



2012-2013 US Sailing Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2013

In attendance: Board: Josh Adams, JJ Fetter, Susan Epstein, Executive Director Jack Gierhart, George Hinman, President Tom Hubbell, Secretary Patty Lawrence, Maureen McKinnon, Dawn Riley, Treasurer Taran Teague, Jim Walsh Division Chairs: Sarah Alger, Charlie Arms, Brian Hawboldt

Regrets: Ed Adams, Vice President Bruce Burton, John Craig, and Ben Richardson

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM EDT and the roll call established a quorum.

The board voted to approve a bid to host the 2016 49er and 49er FX Worlds via email on 9/20/2013.

The consent calendar was moved, seconded, and approved.

- August 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes
- Diana Kareta as the registered agent for the State of Rhode Island to replace Bobbi Warren
- Diana Kareta as a check signer

President's Report:

President Tom Hubbell reported that that RSA chair, Bob Porter, has resigned.

Tom and Bruce Burton spent Thursday, September 19 at the Portsmouth office where they enjoyed a productive day that included a staff meeting and staff lunch where they were joined by George Hinman. Membership Director, Georgia MacDonald, along with the entire staff continues to work on the 60,000 by 12/31/2015. Tom remarked that that the US Sailing staff is engaged in our mission, upbeat, and enthusiastic. Bruce and Jack are working on strategies to continue to improve the organization.

This month's Presidents blog was about watching the first four America's Cup races from the beach in San Francisco.

Executive Director Jack Gierhart submitted a written report and noted that we are on target financially. He thanked the staff and directors for managing the budget well. Areas with losses are offset. The auditors recommend that we track membership revenue differently than in the past resulting in lower immediate revenue showing on the books, but membership numbers remains on track.

- Matt Hill, Director of Race Administration, and Diana Kareta, Finance Director, are in place and doing well. A search is underway to fill Diana's former position.
- A campaign to increase attendance at the AGM in FL is underway. Please encourage volunteers to sign up and join us. New and youth sailors may be eligible for sponsorship money to attend.
- The Sailing Leadership Forum is coming together nicely.
- The Project 60K Membership Campaign focuses on the "why" of joining. Additional funds for US Sailing will enable us to better promote sailing. Our retention rate is 70% which acceptable but Jack feels that we can do better.
- Each board member is asked to introduce the Membership Partner Program to their yacht club and to coordinate the effort with Georgia. Additionally, she is targeting several other clubs that we have partnered with in the past.



- The staff continues to broaden our horizons with new relationships for media and data collection outlets.

Treasurer Taran Teague congratulated Jack and the staff on smooth transition as Bobbi Warren retired and Diana Kareta was promoted to finance manager. The year is three-fourths through and our net income is ahead of budget. All of our investments are in growth funds as directed by the board over the summer.

Managing Olympic Director Josh Adams thanked the board for endorsing the bid to host the 2016 49er and 49erFX Worlds in Clearwater, FL and was pleased to announce that at the meeting taking place at the current World's, the class accepted the bid. We have partnered with a number of local organizations and the event furthers both short and long-term Olympic goals as it will ensure strong international presence of skiff sailors in South Florida in the winter of 2016 for SWC Miami and the Worlds. And we're going to be able to tell young skiff aspirants (i.e. 29er sailors) to start aiming now for the 2016 Worlds, a perfect start to their 2020 and 2024 Olympic campaigns. This puts both the men's 49er and women's 49er FX Worlds within about 10 days of the World Series in Miami.

Thomas Barrows, who is a dual citizen of the US and US Virgin Islands, has been released by the VI's to sail for the US. Thomas attended Yale where he was College Sailor of the Year. US sailor, Kayla McComb, was released by the US to sail for the Virgin Islands as that is the home of her sailing partner.

The USOC came to RI and met with Josh, Jack, Ben Richardson and others to review the High Performance Plan. The meeting was productive and the USOC is supportive of our Race to Rio strategy.

Olympic fundraising has reached the one million in pledge goal for 2013 and, with three months to go in the year, we have raised the 2013 goal to 1.4 million. Private support of approximately a dozen donors, foundations and yacht clubs have provided good momentum with fundraising.

Olympic Communications Director Dana Paxton moved to Australia but will stay on the job through October. Josh and team have developed a transition plan and are searching for a communications manager.

Charlie Arms submitted a written Education Division report, appended to the minutes.

Board members then each reported on their progress with contacting RSA representatives and getting their insights. We all encouraged RSA representatives to attend the AGM.

The meeting adjourn at 8:45 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Lawrence