

## **Missouri Valley Swimming Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 7, 2016, Roeland Park, Kansas**

Members in attendance: Clarence Aitken, Seasonal League Outreach Chair and Awards Chair; Scott Bliss, Executive Director; Sophia Brauer, Athlete Representative; Natalie Haag, General Chair; Amy Hoppenrath, Administrative Vice Chair; Gardner Howland, Coach Representative; Todd Kramer, Coach Representative; Curtis Myers, observer; Katie Price-Norman, acting Program Development Chair; Andrew Schmidt, Safety Chair; Dulcy Sellon, Secretary; Mark Sutton, Finance Chair

Natalie Haag called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and asked for a motion to approve the posted minutes. The motion was made and seconded and all vote aye.

Natalie had Mark Sutton, Finance Chair, begin the officers' reports. The Missouri Valley Swimming Balance Sheet, 2017 Budget Report, and Treasurer's Report were posted on the 'event page' on the Missouri Valley website. He stated that MV had a net equity of \$387,363. Income from the sale of the timing system and from Merrill Lynch had contributed to the \$33,185 gain for the year. Registration numbers were also up and an additional increase next year from an Olympic bump is also anticipated. The fiscal year ended August 31 and an audit is being conducted by Dwight Parman. The audit report will be submitted by email for the Board's approval. Mark anticipates that an additional bank account will be needed. Amy Hoppenrath made the motion to approve the financial report. Andrew Schmidt seconded the motion and all vote aye.

Sophia Brauer presented the athlete's report which can also be found on the 'event page' of the MV website. In addition to the report Sophia reported that she enjoyed meeting the other athlete representatives from around the country at the USA Swimming Convention. She will also be at the awards lunch during the Swimposium on Saturday and will talk with athletes about establishing an athlete's committee and alerting them to the athlete's twitter account.

The Senior Vice Chair Report, the Sanction Chair's Report, the Diversity and Inclusion Chair's report, and the Safe Sport Report were all posted on the MV website and not further discussed.

Katie Patrick-Norman, acting Program Development Chair, gave the Zone report. MV had 89 athletes attend the summer Zone meet and achieved 11<sup>th</sup> place. The 6 day travel trip went well except for an athlete injury and on deck incident.

Todd Kramer offered the coaches' report. He stated that he had seen a power point presentation on recruiting for meets, Boards and volunteers which was very good and he would send it to the Board and then to the clubs if the Board approved. Gardner suggested doing this right away by having it sent to Scott and then distributed. Todd also stated that the Columbia Swim Club would be interested in hosting the LSC championship meet if MV would be willing to cover any costs above the meet's income. The club is willing to do the meet work but the cost for the use of the facility makes hosting the meet a losing proposition. Board discussion focused on the need to hold championships in good facilities and the

potential of being flexible in determining when and where facility fee charges might be allowed. Todd, Mark and Scott agreed to work on these issues.

Andrew Schmidt reported that he was working to set up safety classes for coaches for the spring.

Scott reported that MV will have new clubs in Sedalia, Mo and at the Red Bridge Y.

#### Old Business

Amy reported that the strategic planning initiatives in Governance, Communication, and Performance were currently as they had been since last fall's Board Retreat. Task forces for all three areas will be set up before the end of the year. People attending the Swimposium would be encouraged to sign on to work on these task forces. Natalie asked that the Board ratify the appointment of John Maynard and athlete Tarrin Fisher to the Central Zone Board of Review and John Maynard, Katie Norman and Tarrin Fisher to the Zone Sanctions Review Board. The Board ratified these appointments.

#### New Business

Natalie stated that since several Board appointments are needed she asked the Board to approve the appointment of Gardner Howland as Program Operations Chair and Katie Norman appointed as Program Development Chair. The Board approved these appointments. She also stated that Ingenuie Cobbinah was being considered for the Diversity and Inclusion Chair. Gardner suggested that Alison Pick be considered for the coach representative in his place. It was decided that the coaches committee would make that decision.

The Board next discussed travel fund reimbursements. The question of reimbursement for a post college swimmer raised the issue of college swimmers' reimbursement at high level meets. Scott stated that the post college swimmer had received reimbursement because he had met the criteria used to determine if a college swimmer would receive funding for meet attendance. Todd mentioned that the University of Missouri swimmers who had attended Olympic trials were also interested in perhaps receiving funding for meet expenses since their USA Swimming club was registered in MV. Natalie asked the coach committee and the Program Operations/Senior committee to discuss this issue and bring a recommendation to the Board. The Board also examined the funds spent for travel and meet expenses for the Zone meet and the Indiana All Star Meet. It was stated that 43% of MV's budget goes to these travel expenditures but only 1.8% of MV swimmers attend these meets. Board members agreed that higher level meets are expensive and we wanted to encourage qualified swimmers to attend these meets. The question arose about how to proceed with the January All Star meet. Amy made the motion to proceed with the All Star meet as it is currently configured and to examine a possible increase in parent contribution to the meet costs. All voted aye. Natalie established a performance task force with members from the coaches' committee, Age Group, senior and athlete's committees to examine the priorities for allocating spending on athlete meets and travel. Katie will chair this task force. Katie also stated that work on chaperone training with Safe Sport materials will be done at the Winter Classic meet.

Scott stated that he needed access to a projector for training purposes and would like to secure some rental space to store financial records. The Board approved renting some storage space and Amy said she could provide the projector.

Mark presented the 2017 budget proposal for MV. Registration fees should bring in more funds because of an anticipated Olympic bump in registration numbers. The budget also reflects a salary increase in the Executive Director's salary. The budget also assumed no additional income from Merrill Lynch or timing equipment sale. Expenses for the Atlanta Convention and the Swimposium are included in the 2017 budget as the expenses will fall due in the 2017 fiscal year. Todd Kramer made the motion to accept the proposed budget. Amy seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Natalie reminded Board members who have contracting authority that all contracts need to be reviewed by the Finance Director and the Executive Director before they are signed.

Natalie stated that our treasurer thought MV should undertake to complete LEAP II since MV already has completed or is performing many of the items required for LEAP II. We have only 6 months to complete it so Natalie asked all Board members to look at the LEAP II requirements on the USA Swimming website and let her know in 30 days if they are willing to undertake their section of the requirements.

Amy requested that recruiting and retention discussions be tabled. More research on using shorter meets for younger swimmers and securing sponsors for swimming events is still in process.

Mark made the motion to adjourn to move to executive session at 6: 50 pm for 15 minutes. Todd seconded the motion and all voted aye.

The Board of Directors meeting resumed at 7: 05 pm. Natalie stated that she would like to hold the Spring Board of Directors meeting several weeks before the Spring House of Delegates meeting and have the House of Delegates meeting last one day. She will email Board Members with a list of possible dates for the spring Board meeting.

Todd made the motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting. Andrew seconded the motion and all voted aye. The Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dulcy Sellon, MV Secretary