

Missouri Valley Swimming, Inc

Board of Directors Meeting, Roeland Park, KS, 9-23-2017

Members in attendance: Scott Bliss, Executive Director; Ingenue Cobbinah, Diversity and Inclusion Chair; Natalie Haag, General Chair; Gardner Howland, Senior Chair; James Kuhlman, At Large Member; Michael Meloy, Coach Representative; Courtney Myers, Junior Athlete Representative; Curtis Myers, Officials Chair; Alison Pick, Coach Representative; Katie Price-Norman, Age Group Chair; Andrew Schmidt, Safety Chair; Dulcy Sellon, Secretary; Bob Shearer, Technical Planning Chair; Marjorie Sherard, Observer from Empire KC Club; Mark Sutton, Financial Chair.

Natalie Haag called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The roll call was created from the members' sign in and is reflected above. Natalie asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last two Board of Directors meetings. Mark Sutton made the motion for approval; James Kuhlman seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Mark Sutton presented his statement of Missouri Valley's financial position. The LSC is in a good financial position with assets of \$389,588. He had been able to add funds to our Merrill Lynch account and the account had also done well. The Merrill Lynch funds are not used in the budgeted operations. He also presented a report for the 2017 actual versus budget results. Total registrations were down slightly but higher Splash fees were realized. The budget will allow Missouri Valley to have funds for new initiatives/ programs if interested parties bring them forward. Natalie asked for a motion to accept the financial report. Bob Shearer made the motion for approval which was seconded by James Kuhlman and all voted aye.

Officers' Reports

Courtney Myers, introduced herself to the Board as the junior athlete representative. The Board Members then introduced themselves to her. She reported that the athlete committee is working on athlete leadership training and this would be done through a trip or retreat. They hope to secure two athlete representatives from each club for this. They are also planning on developing mentorships for the athletes to shadow coaches or other nonathletes.

Natalie reported for Amy, our Administrative Vice Chair. At the USA Swimming Convention the House of Delegates devised a new configuration for the Board of Directors. Fewer members will be on the Board. The Zone positions were removed so Amy will no longer be a member of the Board. The House also provided for a flex membership for swimmers which LSC's have the option of adopting. MV will need to make a decision on this membership option before the 2018 registration year. Flex membership costs \$20 and allows swimmers to register with USA Swimming and participate in two meets before they need to commit to a full year registration.

MV would receive \$10 of this registration fee. The flex membership is designed to capture entry level swimmers. USA Swimming also passed legislation that required meet directors to have no additional roles at meets. Additional legislation allowed for the registration of coaches aged 16 to 18. These coaches must complete all coach safety certifications but are not required to have a background check performed. These young coaches must have line of sight supervision by an older coach and cannot be the only club coach at meets.

Katie Price-Norman gave the Age Group Committee report. She said the Coaches Committee would be voting on her committee's proposals before the House of Delegates meeting. The proposals included new time standards for the Short Course and Long Course championship meets and changes to the meet format for the spring Short Course Championships. They also recommend that the All Star meet be added to the meet schedule for January 2018 and that the meet be a non team travel meet. MV would cover coach expenses for the meet and the same swimmer selection process used for the past three years for the meet would be followed. The committee also had ideas for providing opportunities for all level of swimmers in MV. These included the Fitter and Faster Swim Tour for athletes selected from teams based on the team's finish at the LSC's championship meets; help with support for All Star swimmers to attend another meet in April or May and help for the 15 & over Texas Senior Circuit meets and 14 and under Elite Showcase classic. Mark stated that MV had budgeted funds for the All Star meet for January 2018 as a non team travel meet.

Gardner Howland, Senior Chair, reported that MV had representation at the national meets this past summer. Reimbursement for Junior Nationals and the national meets and the other recognized travel expenses will be given to Mark for reimbursement. He also reported that the Sectional meet had added 200 distance for relay events and 50's of stroke to their event list. He stated that the OPD list of meets given to the Kansas State High School Activities Association had become too long. He will discuss this with the coach committee to devise criterion for including a meet on the list. The current list of meets will be used for this year. He reported that reimbursement for college team travel should be further studied and that Michael Andrew's three junior world records should be recognized.

Alison Pick, Coaches' Representative, reported that the Sectionals would use qualifying time for the 100's as the basis for the 50's entries so the number of swimmers at the meet will not be increased by adding the 50's events. The top 24 places will be scored and the D final will be for 18 and under only. She reported that USA Swimming wants to improve the butterfly results for USA national teams and has started a section of their website for the USA Butterfly Revolution. United States Swimming has also contracted with Team Unify to provide a link for Deck Pass to Team Unify.

Gardner and Alison discussed the basis for the addition of the 50's and the new relays to the Sectional meet format. He suggested that the Coaches' committee discuss this and send their conclusions on to the Sectional Director. Alison stated that she would work for a coach vote on this.

Natalie reported that Candace Pearson, our Safe Sport Chair, had moved and that MV needs to appoint a new person for this chair.

