



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

www.usateamhandball.org

USATH Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 30, 2015

Location: Conference Call

Time: 1800 EST

Duration: 75 min

In attendance:

Board Members:

Harvey Schiller, President & Chairman

Bob Djokovich

Jennie Choi

Mike McNees

David Palmer

Tomuke Ebuwei

Attila Agoston

Alan Dizdarevic

Maurice Godwin, Meeting Secretary

Absent:

David Thompson – professional responsibility

Staff:

Mike Cavanaugh, CEO

Dave Gascon, USATH Director of High Performance

Guests:

Dennis Berkholtz, Director of USA Beach Handball / Director of Business Development

Reita Clanton, '84 Olympian and Director of Auburn University Sports Optimization Center

Candy Marturano, Accountant

18:02 – Quorum Established

18:04 – President's Report, Harvey Schiller

President Schiller gave a brief preview of the meeting and recounted the success of the 2015 Open Championships in York, PA. Schiller then introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Board of Directors, Alan Dizdarevic.



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18:05 – CEO Report, Mike Cavanaugh

Mike Cavanaugh explained the purpose and the importance of the annual Diversity and Inclusion Report that was recently submitted to the USOC. USOC Diversity and Inclusion staff informed Cavanaugh of recent RFPs given to firms to increase participation of Olympic Program sports in selected cities. Team Handball was one of four Olympic sports to be included in the program. USA Team Handball has established clubs in most of the identified cities, which bodes well for participation in this initiative. The USOC is soliciting NGBs involvement by producing a “starter-kit” which includes providing rules, coaching clinics, start-up competitions, etc. to accelerate growth in that area.

Cavanaugh also renewed the insurance plan for USA Team Handball across the board, which included a marginal increase in cost. Cavanaugh then praised the companies responsible for USA Team Handball’s Sport Accident solutions and Certificates of General Liability issued to clubs requesting same.

Steve Smith, a Denver attorney, has agreed to help update USATH’s bylaws, and Mike Lenard has agreed to be the direct liaison to Smith. Cavanaugh and Djokovich answered Ebuwei’s question on what revisions are to be made to the current bylaws, which included adding language about Diversity and Inclusion, Safe Sport and simplifying the bylaws for USATH’s current status.

Cavanaugh briefly recounted the success of the USATH Open Championships. He then mentioned that USATH may receive an influx of Canadian teams for the 2016 edition since Canada has indicated they are cancelling their National Championship tournament for next year. The difficulties of successfully holding such an event prompted the idea of a NORCA Club Championships which would better accommodate teams from outside the U.S. This gives rise to the consideration of hosting a new, third large event a year for USA Team Handball.

Lastly, he explained the origin of the team that was funded by the Daniels Foundation to compete in the 2015 World University Games in Gwangju, Korea, from July 1-13.

18:20 – Financial Report, Candy Marturano and Bob Djokovich

USA Team Handball will have to carry a negative balance into next year’s budget. The budget will be constantly changing until USATH gets solid figures from the USTH Foundation, USOC, and other donors.

18:25 – Audit Committee Announcement, Jennie Choi



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Jennie was designated the Chair of the Audit and Compensation Committee, and she nominated Board Members Tomuke Ebuwei, Mike McNees, Attila Agoston, and Alan Dizdarevic to form the committee. All have agreed to serve.

18:27 – Auburn Structure, Harvey Schiller, Dave Gascon

Schiller gave a background of the coaching situation of the National Teams and also of the opportunities that are available or have been offered in the Auburn area. He then suggested the option of the coaches becoming their own entity to receive their own funds from local businesses.

18:29 – Auburn Potential Sponsors, Dave Gascon

Dave Gascon reported on the recent meetings with local organizations in Auburn to raise money for the Residency Program. Specifically, he mentioned the Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau's willingness to support USATH with a grant. Gascon mentioned another potential investor who was initially willing, but then withdrew his offer at a follow-up meeting. Lastly, meetings with the CEO of the local medical entity yielded a potential annual agreement to support the NT coaches and the Residency Program. Gascon, Reita Clanton, and School of Kinesiology professor Dave Pascoe have also built relationships with other local entities which may bear fruit in the future.

