

US SAILING Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Minutes

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

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

Secretary John Strassman presented the minutes of the last meeting.

Action Item:

A motion to approve the September 26, 2006 Board of Directors Minutes as presented was moved, seconded and passed.

President Janet Baxter reported that she had been in California visiting yacht clubs, preparing for the Annual Meeting and reviewing the new bylaws and regulations to assure a smooth transition. Baxter notified the BOD that The NGB Council has asked for nominations for the USOC BOD and she asked the members of the US SAILING BOD to recruit candidates for nomination.

Charles Leighton was asked to give the Executive Director's Report. Year to date the organization is 138% ahead of last year, but we are just 9% ahead of the revised forecast of \$192,568 for the year. Leighton reported that the organization has little room to spare and everyone needs to continue their fine efforts for these last three months if we are to achieve this goal.

Olympics based monies received and expenses through September have a net cash position of \$592,715 for this Quad. This does not include pledges to be paid in the future. When reading Katie Kelly's report, the only disappointment, as she points out, is that USOC monies to be received for 2007 are only 5% greater than 2006. For the milestones we need to achieve in 2007, we have asked the USOC to enhance future funding especially since the performance of the US Sailing Team in 2006 has been excellent.

Leighton continued that the US SAILING representatives who attended the IRC meeting in London reported that it was a positive meeting. The 600 IRC certificates issued this year represented an increase of approximately 100 boats from last year. US SAILING is concerned that the proposed price to renew existing IRC certificates was not adequate to cover the administrative costs and discussions were underway to resolve the issue.

Leighton reported that about 100 people a day were voting on-line for the US SAILING elections. At the time of the meeting, 435 ballots had been cast, 92% electronic and the balance mail-ins. Several questions were answered concerning the procedures for on-site voting at the AGM.

Leighton informed the Board that a Yacht Club Manager's Seminar is being hosted by New York Yacht Club. US SAILING is participating and it was suggested that CSA become involved if this would become a regularly scheduled event.

Treasurer Leslie Keller reported that the office had received two proposals in response to the RFP for next year's audit.

Budget Committee Chair James Appel reported that the forecast through the end of the year looks favorable. Appel said that the first draft of next year's budget will be made available to the BOD, HOD and Committee Chairs before the AGM. Appel foresees several meetings of the Budget Committee during the AGM to work on successive iterations of the draft budget. A final budget will be available before the December BOD meeting.

Olympic Committee Chair Dean Brenner reported that the Pre-Trials are under way at seven different Yacht Clubs in two different regions of the country. Brenner praised the staff and volunteers for their excellent and extensive work for the preparation and execution of the event. Brenner reported that everything was going very well.

Brenner continued that he was very confident in the outcomes for this Quad but he is worried about the longer range prospects for the Committee. His concern is that while the current Quad has adequate funding, there is no permanent mechanism to maintain the program into the next Quads.

Tom Hubbell said that the Transition Project is coming to its planned conclusion. The Bylaws and Regulations are in place and the first general election of the Board is underway. A request was made to publish an organizational chart on the website. During the discussion on US SAILING structure and by law changes, Brenner brought up a point on the difference between structure and behaviors. Changing an organization's structure is important, and US SAILING has done that. But Brenner also stressed the importance of behavior changes that will bring the power of the streamlined structure to life. In particular, Brenner mentioned the new role of the Division Head as a place where we need to think strategically about how we will behave differently as an organization. He urged the group to think about the behaviors needed to bring this new structure to life.

President Baxter reported and answered questions regarding the proposed schedule of the AGM. Secretary Strassman was asked to send the draft agendas of the several BOD meetings to the Board.

President Baxter asked the BOD to refer to a list of 2006 US SAILING Submissions to ISAF. Charlie Cook prepared a table of the submissions grouped into categories by issue with a synopsis of the US delegation's positions. Baxter answered questions, made some clarifications and noted that the delegation will continue to work on the specifics at the conference. The delegation will oppose changes to the Olympic format, as the quad is half over. They will try to protect the Miami OCR to keep costs down and attract international sailors. Including women on the Council will be defended, as ISAF has already agreed, and our delegates will support the methods that include as many countries as possible.

Action Item:

A motion to nominate Janet Baxter as US SAILING Delegate to the ISAF General Meeting was moved, seconded and passed.

Susan Epstein presented a proposal from the US Women's Sailing Championship Committee.

Action Items:

Susan Epstein moved to accept the resignation of Glenn Lattimore as a Trustee to the Adam's Cup and appoint her as Trustee Emeritus. Motion was seconded and passed. Further, a motion to accept the nomination of Faye Bennet as a Trustee of the Adams Cup, representative of the US Women's Sailing Championship, was moved, seconded and passed.

Susan Epstein presented a list of proposed bylaw changes. The list consists of corrections, edits and oversights that will be presented at the annual meeting. Epstein also asked the BOD to continue reviewing the new documents and note other edits for consideration.

Secretary John Strassman reported that the United States Sailing Foundation is considering several changes to their bylaws. Ruth Creighton said that there would be more discussion within USSF before any changes were recommended for approval.

Patty Lawrence presented her report on the status of the several Councils' Bylaws. Lawrence presented a table that tracked the progress of the task of updating their Bylaws. Several Councils' Bylaws were ready for approval/acceptance by the BOD and a number needed more work.

Action Item:

A motion to accept the Bylaws of the House of Delegates, National Offshore Council, Multihull Council, Council of Sailors with Disabilities, Youth Sailing Council, Intercollegiate Sailing Association and the Windsurfing Council was moved, seconded and passed.

President Baxter praised Lawrence for her persistent good work on this project. It was noted that CSA's Bylaws were previously approved.

Susan Epstein reported that assigning letter designations to the Areas formerly known as H-East and H-West is pending and will be finalized by a CSA bylaw change at the CSA Annual Meeting. The Directors having agreed, Hawaii will be Area H and the former H-East will be known as Area L.

President Baxter reviewed the request for a representative to the upcoming Review Board meeting. Secretary John Strassman volunteered and the Board accepted.

Meeting Adjourned 10:15 PM EDT

Respectfully submitted,

John Strassman
Secretary