

MEETING OF THE LAKE ERIE SWIMMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, February 19th

Zoom Meeting

Mission: *To enrich the lives of our athletes through the sport of swimming by providing safe and inclusive programming in a culture that encourages competitive excellence and personal growth.*

Vision: *Lake Erie Swimming - inspiring the pursuit of excellence in swimming and in life. Branding words: Lead; Engage; Succeed; Inspire*

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Cook, Jelani Watkins, Kim Long, Vince Colwell, Anna Fialko, Avery Crabtree, Cindy Dial, Branden Burns, EJ McIlduff, Ronae Hughes, Sarah Ondrejka

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

ADDITION(S) TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Increase for Permanent Office Salary

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Including January Minutes): Jelani motioned. Branden seconded; **PASSED- Unanimous**

Announcements:

1. USA Swimming Updates
 1. We will nominate someone who may be an up and coming leader within the LSC. in the next meeting. This individual does not not have to be actively involved in governance currently, but they need to be interested in joining in the future. Nominees needed by April. We will nominate someone in the next meeting. This individual does not not have to be in governance currently, but they need to be interested in joining in the future.
 2. R-9 Clarification: The goal is to have more officials in LSCs. Both coaches and officials committees presented and reached a compromise by the end.
 3. New stroke and turn clinic at the end of Q1.
 4. Governance chairs will have connection opportunities across LSCs in the future.
 5. Coaches Leadership Clinic- "Coaching through Change": April 19-21 in person along with other March and April virtual dates. **March 1st registration deadline.** EJ will send that out after Vince sends information.
 6. September Business Meeting 9/26-29:
 1. Tracks: Coaches, officials, athletes, general chair, DEI workshop, no Safe Sport Workshop (alternates years)
2. LESI Secretary and Jr. Coach Rep Announcement
 1. Welcomed Jelani Watkins as Secretary and Anna Fialko as Jr. Coach Rep.

Action Items:

1. Athlete Award Scholarship - George Libecco
 1. Athletes passed scholarship
 2. Branden motioned to table this until athletes are present and can speak to this
 3. (*SENT 2/23 AFTER THE MEETING*: [Report](#))
2. LESI Credit Cards
 1. Kim: We have two credit cards through PNC bank, but Diane is still the guarantor. (These cards have high limits). We have another card under "Lake Erie Swimming" that is a non-profit card through Commerce. Currently, we need approval from Diane for all transactions. This will cause issues for upcoming Zones trips.
 1. Kim proposed canceling PNC cards. Branden agreed with this recommendation canceling cards and made a motion to this effect. This was seconded by Pam. **PASSED- Unanimous.**
 2. Permanent Office Salary
 1. We did not discuss this during the most recent budget review. Kim reviewed historical bumps, recommending a 5% bump to \$17,199. Branden made a motion to this effect, and Anna seconded. During discussion, Vince mentioned that OSI during merger talks thought this number was low. He also clarified the historical growth of her part-time role. It was also clarified that her responsibilities are variable from year to year. Ronae questioned if additional should be considered. After discussion, the motion **PASSED- Unanimous without amendments.**

Discussion Items:

1. Board/Committee Vacancies (We held discussion regarding campaigning efforts.)
 1. Zone coordinator is still a big need
 2. Zone Coaches still need to be appointed (Vince recommended interested coaches be put in contact with him.)
 1. Ronae asked about the coordinator role.
 3. Age Group Chair- Lori May (Erin recommended interested coaches be put in contact with her.)
 1. EJ can create emails between interested parties and mentors to connect.
 4. Open Water Chair
 5. Legislation Chair
2. Forkapa Award
 1. Awarded in February for someone who has continued to volunteer in the sport after their swimmers have finished being part of the swimming.
 2. List requested by Branden and presented names: Nancy
 1. Jelani will reach out to Kristin for a list of previous award winners and will include in the meeting reminder. He motioned to table this conversation to the next meeting. Branden seconded. **PASSED- Unanimous.**
3. Board Award

1. Awarded in February by the Board for any above and beyond work that deserves to be recognized
 1. Board members recommended not choosing board members to avoid a bad precedent. Jelani made the motion from above. Branden seconded.
PASSED- Unanimous.
4. Service Award
 1. Awarded by the previous two recipients, Lori Baylor and Mel Badziong.
 2. Vince has still not received anything from USA swimming and will follow up.
5. Coach Survey about Merger Results
 1. Overall result: "Cautiously optimistic" (Language used in the merger)
 1. Anna expressed concern about travel
 2. Board vote: In favor of continued discussions about merging with OSI without a fixed timeline or action item.
 1. Discussion includes need/no need for timeline and a call for greater communication about the structure for these conversations.
 2. Kim expressed concerns about financial merging. Vince shared a need for a lawyer.
 3. Jelani motioned that the board "Continue conversations with OSI regarding the merger with the intention of proposing to the HOD when more concrete answers are determined." **PASSED 7-1**
 1. Vince will share the shared merge drive
6. USA Swimming Lifetime Membership given in 2024
 1. Vince provided a heads-up about this membership award.

Reports

1. Athlete Reps – Natalie Brindley, Alaina Pizarro, George Libecco
 - a. - Avery said "No report." Email shared: crabtree.Avery@hotmail.com
2. Coach Reps – Anna , E.J. McIllduff
 - a. [LINKED](#)
3. Admin Vice-Chair – Kristin MacPhail
 - a. No report
4. Senior – Cindy Dial
 - a. Get your senior champ entries in! Use 100 times for 50's of stroke and use 200 IM time for 100 IM entry. Updates for Futures....open broader (go to whatever Future's meet you want to go to) and 19 and over cuts
5. Age Group – N/A
6. Technical Planning – Sarah Tobin
 - a. No report
7. Treasurer – Kim Long
 - a. Working on the 990
8. Operational Risk - Branden Burns

- a. New report of occurrence has been made available, and there is a presentation linked on the Operational Risk page, and a webinar took place to share more details. More information forthcoming.
- 9. Secretary – Jelani Watkins
 - a. No report
- 10. Membership/Registration/Permanent Office – Pam Cook
 - a. [LINKED](#)
- 11. Safe Sport Coordinator – Sarah Ondrejka
 - a. No report
- 12. DEI – Ronae Hughes
 - a. Multicultural meet responsibility clarification requested by Ronae and provided by Vince. Ronae will send this to Pam and EJ to push out in coming communications. Ronae will also create a mission statement with the other two members of the committee.

Old Business:

- 1. Potential OH/LE Merger Updates
 - 1. Town Halls
 - 2. Feb 18th meeting
- 2. Ohio Olympic Trials Suite Task Force
 - 1. Vince will send another reminder about this, as he has not gotten any
- 3. Fall House of Delegates Bid
 - 1. We need to push this out soon, and Vince will connect with Pam about next steps.

New Business:

- 1. EJ motioned to not certify/admit any new teams to Lake Erie until full merger conversations/procedures have been fulfilled. EJ shared concerns in Coaches report.
 - a. Pam mentioned that this may not be possible with the current set up of SWIMS 3.0. Discussion regarding the philosophical purpose of such holding preceded a motion to table the above motion.
 - b. EJ motioned to table this discussion until Pam can confirm what certifying/not certifying is possible. Jelani seconded. **PASS 7-1.**

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18th at 7:30pm via Zoom.

- **End of meeting reminder that 4/15 meeting is in person.**

ADJOURNED: 8:52 PM