



## Illinois Swimming Inc. Board of Directors Meeting October 14, 2020 via Zoom



General Chair Jeff Arce called the meeting to order at 7pm.

### 1. Roll Call

*PRESENT:* Jeff Arce, Jack Yetter, Todd Capen, Jon Cabel, Brian Brown, Jayne Spittler, Melissa Healy, Amanda Schleede, Rob Emary, Amie Adams, Carlos Ceja, Laurel Whittington, Annabel Oliva, Jenna Krull, Steve Mitchell

*ABSENT:* Mark Tucci, Casey Hnatiuk, Carolyn Grevers, Sean Finley, Greta Pelzak, Blake Mock, Bill Schalz

2. **Adoption of Sept. 2020 BOD Minutes** Motioner – Brown, Second – Emary. Approved with no discussion.

3. **Current Business & Strategic Discussion** – see later discussion.

### 4. Consent Agenda

*PULLED:* General Chair

*APPROVED AS SUBMITTED* - Program Ops Motioner – Whittington, Second – Emary. Approved with no discussion.

### 5. Items from Consent Agenda Pulled for Discussion and/or Action Required

General Chairs report – Two items requiring action

- a. Proposal to extend contract with lobbying firm Cornerstone for additional six months for \$4,500 every two months, for a total of \$13,500. Original contract was \$30,000 for the first six months, but ILSI negotiated a reduction in rate to only \$15,000. Feel the extension is worthwhile to continue to use as resource at the state level to allow athletes to compete at out of state meets like the US Open, and to advocate on our behalf with county departments of health to help clubs gain access to water. Also, to continue work on proposed legislation for an Illinois Amateur Sports Commission, to be presented to Illinois legislature in January 2021. Jeff noted that our work is not done with regard to COVID in the LSC and at the state level.

***Motion to extend contract with Cornerstone for 6 months for a grand total of \$13,500.***

***Motioner – Brown, Second - Cabel.***

*Discussion:* Emary asked for clarification of what goals with which we are charging our lobbyists and the purpose/function of the Amateur Sports Commission. Arce replied that they are the group that pushed through the pool openings in June; we use them as a resource to get access to water. They are our liaison to be sure our voice is heard at the State level. Currently working

on the Naperville schools and Northwestern. Also working on the US Open issue to get protocols for athletes to leave the state.

The Amateur Sports Commission will be modelled after the Minnesota Sports Commission. Will include leadership from every major sport in Illinois and give us a voice for things like funding for facilities and bringing major events to the state. Feel that this will give us the opportunity to help create the hoops through which we jump, rather than just jumping through them, as we did with pool re-openings with COVID.

Emary in full support but feels that it is important to articulate what we are doing to our membership, and we may have missed an opportunity at HOD. Arce replied that we are not talking about the Amateur Sports Commission as much until we see the bill. We have framework and sponsors, and it should pass.

Whittington pointed out that we are spending a fair amount of money to write legislation to support a Commission that will benefit all sports in Illinois and asked if other organizations are helping to fund the development of the legislation. Arce replied that our primary focus with the lobbyists has been to get our clubs back in the water, and we have not reached out to other sports at this time. The idea of the Sports Commission evolved as a more effective way to deal with sports-related issues at the state level. At the end of the six-month period, if we discover the need to retain their services, we will reach out to other organizations like baseball, softball, football, wrestling and gymnastics to help relieve the burden.

Suggestion that we communicate to clubs that our lobbyist can help them work with school districts to get their clubs into the water. Capen asked for confirmation that Cornerstone's main focus is to help Illinois Swimming; Sports Commission is a secondary purpose. Arce confirmed, and promised to get communication out to this effect.

**APPROVED unanimously.**

- b. Motion to rent FMC Natatorium December 10-13, 2020 for 18&Under Meet for \$21,000, with additional split of entry fees 50-50 between ISI and FMC (\$15 per individual event). Motioner – Brown, Second – Yetter.**

*Discussion:* This meet is designed to replace Winter Junior Nationals. FMC is committed to this event, which would be sponsored/run by Illinois Swimming. Details and format being developed by the Senior and Performance Committees. Working group: Todd Capen (ACAD), Jeff Arce (CATS), Dave Krotiak (FMC), Mark Townsend (MAVS), Tim Lewarchik (SCST), Kevin Zakrzewski (PAC) and Alessio De Rosi (WILD). Kevin Milak from Elkhart Health & Aquatics also part of the group as he is creating Indiana Swimming's meet. Will also work with Officials Committee for appropriate staffing.

Want to have as many athletes participating in this meet as possible, about 150 for each session using all three pools. Timed-finals, with flighted sessions, short course. Offer long course time trials for those close to Trials cuts each evening. There will be no spectators.

Yetter asked how many athletes were expected to compete. Arce responded that we have about 300 athletes who could qualify (using Futures cuts). Capen said a soft reservation system would be employed to get a head count, and then the group would build out preliminary sessions based on those results. USA Swimming has proposed a three-day meet; proposing to rent FMC for four days to give even more space because of our restrictions. Group toying with the idea of split sessions, with flights within the split to get to the numbers that the state will allow. Having four days would allow four events per day, split across two pools, with flights. Should be manageable with warmups.

Whittington asked if every athlete with a qualifying time will be allowed to compete. Capen responded that if run with a warmup procedure that is being tested by FMC this weekend, and perhaps split by regions, yes. Laurel – is there an opportunity for bonus events? Capen: Originally meet was set up without bonus standards, LSCs have leeway to decide. Can't answer until we know how many athletes. If every qualifying athlete attended, based on splashes, there would be no bonus events. Cuts are slower than Futures right now. We need to have time for breaks, cleaning and warm-ups.

Whittington: Is the \$21,000 a max pool rent? Capen: yes. Whittington: that's a lot of money. Need to weigh with the opportunity of giving athletes more opportunities to race than just one event. Capen: not much more than renting the RecPlex. And right now, we have no opportunities to race, even for one event. Yetter: To make 50% of our money back, we only have to offer 350 swims per day. Arce: we had budgeted money from athlete support which has not been used, so we were thinking of taking money from there.

**APPROVED unanimously**

**6. Old Business - none**

**7. New Business**

- a. Capen asked for update on the US Open. Arce said we are attempting to create a waiver or a way for our athletes to leave the state, but no success so far. Hopes to have some information to share about here are the steps you need to take to be above board. Or, that athletes know they need to make the best decisions with all information from their schools, county health department, the state to which they would travel. IDPH has heard our request and are now considering it. Hoping for an answer before October 20 when entries open.

8. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 11, 7pm. Committee reports in pdf format due to Pam by Friday, November 6.

9. **Adjournment:** 8:32pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Spittler  
ISI Secretary