

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, September 28, 2013

PRESENT: John McIlhargy, Mary Fleckenstein, Corinne Cody, Monique Grayson, Don Wagner, Edgar Perez, David Ellinghaus, Denise Byrne, Brian Hansbury, Bruce Brooks, Amine Boubasis, Nicole Papsco, George Rhein, Rob Ripp, Colleen Driscoll, Elliot Ptasnik, Rich Finkelstein and Jeff Chu.

EXCUSED PRIOR TO MEETING: John Yearwood and Ryan Wagner

1. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:** John “Mac” McIlhargy welcomed everyone to the meeting which was called to order at 8:30am at Lehman College APEX. Mac welcomed the Open Water co-chairs (Rob and Colleen) back to our Board Meetings.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the BOD of May 15, 2013 was made, seconded and accepted by all members in attendance. The minutes were approved as published.
3. **GENERAL CHAIR:** John McIlhargy
 - a. The amount of Rules and Regulations are now tenfold what they were 10 years ago – we all need tutorial in many areas.
 - b. We will change the meetings format and try to streamline everything and get reports from the committee chairs and not necessarily from everyone.
 - c. **Scott Bartleson** has been elected Chairman of the Board of Review. We also appointed three more athletes to the Board (**Julian Mackrel, Gregg Byrne** and **Frances Warren**). In addition **Rob Ripp** and **Colleen Driscoll** were re-appointed as Open Water Co-Chairs.
 - d. As per USA Swimming ruling, we are accepting a new Club in Metro: **Phoenix Aquatics** (Don Wagner Head Coach).
 - e. By-Laws: Thanks to **Denise Byrne, Mary Fleckenstein, John McIlhargy**, as well as **Monique Grayson** at the end of the process), for updating the Metropolitan Swimming By-Laws and working on it until they were finally approved by USA Swimming. LEAP 1 is now done again.
 - f. Brian Hansbury is on the USAS “short list” for Safe Sport
 - g. Metro’s 2 HOD are now mandatory: in September and in May.
 - h. The bids for the summer meets will now be sent by mail to David Ellinghaus. There will be about a 14-day period during which to send all bids to Technical Planning (information about this will be posted on the Web Site).
 - i. We are still working on dates and site for a Board Retreat where we can work on the P&P Manual (huge project) and ways/ideas to improve the future of Metropolitan Swimming.
 - j. Insurance for Coaches and families – we need 50 applications to get a quote from the Insurance Company – Contact George Rhein at George.rhein@metroswimming.org to sign up. Give your Name, your zip code, and whether it will be single or family coverage. Adirondack, Connecticut and New Jersey may be interested as well.

- k. USAS Convention –
 - a. Dues increase: the USA Swimming House of Delegates approved a dues increase of \$2 per year for a period of then (10) years beginning with the 2015 membership year.
 - b. Changes from annual meeting to biennial meeting of USA Swimming House of Delegates, and alteration of the way LSCV delegates are selected to the HOD were rejected.
 - c. Other changes: Code of Conduct and Technical Rules.
 - d. Eastern Zone issues – The BOR moving from the LSC to the EZ passed. Starting in 2015, the BOR will no longer be held in Metro but all cases will go to the Zone. This will be much better to get fair hearings. But we will still have an Administrative BOR Committee (like a mediator). The Zone will get more responsibilities in many other areas (BOR, Diversity, Safe Sport and OW). We currently give the EZ \$125/year – there is a proposal to raise the EZ dues to \$250.00 – The EZ also approved the common standards for North and South for the Spring Sectionals.
- l. Metropolitan Swimming Permanent Office (Mary) – very busy at this time of year! Lots of things to do as it relates to coaches and their new training certifications, club registrations, athletes registrations, etc... Lots of paperwork! Also Sanctions, Club Portal and more
- m. Metropolitan Swimming will also need to increase the Club dues (actually \$150) and we will talk about that at the January BOD meeting. \$500 is average for Clubs within the USA Swimming clubs!!!

4. **ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR:** Denise Byrne

- a. **Administrative Official** is the one who reports directly to the Referee (or Administrative Referee) and may supervise/direct the following positions on the “dry” side of the meet (rule 102.14): Entry and Registration Personnel, Clerk of Course, Timing System Operator, Scoring Personnel, Timing Judge, Meet Management Software (Hy-Tek, etc) Operator
- b. The Administrative Official may serve in one or more of those positions or may simply serve in a supervisory capacity of those positions. Volunteers may fill those positions provided there is an “AO” supervising all, or the “AO” is filling one (or more) of the positions and supervising the remaining ones.
- c. The Administrative Official must complete the minimum standards for Administrative Official set forth by the National Officials Committee (**and level II Background Check**).
- d. The Administrative Official must wear the same uniform as Officials (white shirt and sneakers and blue shorts/skirt/pants) – AO can’t be coaching at the same time as they are AO – it’s either one or the other. We need to train more people as each meet (and meet info) will need a Meet Director, an Administrative Official, and a Referee in order to be sanctioned. There will be a meeting today for Meet Directors to become AO. The Administrative “Referee” is a Referee that can do training for the Administrative Official.
- e. **Swimposium:** probably in April – Denise has been working with USA Swimming (maybe after Eastern Zone and before Spring break – but the dates are still TBA) – may need to be changed as many schools are out the week before Easter... maybe the last weekend of April. In water training for swimmers, Coaches Clinics, Club Development Clinic, Officials Clinic, and Parents Clinic. Two sessions on a Sunday at Lehman College. Logistics – try for April 27, 2014 – after Easter and before LC meets.