Andrew Schmidt, Safety Chair, reported that he had attended the USAS safety conference in Colorado Springs in June. The Conference had paid particular attention to the club's response to concussions. Clubs were encouraged to use a tiered approach to having a swimmer rejoin practices after a concussion. USA Swimming insurance also wants Safety Marshals to be on deck throughout the meet, not just during warm-ups. Some LSC's, he said, are requiring the Marshals to have a background check since they will be on deck. He reported that he would continue to list safety training and CPR opportunities on the website and encouraged more clubs to add individuals to this list. He stated that Reports of Occurrence need to be submitted no matter the level of injury.

Bob Shearer, Technical Planning Chair, reported that his committee would be considering what programs are needed to make swimmers faster. The Fitter and Faster tour might be a means for this as would encouraging teams to go to the Olympic Training Center for camps. Plans for these would probably require at least a year's lead time.

Ingenue Cobbinah, Diversity and Inclusion Chair, reported that the Multi- Cultural camp would be June 21-24, 2018 in Mason, Ohio. MV will be able to send a coach, nonathlete and four swimmers. Two additional alternates can also be designated if all the swimmer positions at the camp are not filled. In 2019, the Multi-cultural meet will be held in Edwardsville. The date for this is yet to be determined. Ingenue stated that she is working to compile information on other multi-cultural meets and events and will get these posted. She also asked for assistance in determining criteria for selecting swimmers to participate in these events. Natalie suggested that Alison and the coach committee also help with this determination. Natalie also reported that in April there will be an athlete leadership training conference in Texas. USAS will pay for one athlete to attend and MV can send another and pay for their air fare. The application process for this will be published on the web site.

Mark Sutton, Treasurer, presented the 2018 Budget proposal. He stated that the budget lines are proposed from research on the last four budget years. The proposal shows a balanced budget and he stated that MV does have \$8,000 for other unallocated expenses. These funds can be used for new initiatives proposed by members and approved by the Board. He asked Alison if she anticipated any expenses for MV for the Wichita Regional Coach Clinic to be held in

the Spring of 2018. She stated that USAS would be covering all most all expenses. The motion was made and seconded to submit the proposed budget to the House of Delegates for approval. All voted aye.

Curtis Myer, Official's Chair, reported that MV was achieving a great deal in developing its officials without spending a great deal. He felt that MV needs to state and communicate its vision for continuing to improve. He encourages the Board to look at what we want to achieve.

New Business

Natalie began a discussion on swimmer development program ideas. The Board had stated as a goal in its strategic planning, the development of plans to increase MV swimmer achievement. Establishing camps had been suggested but since MV coaches have little free time to undertake these programs, little has been achieved. Natalie and Amy, inquiring what other LSC's had done on this issue, want the Board to consider creating a program/club development position for Missouri Valley. This might require an increase in registration fees to fund the position. Other LSC's had hired a former coach to undertake swimmer development programs, consult with coaches on ways to improve swimmers and also work with clubs to improve club's parent boards for recruitment and training. This position might initially be a contract position to test if the position works for MV. Natalie wanted to set up a task force to define the position by February and have it ready for a vote and implementation by the spring meeting. She asked the Board if members wanted to undertake this initiative. Board members endorsed the idea and several volunteered to work on the task force.

Natalie stated that she had started a calendar of upcoming events which will be available on the website. A list for upcoming conferences will also be created so planning and budgeting for these can take place.

Scott reported that he and Katie had worked with a parent who had access to a business that would help with identifying and reserving blocks of hotel rooms for MV away meets. This would streamline the hotel reservation search for MV at no cost to the LSC. He suggested that we try it for a year to see how it works for MV. The Board agreed that this should be undertaken. Ingenu asked that the information be shared with clubs too if this worked well for MV. He stated that the meet schedule had several bid conflicts for championship meets and that the coaches committee would decide these at their meeting before the House of Delegates meeting. They will also review and decide on the 14 page championship meet proposal compiled by the Age Group committee. The date for the spring meeting is currently in flux. USA Swimming will decide the date for its Wichita Coaches Clinic and the spring meeting might be held on that date in Wichita. When the date is determined it will be published on the website.

Natalie stated that the nominating committee will be headed by Shawn Geil and will include Hannah Garner and Alison Pick. An additional athlete and coach are needed to complete the committee. The positions to be filled include the General Chair, the administrative Vice Chair, the treasurer, the secretary, one at large member and the safe sport position. The Safe Sport position which is an active one, needs an interim member until the spring meeting. She stated that Terrin Fisher, an athlete, had expressed an interest in the work and she wished to appoint him until the spring meeting. The Board agreed. Natalie stated that a task force set up to assess if MV wanted to participate in the flex membership program would need to complete its work by the spring meeting. This program would not have an adverse affect on our finances but there are still uncertainties about how to track when a swimmer has completed his/her two allowed meet competitions. She asked the coaches to also consider this program and its issues.

Katie made the motion to adjourn the meeting. James seconded the motion and all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dulcy Sellon, MV Secretary