by the municipality. Colleen has been in touch with their attorney to get all the contracts and insurance papers ready. It will probably be a 400 meters Open Water course for 10-unders and 1 or 2 miles for 11-over. Colleen is getting in touch with people re: timing system and working on the budget for the meet. She is hoping to get at least 100 swimmers. She wants it to be a family oriented event. Safety will be of uppermost importance. Colleen is also looking at other dates to run more Open Water Swims.

March 19th at 3:00pm – Open Water Meeting at the Huntington Library on Main Street / Woodbury

F: **Officials Chair Meeting**: Bruce Brooks is planning on attending the Officials Chair's Meeting that will be held at the Kansas City airport June 17-19, 2011. There were many officials at Senior

Mets as it was an “OQM” meet (Officials Qualifying Meet). Bruce has added a few people to the leadership team:

1. Education chair: formalize the training of officials – Mark Amodio
2. Administration chair: handling of the national certifications – Steve Kessler
3. Recruiting chair – 1 in the North, 1 in NYC and 1 in Long Island

All Area Chairs will follow the same guidelines. Also, in October, Bruce may have a clinic on how to train the officials and also a clinic on becoming a Referee. This clinic on Referee would be open to the region.

G: **ConocoPhillips Outstanding Service Award**: David Ellinghaus nominated **Bruce Brooks** as the recipient of this year’ award. The ConocoPhillips Outstanding Award is given annually to a volunteer in each LSC in recognition of service to Swimming. Motion was seconded and approved by all.

H: **Regional Coaches Clinic**: Hosted by Metropolitan Swimming at SUNY Purchase College April 29 to May 1, 2011. It is presented by USA Swimming. This clinic brings very affordable educational opportunities designed to raise the level of coaching for the entire staff from novice to senior level coaches. It is open to all coaches, not just USA-Swimming coaches. This is a Regional Clinic.

I: **Budget Requests**: George and Corinne could not attend the meeting due to their work as CPA. Budget requests must be sent in writing to George Rhein by April 1st. The form is available on the Web site.

1. Finance update –Bruce Brooks and Mike Morrissey are putting numbers together with an idea of offsetting officials registration and background check expenses in order to increase and help get the number of officials needed for LEAP 2.
2. Discussion on the ideas of requiring Metro Teams to have x number of officials per x amount of swimmers starting in 2012. They need to work on the exact numbers and then give a year to comply. If not teams will be charged a fee.
3. Request made by Jeff Chu to have a Safety person at an Open Water Clinic. This is not in the budget for this year.
4. For Conventions, please note that only the designated Metro Board members, athletes and National Committee Chairs are in the budget to be funded by Metro.

J: **Time Trials and Sanctions**: All meet directors, meet hosts and coaches are reminded that they must have a separate sanction number for any time trial they offer at meets. If a separate time trial sanction number was not requested ahead of time, those time trials do not count and will not be uploaded to SWIMS. Barry will send the list of sanction numbers to Bruce and Monique, at least once a week.

K: **Relays and SWIMS**: If relays are not entered in the meet correctly, with the correct order of swimmers, they must be dq’d and those relays will not be uploaded in SWIMS. The coaches and the computer operator must make sure that the relay order is correct. Many coaches send the relays names when they send their entries but then change the order of swimmers at the meets. Also, there are too many errors and incorrect lead-off splits – from now on, coaches who want a relay lead off split enter in SWIMS must send a request to Monique.

In addition, reminder to meet hosts using watches with no electronic timing system: they must use 3 watches per lane and all three (3) watches times must be entered in the meet manager

L: **New Meet Bids Request Forms**: Reminder: Clubs bidding on meets must actually have a club representative of the team, listed with Metro, presenting the bid request at the bid meeting. Meet bids must be requested on the new form (available on the Metro Web Site) – in addition, a check, CC information or PO must be attached.

Jeff Chu reminded all that the meet templates must now include information on the water depth.

