



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80909

[www.usateamhandball.org](http://www.usateamhandball.org)

### **USATH Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 5, 2015

Location: Teleconference

Time Initiated: 17:32 EST

Duration: 80 minutes

#### **Board Member Attendees:**

Dr. Harvey Schiller, President & Chairman

Bob Djokovich

Jennie Choi

Attila Agoston

David Thompson

Tomuke Ebuwei

David Palmer

Alan Dizdarevic – excused: professional responsibilities

Mike McNees – excused: professional responsibilities

#### **Staff:**

Michael D. Cavanaugh, CEO (appointed to serve as Meeting Secretary)

Candy Marturano, Accountant / Bookkeeper

**Guest:**

Dennis Berkholtz, Director – BEACH Handball

**President's Report:** Mentioned looking ahead to possibly having a face to face Board Meeting perhaps at the end of the year or in early 2016. He continues to work toward raising funds through his sources. There was a wonderful ceremony at Auburn University where the official Olympic Training Site designation was announced. Harvey addressed the good sized crowd on behalf of USATH and the USOC. The University President was there and spoke along with numerous faculty and community guests of the School of Kinesiology. There was an additional recognition and scoreboard video clip displayed at the next day's football game and Board Members David Thompson, Attila Agoston joined members of the WNT and MNT and coaching and leadership staff for a group introduction on the football field. We have raised significant revenue through the East Auburn Medical Center to help pay our coaching salaries through 2020 and additional revenue has been realized through the Jet Set sponsorship. Dennis Berkholtz has extensive experience in USA Team Handball and he has been asked to again report to the Board on updates later in this meeting.

Attila Agoston was invited to express his observation on the OTS designation ceremony. He conveyed that it was a fantastic experience, professionally organized and this, combined with the football game introduction was a huge exposure for USATH. He later toured facilities, met with faculty and players. He felt the AU OTS is a big value in kind and costs almost nothing for USATH. He is energized by what he saw there. We need more sponsors and more blue chip athletes but this is a great opportunity. Agoston encouraged the Board and USATH staff to focus on fundraising, development and recruiting nationally as the Auburn team did a great job and created great exposure in Alabama.

David Thompson echoed Attila's assessment that this is a great program and he appreciated being involved. Also, this is not just a national team program but the start of a national program for schools as well.

Michael D. Cavanaugh offered that he was happy Attila and others got to see the program first hand and he wished that every member and club representative could see the program first hand as well as website reporting, while very good, doesn't show the real potential of the overall program.

**CEO Report:** Covered the details surrounding the sponsorship earmarked for NT coaching salaries in Auburn from the East Auburn Medical Center – agreement extends through 2020. First contact attributed to Christian Latulippe, locally managed by Dave Gascon. SELECT recently signed and balls and cash support for sanctioned events included as well as a discount for members and clubs through direct purchases. Tomuke Ebuwei and MDC attended the U.S. Olympic Assembly that took place in Colorado Springs the same weekend as the Auburn OTS designation. Tomuke attended assorted meetings along with attending USOC AAC meeting as did MDC attend various sessions as well as National Governing Body Council meetings. NGBs were notified right before the OA of their USOC High Performance allocation for 2016. Once again USATH and a handful of other NGBs with no prospect of winning medals

in Rio received \$0 in HP funding. This was expected although we went ahead and submitted a HP Plan update; accenting the positive! The Pan American Team Handball Federation has asked the USATH to host an IHF Coaching Certification Course at Auburn, originally in February (that was recently postponed until later in 2016 – tis will involve about 20 -30 people) and is seen as a feather in the USATH hat. Harvey Schiller and MDC and Javier Garcia Cuesta plan to meet with IHF President in DC on October 31. The agenda includes support of the AU/Alabama/SEC program with equipment support, broadcasting support and updating presentations.

**Financial Report:** Candy Marturano provided P&L and Balance sheets prior to the teleconference, light month reported with activity, expenses normal. Harvey expressed an additional personal donation coming soon. Audit update – external audit going very smoothly after years of issues being settled. Audit Committee Chair, Jennie Choi issued some recommendation of how to manage accounts in Auburn. Tomuke Ebuwei appointed as overseer of the Auburn account in much the same fashion as Jennie serves in oversight of the Colorado Springs accounts.

**Dennis Berkholtz:** Dennis previously sent out a Vision document to the Board about his plan for the development of BEACH centered in Miami and Southern California with leadership and coaching in place and vetted by Dennis. He basically asked for the Board to endorse his plan and personnel and that he was operating on a \$0 budget but giving leadership and plan execution to those so appointed and pledged to work within USATH framework and expectations. Dennis looks to form and have teams competing international in 2016 and envisions bidding for future PATHF events and with the right support mechanisms in place consider bidding for a WC event in the future.

**National Championships:** MDC reports that the leadership team for the 2015 York Championships will remain in tack and planning is going well for improvements in 2016. The Bid packet for 2017 and 2018 has been updated and is almost ready to distribution to an assortment of interested sports commission, cities, CVBs and known event organizers. The Event Sanctioning form is widely believed to be in need of streamlining and making it more user friendly. This is within the Competition Committee at present. The thought is to think in the future where teams qualify for a FINAL event that is worthy of broadcasting. We also need to consider how the current format best meets the needs of our club membership and weigh the benefits and pitfalls of having foreign club teams participate. Perhaps we consider hosting an Open Club Championships with teams from CAN, MEX, PUR and others.

**AAC Report:** Tomuke reports that AAC elections are on the horizon and USATH's election procedure must be approved by the USOC by the end of the year. USATH's pool of eligible athlete is very small as the USOC mandates that eligible athletes must have competed in an Olympic Games, PAG or World Championships within the previous 10 years. David Thompson will help identify the eligible pool and Tomuke will send out a letter of interest to serve within that pool.

**Old Business / New Business:** Nothing presented for consideration

**Next Meeting / Adjournment:** Harvey Schiller expressed his thanks for all who participated and thanked them for their efforts. He directed MDC to get notification out in a timely manner concerning next meeting options. He called the meeting adjourned at 18:22

Respectfully submitted, mdc