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MISSION STATEMENT OKS: To develop excellence, character, and growth in swimming for all.

VISION STATEMENT OKS: To advance our core values of selflessness, excellence, leadership, integrity, inclusion, and development by increasing competitive swimming opportunities and developing relationships that promotes excellence and growth.

***OKS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes***

Monday, June 20, 2022 - 6:00 PM

Location: Google Meet

Called to order at 6:02 PM

No conflicts

Attendance:

Present: Jenn; Lynne; Chad; Sam; Beth; Carole; Kate; Andreas; Terrie; Griffin; Bob; guests – Mista Burgess; George Glover; Nicole Levendofsky; Tracy Stoddard; Cindy Lightfood; Stephanie Bruehl

No Additions to Agenda

- Motion to accept Agenda as posted
 - Motioned by Beth
 - Seconded by TJ
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote

Minutes from previous meeting:

- No Changes
- Motion to approve Minutes
 - Motioned by Beth
 - Seconded by Chad
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair - BH

- **Clinic**
 - 4 clinics July 21st
 - As of today, there have 100 children and a few adults that have attended the clinics and have gone away safer in the water.
 - With another 30 scheduled for July 21st
 - 2 or 3 more clinics scheduled for August
 - Currently, OKC does not have enough lifeguards to keep the pools open, so clinics may have to be moved to the Lighthouse or to the Foster Indoor Recreation Center.



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- **July Lessons**

- Annie Krammer is helping coordinate with some of the OKC swimmers that might be willing to offer no cost swim lessons for some of the kids that have signed up for lessons
- OKC Parks and Recreation are donating the water and lifeguards for these lessons.
- Currently, an estimate of 25 kids and 3 adults signed up for these lessons.
- Should be able to cover most of them.

- **Goals for DEI**

- Getting into School Systems and start communicating with parents and see what their needs are in order to get their kids in the water past just water safety.

- **Question from JS**

- What are the plans to expand this program to the East side of the state?
 - Top of the list for next summer.
 - Lynn as spoke with Sigma Gamma Rho of Tulsa.
 - Lynn's update
 - Met with City of Tulsa and Sigma Gamma Rho.
 - Waiting for Tulsa Dream Center Swimming (Tulsa Dream Center Organization) and they are building a pool and a splash pad, and they plan to offer free lessons.
 - City of Tulsa is looking to help next year.

- **Para Athletes**

- In September, Disability will come on as part of DEI.
- Would like board input before the HOD on short-term and long-term goals.
- Then would like to reach out the OK Department of Disabilities.

Financials - JS

- **Financial Update**

- No update for May, still working on closing it out and will be placed on website once completed.
- Oklahoma Swimming is in good shape
- Working on Zones funding
- Closing Edmond bank
- Working on Corporate Card through Arvest
 - Possibly additional cards with different limits.

General Manager – BS



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- **Championship meet P&P 413**
 - BS & CE
 - would suggest to we wait to vote until next meeting when the General Chair and Vice Chair can be at the meeting.
 - JS does not have any question but agrees to wait until at least one to the Admin. can be available.
 - Changes:
 - To get us more forward thinking and open bids up in September and close them in October.
 - Be a season or a season and half in taking bids and line out the championship meets.
 - Section 1.4, Take bids and then the Committee will come to the Board for approval.
 - Took out the General Chair and the Vice Chair and added the Officials Chair.
 - BS – questions whether to vote on this or wait since the General Chair and Admin Vice Chair are out.
 - CE – We have all other Board Member present and suggests that we go ahead and vote tonight. Proposed that we vote.
 - Motion to vote on changes to P&P 413 by CE
 - Seconded by BH
 - Discussion on P&P
 - JS – Likes that it noted the changes to the Winter 23 and Summer 23 meet schedule.
 - CE – reasoning for the General Chair being taken off was from discussion at the retreat.
 - CE – reasoning for taking the Admin Vice Chair off is because the Admin Vice Chair is not guaranteed to be the Admin at a meet and that is why the Officials Chair was added. The Officials Chair will know and have input on how a meet is ran.
 - Senior Chair will chair this committee.
 - Athletes agree and just need to make sure they can make the meeting.
 - **Motion to approve changes to P&P 413**
 - Motioned Passed by unanimous vote
- **Fall HOD**
 - Date: October 8, 2022 (OU vs Texas)
 - Location: TBD
 - Talked about having it on the Eastside this year
 - Possible location Glenn Pool
 - Possible location in Broken Arrow
 - Notices:
 - Meeting: Not less than twenty (20) days' written notice shall be given to each member of the House of Delegates for any annual, regular, or special meetings of the House of Delegates. See Section 14.1.3 for the various permitted means of notice



