



USA RACQUETBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Teleconference

Monday, August 24, 2020

5:30 pm MT

Videoconference via Zoom

MINUTES

Called to order by President Dan Whitley at 5:33 pm MT

Roll Call -- Cheryl Kirk

Attending: Thurman Brooks, Steve Czarnecki (Treasurer), Michelle De La Rosa (Athlete Rep – ExCom), Scott Fish, Mike Grisz, Cheryl Kirk (Secretary), Danielle Maddux (Athlete Rep), Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep), Terry Rogers, JD Shelton, Stewart Solomon (Vice President), Cindy Tilbury, Mike Wedel (Executive Director), Dan Whitley (President)

Not attending: Mike Kiedrowski

A quorum was achieved. President Whitley provided prior notice of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes - Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Mike G.: Approve the July 27, 2020, Board meeting minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Second: Terry Rogers

Discussion: No

Vote: Passes unanimously

Intro and Executive Committee Update (Dan Whitley)

Dan briefly discussed the Giving Games fundraising initiative and spoke about the necessity for crafting long-term (strategic) and short-term (survival) plans.

Committee Updates (Stewart Solomon)

HOF and Awards Committee Recommendations (Stewart Solomon/Terry Rogers)

After the July meeting when the Hall of Fame and Awards documents were returned to the committee for recommended revisions, the committee once again submitted the Awards document with a decision not to accept a Board recommendation relative to Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award eligibility (excludes Hall of Fame members).

Mike Grisz moved to accept the Annual Award nomination criteria document as sent to the board for the August 28 Board meeting.

Second: Cindy Tilbury

Discussion: Further debate took place regarding the Sobek Award eligibility criteria mentioned above.

Vote: Motion passed with 5 yes, 2 no, 5 abstentions

US Team Committee: US National Junior Team Recommendation (Charlie Pratt)

US Team Committee Chair Larry Haemmerle submitted the committee's recommendation. Larry offered special thanks to the Junior Team Coaches, Advisory Group, and the Committee for their arduous work in developing and implementing this process during challenging times.

US Junior Team Head Coach Charlie Pratt presented a brief review of the 2020-2021 Junior Team Selection Process on behalf of the US Team Committee:

June – applications, recommendation letters, intro videos (66 received)

July – a number of weekly training videos submitted by athletes (list cut to 55 players, mid-month)

Selection was based on applications including results from the past 1-3 years of competition (e.g., Junior Nationals and Worlds) combined with training videos in the month of July. The coaches consulted with an advisory group and finalized the roster. The US Team Committee approved the roster, and pending Board approval at this meeting, notifications to players and an announcement will be forthcoming.

Mike Grisz moved to approve the roster recommended by the US Team Committee for the 2020-2021 National US Junior Team.

Second: Stewart Solomon

Discussion: Positive comments were expressed about the process and outcome. Details were requested on the plan for communication (notifications first, then press release via email, website, and social media at the end of this week).

Vote: Passed unanimously

Danielle Maddux joined the meeting.

Legislative Committee (Cheryl Kirk)

At the June Board of Directors meeting, the Board requested that the Legislative Committee review the USAR Bylaws as well as the Board Election Procedures documents. Acting at the Board's direction, the Legislative Committee presented for approval numerous revisions to the USAR Bylaws and Board Selection Procedures (renamed), which included the request by the Board as well as general housekeeping. The updates and proposed revisions were as follows:

1. Amended non-discrimination verbiage
2. Miscellaneous verbiage and terminology updates
3. Revised descriptions of Election and Membership Committees
 - Membership: Updates old description to more accurately reflect the modern role of the Membership Committee.
 - Election: Amends description to add the role of the task force attached to the Election Committee in bringing Board Appointed candidates for the Board's consideration in each election cycle.
4. Governing Bodies/Board of Directors: adjust appointed position language; correct athlete rep description.
5. Board of Directors position categories: Selection and Terms
 - The section defines the four Board position categories (At Large Elected; Board Appointed; Executive Appointed; Athlete Representatives). Terms of service are listed,

including a proposed change for Executive Appointed Board members to three 2-year terms vs. the prior two 2-year terms in order to produce consistency in all Board position.

