



USA RACQUETBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Teleconference
Monday, September 28, 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), 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 Terry Rogers: Approve the August 24, 2020, Board meeting minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Seconded by Mike Grisz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Executive Committee Update (Dan Whitley)

Due to the financial impact of the pandemic (fewer members and fewer sanctioned events), the ExCom along with Mike Grisz and Terry Rogers met four times in September to formulate a Short-Term Strategic Plan. See Short Term Strategic Discussion in these minutes.

Executive Director Update (Mike Wedel)

For details, refer to Executive Director pre-read document sent prior to this meeting.

Fundraising

Giving Games is still working on Omaze raffles. Expecting to hear more soon.

End-of-year donation campaigns are described in the ED update.

Subscribed to software package, Little Green Light; half of NGBs are using it at \$40/month to gain better control of reporting and tracking.

Recognition

As announced on the Real Racquetball Show, USAR is initiating a new monthly award—Real Racquetball Champion—to recognize someone each month who is acting to impact the sport in a positive way. The first recipient will be announced on October 5.

Staff Focus

- Website revisions/improvements
- 2021 National Championships
- Social media communication

- Real Racquetball Show
- Serving Up the News (newsletter)
- R2Sports updates for World Outdoor Racquetball and SafeSport

Financials (Steve Czarnecki)

The treasurer provided financial reports prior to the meeting.

No changes from the last few months. \$100k grant from Root Laboratories is very helpful. Challenges come with lack of membership renewals and sanctioned events as well as the absence of US OPEN revenue. Two grants have been procured and another applied for, as well as loans that will be utilized only if necessary, e.g., Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

Member revenue is down 33% against budget. March to current paints a negative picture. Membership are expected to decline more as the pandemic continues and as the time of year approaches where memberships have been historically renewed and purchased. Sanctioning fee revenue is also down 60% from where it was hoped to be by now. Contributions are down. Medal of Giving funds helped in August.

Short Team Strategic Discussion

The group mentioned under ExCom Update in these minutes met once a week in September. There are no conclusive determinations as yet. The group continues to apply analysis and scrutiny to the challenges presented by the pandemic. Two major categories under discussion are staffing and the 2021 national championship schedule/approach. Board members not involved in the above mentioned weekly meetings weighed in with their perspectives and ideas.

Committee Updates (Stewart Solomon)

Pre-read documents were provided by the WOR and Fundraising Committees prior to the meeting.

WOR Committee Update: Rule Revision Recommendations – The WOR Committee administrated this process and worked with Lynn Stephens, Cheryl Kirk, and Otto Dietrich on wording.

Motion by Stewart Solomon: Approve the WOR Rules updates that were provided to the Board prior to the meeting and as amended in Board discussion in this meeting to remove the word “generally” from the initial paragraph and add reference to mandatory use of eye guards in Rule 6.3 Apparel.

Seconded by Michelle De La Rosa

Discussion: It was clarified that the document outlines only the modifications between USAR rules and WOR rules; in essence, it serves as an addendum. A recommendation was made to remove the word “generally” in sentence two of the document. The suggestion was made to clarify mandatory use of eye guards vs. sunglasses.

The motion was amended per the italics above and approved by Michelle De La Rosa who had seconded the original motion.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Next steps – Michelle De La Rosa will notify the WOR Committee of the vote outcome.

Post-dialogue: A Board member expressed that a video to help indoor players understand the outdoor game better would be very helpful. Discussion also took place surrounding assigning

the Rules Committee to update videos for referee certification. Michelle De La Rosa, Stewart Solomon, and JD Shelton will take point on these items.

Fundraising Committee Update – A pre-read PowerPoint deck was provided as a general update of the committee’s recent activities.

New Business

Election Committee Update (Cheryl Kirk)

After the August 24, 2020, ratification of the recommendations of the Legislative Committee relative to Board Composition and Board Selection Procedures, the Election Committee (Cheryl Kirk [Chair], Thurman Brooks, Wanda Collins, Michelle De La Rosa, Bob Frazier, Charlie Pratt, and JD Shelton) will begin their work in identifying candidates for inclusion on the Board slate for the March 2021 Board of Directors election. There will be two seats up for election, with a maximum of six candidates on the slate. The committee’s first meeting will take place on Friday, October 9. An update will be presented at the October 26 Board of Directors meeting.

Scholarship Committee Update (Dan Whitley) – Due to the structure of the Scholarship Committee with dedicated funds held aside, USAR will be able to offer 2020-21 Scholarships. The application process is being readied for announcement this week. Applications will be submitted online with a deadline of December 31 and analyzed in January by the committee. On-court accomplishments will be heavily weighed, secondarily taking into account other achievements as well.

Hall of Fame Committee Update (Terry Rogers) – The committee will meet on October 9 to review all Hall of Fame nominations that were received by the September 15 deadline.

Transgender Inclusion Policy (Mike Wedel) – With assistance from the USOPC, USA Racquetball is in process of developing an inclusion policy for transgender individuals in racquetball. The policy will be provided to the Board soon for ratification.

New Board Member (Dan Whitley)

Mike Kiedrowski has notified Dan Whitley of his resignation from the Board due to personal time constraints. His first term was to expire in May 2021.

Dan asked Board members to contact him with suggestions for potential replacements, for service in the time period between now and May 2021.

Next Meeting – October 26, 2020

Motion to Adjourn: Terry Rogers
Seconded by Stewart Solomon

Adjourned 7:24 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 Chairs

Administration

USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 9/28/20

USAR BOD Minutes 8/24/20 for Board approval

Updates

- Executive Director Update
- Finance Committee **
- WOR Committee
- Fundraising Committee

****Financial Reports**

Finance 1 -- Memo to Finance Committee September 2020

Finance 2 -- USAR PL vs. SPLY (Through August 2020)

Finance 3 -- USAR PL vs. Budget (Through August 2020)

Finance 4 -- USAR BS vs. SPLY (End August 2020)

Finance 5 -- Cash Flow Analysis (2020-9-25) (Mike modified by Finance Committee)