

Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes

April 30, 2024 / Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

David Rodriguez, General Chair called the April 30, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:08PM with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Christopher Arena, Jeff Chu, Ethan Fergus, Keith Green, Kate Hallex, Zac Hojnacki, Annette Mackrel, Phil Paspalas, David Rodriguez, Jamila Smith, Bob Vializ

ABSENT

Joseph Apat, Dylan Gallub, Jonah Montgomery, Eddie Oyola, John Yearwood

STAFF

Kimberly Wyer-Ferraris

General Chair

Mr. Rodriguez opened the meeting with a recitation of the mission and vision.

MOTION: *To approve the April 16, 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Seconded.*

APPROVED.

MOTION: *To approve the Agenda. Seconded. APPROVED.*

Consent Agenda: Proposals A-G.

Proposals B, C, E, and G were pulled.

MOTION: *To approve Proposal A, D, F. Seconded. APPROVED*

Proposal B - Official Reimbursement Proposal. Discussion ensued.

The Finance Chair noted that the requirements for the officials to receive reimbursement for travel were less strict than for the athletes. He also questioned the need to go to NCSAs as they were not USA Swimming meets, and he is uncertain about the budget impact of the proposal as presented. The suggestion was made to study the impact of the officials reimbursements on the budget. It was pointed out that the LSC should provide officials with support and the travel reimbursements are a way to incentivize continued participation. Revenue could be potentially raised to offset the cost. Ms. Mackrel noted that the Para Meets were missing in the proposal. She also pointed out that officials were required to attend all days and sessions at national meets with the exception of Sectionals, Zones and NCSA, making them expensive to attend. The officials attending these meets were volunteers who put in many volunteer hours at home, they bring back new ideas and better practices from national meets that enhance the LSCs meets, too. The LSC does not pay officials but providing adequate travel reimbursements would incentivize this kind of volunteer work.



Mr. Paspalas noted that minimum requirements, such as number of sessions and Senior Mets participation, did exist. He explained that the proposal came together because Metro officials had been invited to Olympic Trials. He emphasized that officials were also full paying members of USA Swimming and Metro, and the contribution of officials to the sport and the LSC should not be overlooked. He requested the Board at least consider reimbursing for Olympic Trials on par with other LSCs as this was an extreme expense for the privilege of volunteering.

Mr. Paspalas suggested separating the Olympic Trial reimbursements from the other officials' reimbursements and that both items should be considered.

Ms. Hallex questioned if the Board could even make changes to the proposal as the proposals were just presented to get Board recommendation before being presented at the upcoming House of Delegates Meeting.

MOTION: *To table Proposal B. Seconded. FAILED*

MOTION: *To commit, with the instruction to the Officials Committee to collaborate with Finance to get it vetted. Seconded. APPROVED*

Proposal C - Championship Meet Fees

It was clarified who would receive the surcharges, Metro or the club hosting the championship? It was determined that the surcharges were intended to help the clubs facilitate the meets, the host clubs would keep the surcharges.

MOTION: *To approve Proposal C. Seconded. APPROVED*

Proposal E - Junior Mets Time Standards

No discussion.

MOTION: *To approve Proposal E. Seconded. APPROVED*

Proposal G - Open Water Reimbursement Proposal

It was questioned if Zone Open Water Zones required travel and if it necessitated any travel reimbursement at all.

Mr. Hojnacki explained that the proposal had been brought forward because the current language in the P&P regarding Open Water was extremely vague and the reimbursement amounts were tied to the individual distances swum, which seemed inappropriate. The new policy would distinguish between meets and the higher level meets would be reimbursed at a greater rate, regardless of the distance the athletes choose to swim. It would be more consistent with the other travel reimbursements and it would incentivize participation.

MOTION: *To amend Proposal G and remove the Zone Open Water for further discussion with Finance. Seconded. APPROVED*



These minutes will be officially approved by the Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors at its May 28, 2024 meeting.

MOTION: To approve Proposal G as amended. Seconded. **APPROVED**

General Chair

Mr. Rodriguez reminded everyone to have their reports and be ready for the House of Delegates Meeting May 9th on Zoom. For the elections he hoped that everyone would encourage possible candidates to step up for open positions.

He thanked Ms. Wyler-Ferraris, Mr. Wone, Mr. Chu, and Mr. Arena for helping move the office and all the effort they put into it.

Administrative Vice Chair

Ms. Hallex reiterated that the Club Achievement forms have been posted and that everyone applicable would be reached out to. She reported that the TYR contract expired, no one from TYR has reached out yet. The TYR sponsorship is in limbo. It was suggested Metro look at other sponsors.

Finance Chair

Mr. Arena reported that Metro was able to get out of the office lease early. Metro will save a significant amount of money in the future years. Still transitioning investments. The plan is to approve the budget for the next year at the Fall House of Delegates Meeting.

Coaches Rep

Mr Yearwood was not present.

Athlete Rep

Ms Smith will prepare something for the House of Delegates Meeting.

Secretaries

Mr. Chu reminded everyone to submit their written reports so they could be posted on the website in advance of the House of Delegates Meeting. He also informed everyone that there was only one nominee for junior athlete rep at the moment.

Age Group Chairs

Mr Green reported that the Zone Coordinator application was finalized and posted and they are looking to find an applicant by June 1st.

The AG Chairs have received an offer for bussing about \$3000 cheaper than in the past, so some savings were possible.

Safe Sport Chairs

Mr. Paspalas said that he and Ms Graham are looking forward to continuing as Safe Sport Chairs.



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Operational Risk Chair

Mr. Vializ reported that he is not getting any data from National.

Technical Planning

Mr. Montgomery was not present.

DDEI

Mr. Oyola was not present.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

New Business

Mr. Paspalas, on behalf of the officials invited to Olympic Trials, requested consideration or approval of travel reimbursement to Olympic Trials. Mr. Arena noted that there hasn't been any reimbursement allocated to this meet. Presently, there is no line item for Olympic Trials reimbursement for officials in the budget.

It was discussed if it should be part of the officials reimbursement budget or a separate expense.

Mr. Hojnacki mentioned that there is precedence for special expenses that were not anticipated.

It was decided for the officials to submit expected expenses for Olympic Trials and then coordinate with Finance if it could work.

ADJOURN

David Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeff Chu

Secretary

/s/ Annette Mackrel

Secretary



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Metropolitan Swimming Board of Directors Minutes Attachments
04/16/24 / Virtual

Attachment 1

[Agenda 04/30/24](#)