6. Re-name Board of Directors Election Procedures, May 2020, to Board of Directors Selection Procedures (At Large Elected, Board Appointed, Executive Appointed, and Athlete Representatives), August 2020

- Rename and rework election procedures document to reflect both elected and appointed selection processes; verbiage to agree with the Bylaws.
- As three Board members cycle off in each of the next three election years, two At Large Elected Board seats will come available. This provides for the newly formed task force to search out and bring a recommendation to the Board for one Board-appointed individual who possesses skills, knowledge, and experience to meet the evolving needs of the Board. Revised At Large election procedures provide for up to three candidates for each available seat vs. the prior two candidates per available seat.
- The long-standing but little-used petition process was eliminated from the At-Large election procedures in favor of the Task Force process described in the paragraph just above.

7. Administrative: Reordered Bylaws Articles for more logical flow.

Via electronic vote of the entire Board on August 25, 2020:

Terry Rogers moved to accept the proposed USAR Bylaws revisions and Board of Directors Selection Procedures presented by the Legislative Committee at the 8/24/20 Board meeting. Second: Charlie Pratt

Vote: 13 yes and 1 did not respond (Note: 2/3 vote required)

Next Steps:

- Post revised documents to USAR website and forward to Staff and Board of Directors
- Communicate revisions to USAR members

Financials (Steve Czarnecki)

Giving Games has netted approximately \$25k to date.

The tenuous situation surrounding 2021 National Championships and the US OPEN puts the association at significant risk, with additional concern surrounding the success of such events should they occur.

(Financial reports were submitted to the Board in advance of this meeting.)

Executive Director Update (Mike Wedel)

Mike Wedel presented an interim Giving Games recap and briefed the Board on topics including El Pomar (landlord) rent relief through the end of the year; new website format; social media and email marketing; National Championships planning; Real Racquetball Show; Servin' Up the News monthly newsletter; R2 Sports updates including WOR rankings; and various concept projects designed to inspire and motivate players to participate in both outdoor and indoor racquetball safely as local and state regulations permit. *(See Executive Director Update for further details.)*

Board Discussion

Dan Whitley discussed the need for a survival plan geared toward the next 18 months to 2 years, i.e. what we aspire to do to get farther down the road. Creation of a 5-year strategic plan is also indicated.

Emphasis will be placed on decision surrounding USAR's core products: event sanctioning, memberships, and championships revenue. Imperative we make some decisions on championship schedule for 2021 and also staffing.

We will begin carving out a plan in September to determine next steps.

Dan asked for Board members to contact him if interested in participating in the short-term plan. Work sessions will be scheduled. Everyone is welcome.

Next Meeting -- September 28, 2020

Motion to Adjourn: Mike Grisz
Seconded by Terry Rogers

Adjourned 7:36 pm MT

Materials provided to Board by President Dan Whitley, Vice President Stewart Solomon, Secretary Cheryl Kirk, Treasurer Steve Czarnecki, Executive Director Mike Wedel, and Committee/Project Chairs

Administration

USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 8/24/20

USAR BOD Minutes 7/27/20

Updates

- Legislative Committee – Materials provided on 8/9; re-sent 8/21 along with vote synopsis
 - Committee Report/Bylaws Worksheet/Selection Procedures Worksheet/Vote Synopsis
- Hall of Fame/Awards Committee – Resubmitted
- US Team Committee – US National Junior Team Proposed Roster
- Finance Committee **
- Executive Director Update

****Financial Reports**

Memo to Board

USAR PL vs. SPLY (7-2020)

USAR PL vs. Budget (7-2020)

USAR Balance Sheet (7-2020)

Cash Flow Analysis (2020-8-23)