

US SAILING Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Minutes

President Janet Baxter called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM EDT.

Board of Directors members present were: Janet Baxter, Jerelyn Biehl, Jim Capron, Ruth Creighton, Dean Brenner, Susan Epstein, Rich Jepsen, Patty Lawrence, Charlie Leighton, Dick Rose, John Siegel and John Strassman. Also attending for a portion of the meeting was David Rosekrans. Absent were: Bob Billingham, Tom Hubbell, Leslie Keller, Bill Sandberg and Jim Tichenor.

Secretary John Strassman presented the minutes of the last meeting.

Action Item:

A motion to approve the August 21, 2006 Board of Directors Minutes was moved, seconded and passed.

Action Item:

A motion to approve the action of President Baxter on August 31, 2006 to nominate Serge Jorgensen as President of IFDS was moved, seconded and passed.

President Janet Baxter reported that she will be traveling to Newport, RI very shortly to observe the IFDS Blind Sailing Worlds and to visit US SAILING to participate in several meetings with the staff. Last week she was in Beijing with two of our athletes for a roll-out for a line of Nautica clothing with a US SAILING motif, including our logo. This clothing is for the China and Hong Kong markets and there are no plans to sell it in the United States.

Charlie Leighton then gave the Executive Director's report. Due to the exceptionally good first half of the year, the budget was reformatted to compare actual year to date numbers with the revised forecast and last year. The revised forecast calls for a \$192,000 improvement over the original budget. US SAILING is ahead of this forecast and \$337,920 ahead of last year. To achieve the revised forecast we need to be \$328,636 ahead of last year on December 31.

Several of the staff had a meeting with many top officials of Chubb Insurance to discuss the status of their sponsorship situation. The meeting went very well and Leighton said that the US SAILING staff left with secure assurances for the 2007 season and hopeful expectations for 2008.

Leighton was excited about the Marketing initiative to revitalize the US SAILING brand. He reviewed several new ads that will be displayed in the near future and a redesigned US SAILING Logo that will be tested for appeal. The Medalist program has picked up two more benefactors and is going very well. The Annual Appeal is being prepared and Leighton informed the Board that they will be very pleased with it.

Dean Brenner then gave the Olympic Committee report. The test event in Qingdao went very well with three medals in two classes and contenders in four other classes. Brenner said that the China event also was important in that it was a successful demonstration of a new era in US Sailing Team mentality and structure. Katie Kelley and Gary Bodie excelled in their roles and

the athletes worked together with a new sense of team camaraderie. Brenner is very pleased and is very optimistic for the next two years.

The Pre- Trials will be starting in mid-October in sites in Southern California and Newport, RI. Jim Tichenor is the Trials Manager and is very busy coordinating fourteen race circles at six yacht clubs.

Due to the fact that there are only two active American Yngling campaigns, the OSC has decided not to hold either the pre-trials or final trials in that class. The OSC will select the top American finisher at the 2008 Yngling Worlds which will be held in Miami in February of 2008 as the US Olympic representative.

Brenner continued that every indication is pointing to a very large number of registrants at the 2007 Miami OCR. Over 750 competitors are expected. Great Britain alone is sending 100 athletes.

Jim Capron then presented the latest revision of the Regulations. It was unanimously expressed that the Regulation re-write was an enormous undertaking and that the Regulation Working Group had done a marvelous job. The normal process would be for the House to review and approve then the Board to review and approve, but since we are in the Transition Year and we want to have the Regulations in place to build for the 2007 Committee year and the fall meetings, we will expedite the process. The Board will approve these Regulations, which are the rewrite of the old regulations. The Regulations will be published and when there are changes proposed, those changes should follow the normal process. There were discussions on the intent and wording of several articles. Jim Capron will continue to clean up minor issues and expects to complete the work within a week.

Action Item:

A motion was made and seconded to accept Draft 13 v2 of the Regulations subject to minor non-substantive editing. Motion was passed.

Charlie Leighton presented a Resolution that would amend Regulation 7.13 (h). The article in question describes a process to fund an Operational Reserve Fund. The CFO of US SAILING had some reservation regarding the mechanics and timing as described in 7.13(h). The Board asked that the issue of the target total of the fund be re-visited and stated in terms that are relational to some metric rather than a set amount. The Resolution was withdrawn. The Board agrees in principle that 7.13(h) must be corrected before 2007.

President Baxter then discussed planning for the 2006 AGM scheduled for November 15-19, 2006 in Newport RI. The draft schedule was discussed and it was decided to modify the draft schedule to increase the meeting times for the Transitional Board. Baxter and Leighton said that they would iron out the details when Baxter was visiting the headquarters later that week.

Baxter reported that the ISAF Submissions have been posted and a working group will assign the various submissions to the appropriate ISAF Committees for presentation at the ISAF Meeting later this fall.

Secretary Strassman presented a proposal from the Race Management Committee recommending that two nominees for Area Race Officers for the Area Race Officer Working group be approved.

Action Item:

A motion was made and seconded that nomination of William (Bill) Gage for Area G and Guy Fleming for Area H-W for Area Race Officers be approved. Motion was passed.

President Baxter asked for the approval of James Walsh's nomination as Competition Division Chair.

Action Item:

A motion was made and seconded that nomination of James Walsh as Competition Division Chair be approved. Motion was passed.

Patty Lawrence reported that progress was being made on getting the Councils to up-date their bylaws. There are several completely ready to go, several that just need finishing touches and several committees that need considerable work. She will continue her report next meeting.

The several nominees for the Herreshoff award were discussed and Secretary Strassman asked that the Board send him their votes.

A contentious Review Board hearing which will be coming up around the end of November was discussed, as it may have some financial impact to US SAILING. It was suggested that a member of the Board sit in as an observer. President Baxter will have further discussions with individuals regarding this issue to determine the criteria for the observer.

Patty Lawrence presented a proposal that the current Transitional Board of Directors take part in a questionnaire based self-evaluation. The Nominating and Governance Committee is directed by the By-Laws to monitor and evaluate the performance of the BOD. This would be something of a trial run. The results would be held confidential between the Board and the Nominating and Governance Committee..

Action Item:

A motion was made and seconded that the Transitional BOD will take part in a confidential self-evaluation questionnaire. Motion was passed.

Meeting Adjourned 10:38 PM EDT

Respectfully submitted,

John Strassman
Secretary