



ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

503 Sophia St. Suite 100 | Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

Phone: (540) 907-4460 | www.americancanoe.org

American Canoe Association Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Location: Virtual

Board Members Present: Robin Pope, Scott Mann, Lili Colby, John Traendly, C.C. Williams, Thom Crocket, Sarah Bahn, Adam Joseph, Rainey Hoffman, Heather Davis-Miller

ACA Staff: Beth Spillman

1. Call to Order

Mr. Pope called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM EDT.

Mr. Williams called roll and noted that a quorum was present.

2. Executive Director Report: Beth Spilman

Ms. Spilman provided an update on the current state of ACA financials and overall member numbers. She reported that June was a very good month with regard to increasing membership numbers. Directors discussed current member trends and requested additional information that highlights the numbers of renewing members in comparison to the numbers of first-time ACA members.

Ms. Spilman provided brief updates for ongoing projects, including:

- A search is currently underway to find one additional part-time office assistant position to assist with SEIC related duties.
- ACA staff is also working on reviewing proposals for a marketing consultant.
- The new ACA website should be live by Friday, July 23. Ms. Spilman expressed her gratitude to the entire ACA team for their efforts to bring the new website populated with content and get it ready for launch.
- The work of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Workgroup and the Paddlesports Action Committee continues. There are two leadership academies planned for Fall 2021.
- The canoe slalom team has arrived in Tokyo. The sprint team will arrive next week. Reina Kern, ACA Competition Press Office & Communications Manager, will be joining the teams in Tokyo to help promote the athletes, provide updates, etc. The USOC provides a toolkit to press officers to assist with these efforts.



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Ms. Spilman provided an update on the ongoing discussion with the U.S. Center for Safesport about which ACA members should be subject to the requirement to obtain and maintain Safesport certification. Ms. Spilman responded to several questions from Directors about the implications of the ruling from Safesport. Directors discussed possible implementation plans, reporting, costs, and affirmed the importance of training programs like Safesport.

Mr. Mann moved, and Ms. Bahn seconded the motion, directing the Executive Director to draft plans to expand the Safesport Certification requirement, or provide plans to implement similar youth protection/sexual harassment training, for all ACA Instructors and adults that self-identify as having authority over or regular contact with minors. There was a short discussion about the potential impacts of the administration of this change. The motion passed unanimously.

3. National Governing Body Discussion

Mr. Pope provided a brief overview of the changes required to the ACA by the Ted Stevens Act. Directors continued discussion from recent meetings regarding key questions and concerns with retaining or choosing not to retain the National Governing Body status and how this decision would impact the members, mission, future, and allocation of resources of the ACA. Directors engaged in robust discussion on a variety of issues related to the decision to retain or relinquish National Governing Body status. Discussion topics included: previous strategies to educate members when ACA became NGB, strategies to comply with Ted Stevens Act changes and retain NGB status, financial cost and staff cost of compliance associated with NGB status, strategies to inform membership to enable them to make informed decision on NGB status, and potential staff/organization efficiency gains and increased member benefits if NGB status is relinquished. Mr. Hoffman requested that a financial analysis be sent to Directors that outlines the possible budget impacts and impacts on existing programs should NGB status be retained or relinquished.

Mr. Traendly noted that Competition has always been a core part of the ACA mission. Directors briefly discussed the history of non-Olympic competition in the ACA and possible ways to continue to grow participation in non-Olympic competition should NGB status be retained or relinquished.

Mr. Mann requested more detailed information about current and past ACA membership trends. Directors briefly discussed ways to increase the actual and perceived value of ACA membership.

Mr. Pope noted that before the next meeting he and Ms. Spilman will discuss possible options to retain to retain or relinquish NGB status with the USOPC.



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Mr. Mann moved, and Mr. Joseph seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM EDT

Respectfully submitted,

C.C. Williams
Board Secretary