

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES ROWING ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Directors present: Marcia Hooper (Chair), Jim Dietz, Bill Donoho, Joe Manion, Falesha Thrash, Nobu Ishizuka, Lisa Stone, Charlie Haight, Jamie Redman

Directors present by phone: Nick LaCava, Jimmy Sopko, Darlene Disney

Directors not present: Steven Shure and Megan O’Leary.

Others present: Patrick McNerney (CEO), Susan Smith (Chief Domestic Officer), Brian Klausner (CFO), Tracy Brown (National Rowing Foundation), John Wik (Director of SafeSport Programs), and Andrew Lee (outside counsel)

The Chair called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hooper presented the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board (June 2018) for approval. Mr. Manion made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Dietz and unanimously approved. The minutes were approved as presented.

Report of the CEO

Mr. McNerney provided a report on the second quarter of calendar year 2018, including updates on high performance, membership, strategic planning, events, and cooperation with the National Rowing Foundation. Mr. McNerney updated the Board on highlights of the third quarter of 2018, to date, including discussion of revenues and sponsorship, financial status relative to budget, and priorities for the balance of 2018.

SafeSport Update

Mr. Wik reported on the USRowing SafeSport program, including program administration, policy and procedure development, banned members list, athlete training, USRowing caseload and Center for SafeSport caseload. He noted that refinements continue to be made to the reporting process as part of the ongoing review of policies and procedures. Mr. McNerney provided an update on efforts to increase professionalism among the coaching ranks.

Financial Review/Outlook

Messrs. McNerney, LaCava, and Klausner provided a financial review and outlook, including the 2018 current forecast relative to budget and status of 2019 budget planning. Mr. McNerney noted that the 2019 budget will align with strategic objectives.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Mr. Haight provided a report on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, including discussion of the Committee’s plans for upcoming meetings, survey results, and the status of and anticipated schedule for the committee to propose a formal Strategic Plan

Domestic Report

Ms. Smith provided an update on events, membership, organizational membership, regatta registration, donations, coaching credentialing, legacy membership, and 2019 priorities, water safety/safe rowing initiatives, coaching development, and diversity/inclusion initiatives. Mr. McNerney updated the Board on the Junior Lightweight Task Force activities. On the issue of safety, Mr. McNerney emphasized the renewed focus on best practices, including collaboration with third party experts.

Mr. Haight made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stone, to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
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SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

Directors present: Marcia Hooper (Chair), Jimmy Sopko, Bill Donoho, Joe Manion, Falesha Thrash, Nobu Ishizuka, Lisa Stone, Charlie Haight, Jamie Redman, Jim Dietz.

Directors present by phone: Jimmy Sopko, Darlene Disney, Steve Shure (for part of the meeting)

Directors not present: Nick LaCava, and Megan O’Leary

Others present: Patrick McNerney (CEO), Susan Smith (Chief Domestic Officer), Matt Imes (High Performance Director), Rob Milam (Chair, High Performance Committee), Andrew Lee (outside counsel), Tracy Brown (National Rowing Foundation), Mara Ford (National Rowing Foundation) (by phone).

The Chair called the meeting to order.

Domestic Report (continued from prior day)

Ms. Smith provided an update on USRowing award nominations, and judging/referee initiatives. Mr. McNerney discussed the Association’s plans and activities in the area of communications. He outlined an overall media strategy encompassing live events, athlete storylines, product development and distribution, and development of a more robust internet-based media presence.

High Performance Report

Mr. Imes and Mr. Milam delivered a High Performance report, including discussion of National Team events, 2018 World Rowing Championships, 2018 rowing development camps, 2028 strategic planning, athlete retention, and USOC/FISA updates. With respect to the World Championships, Mr. Imes outlined the goals for the men’s and women’s teams and noted the increased level of competition, with very narrow differences in margins among the top boats. He also noted the focus on athlete health and wellness, and more efforts to provide support and flexibility for training. With respect to USOC/FISA, Mr. McNerney updated the Board on new initiatives being considered in response to IOC requests for re-evaluation of all Olympic programs.

National Convention Update

Mr. McNerney discussed plans for the upcoming 2018 USRowing National Convention in San Diego, CA, and the 2018 World Masters Championships.

Report on NRF Initiatives

Mr. McNerney discussed the relationship between USRowing and the National Rowing Foundation. Ms. Ford discussed NRF initiatives, including the stewardship program, Golden Oars and other events, and awards.

Report on USRowing Initiatives

Mr. McNerney and Ms. Smith provided an update on sponsorship activities, relationships, and opportunities. Mr. McNerney advised the Board of the upcoming indoor rowing championships,

a joint USRowing/World Rowing event. Mr. McNerney also discussed the need to engage more people outside the sport and the importance of having a long-term budget that includes sustainable funding.

2019 Planning

Mr. McNerney discussed planning for 2019 from the personnel and financial perspectives. He noted that refocusing events will be one part of this planning.

Awards Committee Report

Mr. Dietz provided the report of the Awards Committee, including nominations for the various 2018 award categories. The Board voted on the nominations and Mr. Dietz made a motion to approve the vote, which Ms. Thrash seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ethics and Governance Committee Report

Mr. Ishizuka provided the report of the Ethics and Governance Committee, including activities regarding the review of USRowing's governance policies and procedures and committee charters.

NGB and USOC Summit

Mr. McNerney updated the board on the USOC's conference for National Governing Bodies, held in Denver.

Executive Session

Mr. Dietz made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Ms. Redman, which passed unanimously. Mr. Imes, Mr. Milam, Ms. Smith, Ms. Ford, and Ms. Brown left the meeting. After an initial discussion, Mr. McNerney left the meeting.

Ms. Hooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dietz, to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.