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- Candidates from the Governance Committee: To publish the slate of candidates to the OKSI membership at least twenty (20) days prior to the election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the House of Delegates by voting members of the House of Delegates; (General Chairman, Admin Vice Chair, Coaches Rep, Age Group Chair & one for the Governance Committee (voting by coaches),
- **Suggested Schedule**
 - Board Meeting: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 - New Registration demo: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
 - Coaches Meeting: 2:15 - 3:15 pm
 - Officials Meeting: 2:15 - 3:15 pm
 - Athletes Meeting: 2:15 - 3:15 pm
 - HOD Meeting Registration: 3:15 - 3:30 pm
 - HOD Meeting: 3:30 - 4:30 pm
- **New Registration**
 - CE – since most of registration will be completed, will OK Swimming setup some clinic to teach the new registration formats.
 - BS – He & CL will work on putting together some Google Meets
 - JS – is USA Swimming planning any workshops?
 - BS – they have information out on their website.
- **Recognition for Klair and Amaya**
 - Does not feel like they were thanked appropriately. Would like that they receive a nice note from the Board.
 - Maybe a nice social media post and put something on the website.
- **Mighty 2500 Workshop November 4-6 in Colorado Springs. Need to decide on two attendees who will attend prior to August 15th. OKS would pay for airfare; USA Swimming pays for the rest.**
 - Topics and activities include:
 - communication, collaboration, connecting
 - recruiting/board building, succession planning
 - decision making
 - Age Group/Senior developmental progressions for competition in your LSC.
 - JS – suggestion would be Denis or Scott, and Chad, Sam or Lynn.
 - CE – Chad should be available
 - BS – will put out an email to see how would be interested.
 - CE – would like to put Bob on the list as a possible attendee.
- **2022-2023 Planning Calendar**
 - Has sent an email out to the clubs for meets they are scheduling for the upcoming year
 - Has received some responses and hoping to get more.
- **Safe Sport Checklist - still working on this**
 - Working with CL
- **New OK Swimming Merchandise is now available.**
 - Order and Pay through Swim Quik

Guest Discussion

- **Mista**
 - AESC was asked to host the long-course State Meet.



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- BS – had answered all questions
- AESC sent a formal letter to BS stating they would host.
- There were some logistics that her Board was unaware of, and she would like for them an opportunity to talk about it. Basically, a problem with the meet being 15 and over meet instead of 15 to 19 meets.
- At the last meet there a lot of conversation between officials, other teams, and coaches.
- Board is wavering on hosting the meet because of the 15 and over language. Board had said they would not have agreed to host it they had know it was going to be a 15 and over instead of a 15 to 19 meet.
- **BS** – where this started, during last years long course age group meet. BS and members of the Championship Committee had discussion with coaches and their thoughts of the meet and that lead into hosting a meet for the 14 and Under Championship meet and then having a Senior State Championship allowing older athletes to have a great opportunity with any Senior as long as they had a qualifying time. Those discussion continued with the coached and the Championship Committee. Emails were sent from CE & BS to coaches for feedback and very little feedback was given. None had anything to do with the 15 and over. Then the Committee voted and the Broad approved that. On April 20th, a note was sent out to all the coaches letting them know the qualifying times and the format for the State Championship this summer.
- **CE** – We have tried since the state of Covid to very actively to engage our coaches in Oklahoma. Had Zoom meeting and have continued to send Emails to the coaches regarding State and Sectionals information. We have tried very hard to get the coach's input. Some input from the last state meet that was receive from coached was that they liked the 15 & over format. Several coaches that were very happy to see us get rid of that top tier 19 age limit. So, when putting together the summer state meet, that is one we reach out about. Not all coaches are good about responded back, but those that did which were the majority of our large clubs were positive about what we were doing and why we were doing it. Coaches have been given every opportunity to know what is going on and the athlete representatives have been involved in the process from the beginning as well.
- **BS** – other feedback from the coaches was allowing 2 heats for the 11-12 and the 13-14 age groups.
- **George** – Understands where CE is coming from regarding the challenges of getting feedback from the coached. But let's get to the root of the actual issue at hand. How is it right to tell our High School athletes who see this as their big meet because they don't qualify for Sectionals that they are not going to make it to finals because there is a 23-year-old NCAA division II championship qualifier is in the finals. What do we say to them?
- **CE**- What he would say to his athletes is that individual only takes 1 spot and there are still 15 other spot available. The athlete still controls their ability to swim fast and make one of those spots. Fast swimming in Oklahoma is a positive.
- **George** – disagrees with CE, if a girl or boy tries their best and they end up in the 17 spot and look at the line up and sees a 23-year-old. What do you tell them?
- **CE** – I don't tell them anything different.
- **George** – we have had 15 to 19 up until last spring. Would like to hear a compelling reason as to why it is fair and right to allow a NCAA division II championship qualifier to swim against High School kids.
- **CE** – I look at as these athletes as OK Swimmers, they are training in Oklahoma with our clubs. They are OK athletes deserve a chance swim in the meet just like everyone else.