18:37 – Schiller

Schiller mentioned some concern among the leadership with the level of play in important competitions, and highlighted USATH's task to focus on competitions beyond 2016.

18:39 – Tomuke Ebuwei, Dave Gascon, Mike Cavanaugh, Jennie Choi, Reita Clanton

Ebuwei mentioned the players' desire to have a larger presence in the Auburn-Opelika area. She also announced to the Board her decision to retire as a player and her desire to visit Auburn regularly every three to four weeks to help recruit athletes and promote the sport among prominent local organizations.

Gascon, Jennie Choi, and Reita Clanton all supported Ebuwei's idea of a former athlete/board member in Auburn serving as a recruiter and administrative leader in the Auburn-Opelika community.

Cavanaugh introduced Reita Clanton to Dizdarevic and highlighted her background and importance in bringing the Residency Program to Auburn.

18:50 – Harvey Schiller

In response to Ebuwei's proposal, Schiller cautioned everyone to be consistent with what the Board of Directors' responsibilities are whenever there is a new initiative. He also stressed awareness of financial considerations with a new initiative.



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18:52 – Auburn Presentation as an Olympic Training Site @ AU Football Game, Reita Clanton

Clanton reminded everyone of the USOC Olympic Training Site designation, and announced that Auburn would be announcing the news to the community on the Sept. 25-26 weekend. Specifically, the buildings to be designated are the Kinesiology Building, Watson Fieldhouse, and Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum. There will be an on-field recognition of the designation during the Auburn home football game against SEC rival Mississippi State University. A meeting with the Auburn University President's Office to plan the weekend took place on July 14th. Clanton requested that USATH provide her with a list of individuals to be invited so that the President's Office can send out invitations.

Dizdarevic suggested using this recognition weekend as an opportunity to raise funds. Schiller agreed and offered an example of inviting guests to purchase seats at a luncheon to raise funds at the event.

18:57 – Technical Director Position, Mike Cavanaugh

Cavanaugh announced that a working document describing the job description of a technical director is in the works and copies were sent to the Board. It was felt the task listed were too comprehensive for one person and needed to be scaled back. Several offered to provide feedback on edits in this regard.

19:04 – AAC Report, Tomuke Ebuwei

Ebuwei and Gascon are currently compiling results from a survey distributed to the residency athletes. A report will be submitted to the Board once the results are compiled.

19:04 – BEACH HANDBALL, Dennis Berkholtz

Berkholtz hopes to name a Senior Women's and a Senior Men's National Team Coach by early August and hopes to have the Women's team training in the Miami Beach area and the Men's team training in the Los Angeles Beach area. The Pan American Beach Handball Championships are scheduled for late March of 2016 to be held in Venezuela. A recent meeting in the Miami Beach area produced the idea of hosting the Beach Handball World Championships in 2020 and the 2018 or 2019 IHF Congress in Miami Beach. And finally, meetings with a LA based production company resulted in the idea of having celebrities trying out for senior beach teams to promote the sport and possibly create a reality TV show following their competitive BEACH journey.

Berkholtz and Ebuwei confirmed that she would serve as the Athlete Representative for the coaching selection committee with 4 other USA Team Handball leaders.

19:08 – General Comments, Bob Djokovich, Attila Agoston, Mike McNees

Djokovich clarified the importance of the role of Technical Director and confirmed that USATH is able to plan strategically for upcoming events due to improvements in the organization.



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Attila Agoston will be attending the Pan American Games in Toronto, and is available to assist Ebuwei with anything that might be needed in Auburn.

McNees recognized Board Members who welcomed him to the organization at the Open Championships in York, PA. He then also stressed the importance of executing all the ideas presented in the Annual Meeting in York well to contribute to the success of the program.

19:15 – Adjournment, Harvey Schiller