M: **Eastern Zone Meeting**: May 14, 2011 at Fort Lauderdale – Mary needs to know within a week or two if Mike Morrissey, Don Wagner, Keith Furey, John Yearwood and Larry Collins will be going or not. Please contact Mary as soon as possible.

N: **Convention**: Decisions on who will attend will be made after the May House of Delegates Meeting and elections. Convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, September 9-13, 2011. Athletes do get to attend. Reminder to the athletes' reps: they must hold an election for a new Junior Rep. Need to have nominations and bios posted on the Web site.

O: **Next House of Delegates Meeting**: Wednesday, May 18th at Lehman College Apex. It is a Bid meeting and Elections meeting.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**: None at this time

6. **NEW BUSINESS**:

A: **Don Wagner**: Don would like to re-introduce the rule of two (2) heats of relays at night for Senior Mets. Discussion followed. Senior Mets was a great meet with fast swims and many old Senior Mets records were broken. Suggestion: discuss this with the Senior Committee and make a recommendation and present it to all at the next House of Delegates.

B: **Larry Collins**: Would it be possible, on Olympic Years, to have the finals of Senior Mets held in Long Course Meters instead of Short Course Yards in order to have more swimmers qualify for OT. It was suggested that Larry brings it up to the Senior Committee. Additionally, it also depends on the facility at which Senior Mets is held. Some facilities are able to switch the pool length very fast while others may not be able to do it after each prelim session to accommodate LC finals.

C: **Jeff Chu**: Jeff attended the National Safety Education Committee Meeting. They are planning to have a Safety Chairs meeting July 8-10 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As Jeff is on the National Committee, his fees would be paid for. This would give the opportunity for Metro to send someone else and Jeff suggests sending an Athlete's Rep to the meeting. Questions and concerns arose re: Athletes Protection Policy and sending an athlete to a meeting!

D: **Bob Vializ**: If Nassau County Aquatic Center at Eisenhower Park does not re-open, we must figure out a different way to run the Short Course Junior Olympics in 2012. The Age Group Committee should start thinking about this and figure out a plan B to keep offering a great quality Age Group JO meet.

E: Zones and Chaperones: Suggestion to have coaches as Chaperones at Zones. This does not work as they would be “coaching” – maybe have Officials act as Chaperones but chaperones must also time at the meet – we need more than 4 chaperones. Chaperones must go on the bus but they also get their rooms and meals paid for.

F: John Yearwood: John brought back the dilemma of JO vs ZQ to pick the Zone Team. A long discussion followed. This does not work for many reasons:

1. We like to run JO’s in late March which is too close to Zones
2. There are many kids swimming at JOs who have no interest in going to Zones but they make finals at JO’s. This may leave only 1 or 2 swimmers in finals eligible to attend Zones.
3. There are swimmers aging up between JO’s and Zones and that would also make them ineligible to attend Zones.

We did try to do it a few times and it was an absolute nightmare for the Age Group Chair to figure out the Zone Team. There are too many swimmers at JOs who are not interested in going to Zones. Keith Furey mentioned that it was very difficult, especially for the high school boys that have so many meets at that time of year. Mary Fleckenstein suggests that maybe we could still run the 14-under ZQ meet but have the 15-18 selection made by application. A long discussion followed on this. ZQ is not a Championship Meet but a Qualifying Meet and only those swimmers interested on attending Zones, if they make the team, should be entered in ZQ. Swimmers and Coaches need to make a choice on which meet to attend. We need to remember what is best for the swimmers, even if it means another meet for the coaches to attend. Kids are getting faster and stronger. The athletes actually like the Zone Qual meet as they are finally able to race against each other for a spot on the team.

Other suggestions/comments: Jeff Chu: dropping either Age Group or Silvers. Bruce Brooks: restricting sanctions on Metro Championship meets due to officials being stretched too thin. Larry Collins: high school sectionals have always been an issue at this time of year.

7: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David Ellinghaus, seconded by Jeff Chu and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 3:55pm

Next BOD Meeting: Before the House of Delegates on Wednesday, May 18th or, if necessary, Mary will call for a meeting before that.

Respectfully submitted
Monique Grayson

March 6, 2011