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- **George** – it is completely counter to what OK Swimming did when they lowered the time standards. To allow the kids an opportunity to compete, but now you must compete against and beat a 23-year-old.
- **CE** – Everyone has the same opportunity to make finals.
- **George** – Kids still consider this meet to the OK Age Group Championships and now we are going to throw in some 20 plus year olds.
- **CE** – I am giving you the answers and you can disagree, but you ask how this happened and I'm telling you we got feedback from the coaches and the 4 athlete representatives. Not one athlete in the room that say that we could not have 20-year-olds in the meet. All 4 athletes were fine with what was decided.
- **Tracy** – the 4 athletes in the room, were they some of the fastest in the state?
- **BS** – they are the OK Swimming Athlete Representatives.
- **Tracy** – Were they some of the top in the state and no matter who was swimming, they would still make finals?
- **BS** – I don't believe so.
- **LG** – Is not sure why that even matters.
- **Tracy** – It does, as an athlete that swan through college and I if was the athlete on the board that knew I was going to make finals I would say sure that is fine with me. It would be different for an athlete that is not as talented, and this is their opportunity to possibly make finals. What you are doing is taking that opportunity away from an athlete that might not go to college and swim to be in finals. You want to grow every athlete if they keep getting pushed out. When I was 21, I was swimming at my top speed and I'm taking that win away from 15? I was getting paid to go to 2 practices a day, plus weights, plus a physical therapist. As a college athlete I had different opportunities to be a top swimmer. We need to level the playing field a little better. If we want to allow them to swim, great but why can't we add a different seed for that? We should not take it away from the kids that is on the borderline.
- **Mista** – it is a 15 to 19 age group, it just is. So why can't make another heat? The 20 and over are in different level and does not believe they should be placed in the same finals heat as the 15 to 19.
- **BH** – It seems that the board has gone out of their way to communicate this to the people that needed to know to make the decisions. Seem like we are arguing about a decision that has already been made.
- **KU** – Just wanted to let everyone know that she was not in favor of the 15 and over.
- **AC** – was one of the athletes that voted on this and can see were some are saying that it takes away from other swimmers. I was not guaranteed a spot in finals, and I knew this when I votes. However, it was beneficial. At the short-course Championships, I swam against Asa and it actually pushed me to swim harder knowing he was there. Maybe in the future as the meet grows, we could look at adding another heat to help balance things out but believes having the college athletes there is very beneficial.
- **Mista** – Noticed that the 14 and under championships were invited to the 15 and over meet. In the past when there has been older swimmer have made finals and been grief with Luke and Josh did not decline finals and the podium. Understands that it is too late to make changes but disagrees that everyone knew about it. Maybe the coaches, but we have had turn over in coaches this year. So just because people that were talked to knew, the new coaches may not. The Boards are clueless and didn't understand why short course was separated. We have made guesses as to why, but we didn't know why. Those of us that do have feedback, don't feel like we are educated or reached out to. I don't feel



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like when I go to OK Swimming, we are getting everything. Feels that the Board and OK Swimming needs to be more transparent.

- **G** – as an athlete, I have been the position where I have been in the 9th to 17th spot. But regardless, if your loss that spot to a friend that is the same age or a college age swimmer or even younger swimmers, it is the same blow. It has happened to me my entire life. It is disappointing, but as an athlete that knows the disappointment to of losing those spots. I don't believe it is fair to exclude those athletes from these meets. So, his on board with the 15 and over format.
- **George** – by no means does he think we should exclude the 20 and overs, just create different finals heats for them. Not every kid is the same, and some kids getting their time to shine taking away. We must give them an opportunity. Believes with BH about in it is too late to changes things, he spoke to one of her parents that are in the know and that parent had now idea what was going on. I feel for the Kids.
- **Nicole** – What was the main purpose of the change? Why is it not an age group meet anymore?
- **BS** – From the Coaches and Board discussion to make it more exciting and include more athletes.
- **CE** – Yes, to allow kids who participate in OK Swimming and train with Oklahoma clubs to be able to participate in our State Championship Meet. Asa is a great example, an OK boy who trains and lives here in Oklahoma and we didn't feel he should be excluded from our state championships meet anymore. In talking with coached and getting feedback, allow our top athletes to see our top athletes and compete head-to-head was in the best interest of OK Swimming. It was about how do we create the best, fastest environment to push our kids to the next level? Also, we are including para swimmers this year and they are not getting their own finals. To your point Mista, that is why we allow guests to our board meetings. We put our meeting time and the agenda out to the public and you are always welcome to attend and see what is going on. The P&P that was voted on tonight is on the website and we discussed all the changes during this meeting.
- **SS** - Wanted to say that he wasn't on the board when changes where made, but as coach and an athlete perspective. We started as a YMCA league and moved to USA Swimming. While in swimming in the YMCA league they dominated the pool. When they moved to USA Swimming, our kids just got better and better because of the level of swimmers they were swimming against. As a Board, it is our job to OK Swimming the best it can be and not to manipulate the circumstance to give as many people as possible a winning experience. Our club moto is "Swimming in Never Fair" and I tell my swimmers if you don't make finals, figure out want needs to be changed and work on it.
- **Motion to close session**
 - Motioned by BH
 - Seconded by CE
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- **Adjourn at 7:37**
 - **Next meeting: Monday 8/15/2022, 6pm, Jenks Aquatic center**

Executive Meeting

Called to Order at 7:39PM
Adjourned at 8:00 PM