5. **SAFE SPORT:** Brian Hansbury

- a. Brian was unable to attend the Convention this year due to a prior commitment. Mary Fleckenstein and John McIlhargy went to all the Safe Sport meetings and workshops. Lots of new information. The whole program is evolving continuously. It is all about education, teaching and protecting the kids and reviewing the policies on **Travel**, **Bullying** and **Electronic Communication**, with the swimmers, coaches and parents. Each team must post their policies on their web site! Be proactive!

- b. USA Swimming has developed a free education program for athletes 12-18 – What to do with your athletes??? USAS suggests that each club have somebody come in (local enforcement agency for example) and help with the training for the athletes. An “**Athlete Training Facilitator Manual**” is available on USAS Web site at “Safe Sport”. Be vigilant!! Keep your eyes and ears open.
 - c. **Bullying** is a huge topic ... we must find ways to educate the swimmers, coaches, parents, clubs about what is or is not acceptable. Brian, Mary and Mac spoke about texting, Facebook, contact, internet safety, cell phone use, etc.
6. **FINANCE CHAIR:** George Rhein and **TREASURER REPORT:** Corinne Cody
- a. Budget Committee met in August to work on the budget. An overview of the budget for 2014-2017 was available for review.
 - b. Budget vs. Actuals: we are pretty close to the budget, which is great.
7. **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:** Elliot Ptasnik
- a. We are expecting a guest at the HOD – John Hutchins from the New York City Parks & Recs. There will be a new team: Parks and Recs. We need to reach out to our community and try to increase the membership to include more outreach swimmers.
 - b. There will be a Parks & Recs. coaches clinic in November.
 - c. We may be hosting the 2015 Eastern Zone Diversity and Inclusion Clinic.
8. **OFFICIALS:** Bruce Brooks
- a. We need more officials! The Officials Committee is looking at different ways to do this – training, percentage of officials based on number of athletes on each Club, etc...
9. **COACHES REPRESENTATIVE:** Amine Boubsis
- a. Amine will work with Denise re: coaches clinic at the Swimposium in April – bring in a Senior Coach and an Age Group Coach from outside of the LSC.
 - b. Coaches are asking to get lunch at the Zone Qualifier Meet!
10. **AGE GROUP CHAIR:** Edgar Perez and John Yearwood
- a. John Yearwood was unable to attend this meeting.
 - b. Issue at LC Zones – Edgar wants to make sure that the application for chaperone is updated to reflect the team they are associated with, age and name of their child attending Zones. Edgar is requesting permission from the board to charge a chaperone for the cost of her trip to Zones in August. Instead we will make sure that the process is revised before the next Age Group Zone meet.
 - c. Edgar made a motion to change the suits problems – and to save cost and make everyone happy – by getting a generic Metro Team suit for warm-up only (with Metro logo) – like a trainer suit for the girls and maybe a drag suit for the boys - and let the swimmers use their own favorite tech suit when racing. All were in favor to make this change. Tech suits would still be available for optional purchase.
 - d. March 27-29, 2014 is the Age Group SCY Zone meet in Webster, NY (hosted by Fairport Swimming)
 - e. August 6-9, 2014 is the Age Group LCM Zone meet in Richmond, VA (hosted by Poseidon Swimming)
 - f. We will do a recon before Zones to make sure that swimmers don't have achieved “max” times prior to Zones!
11. **SENIOR VICE CHAIR:** Don Wagner
- a. New Jersey Swimming has made a proposal to Metro to allow their Junior National and faster swimmers to be able to compete in our Senior Mets Championships – about 20 athletes – they would

reciprocate in NJ on opposite years. We will need to discuss this. This is just a proposal at this time.

- b. March 20-23, 2014 is Speedo SCY Sectionals at Ithaca, NY
- c. March 27-30, 2014 is the Speedo LCM Sectional Meet in Buffalo
- d. LC SuperSectionals will be July 24-27, 2014 at ECC in Buffalo.
- e. The following item – 204.9 Sectional Championships – was amended and adopted at Convention and will be effective January 1, 2015.
 - 1. Each Zone shall designate its Sections
 - 2. The Senior Development Committee will set nationwide time standards for Sectionals but individual Sections may have standards that are slower than these standards but not faster.
 - 3. The goal size for the Sectional Meet is 700 athletes
 - 4. Sectional meets shall use Online Meet Entry via USA Swimming.
 - 5. There shall be at least 2 Spring and 1 Summer Sectional meets in each Zone.
 - 6. Summer Sectional: shall be a LC meet; shall be no more than 4 days long, and shall conclude between 8 and 22 days prior to the US Open or Junior Nationals, whichever comes first; shall have at least one 18-under final heat per individual event.
 - 7. Spring Sectional: should be no more than 3.5 days long (the dates may vary according to the needs of each Zone); shall have at least one 18-under final heat per individual event.

For more information, please read the Adopted Amendments to Rules & Regulations – September 2013 (R-9 - page 4)

12. OPEN WATER: Colleen Driscoll and Rob Ripp

- a. We need to have Open Water Clinics
- b. Open Water Event Guide and Guidelines and Support
- c. Organize a Metropolitan Swimming OW Championship

13. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None at this time

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved by all. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Respectfully submitted

Monique Grayson
October 17, 2013