



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 20, 2022

Location: Virtual

Board Members Present: Robin Pope, C.C. Williams, Rainey Hoffman, Pam Dillon, Dave Lumian, Jerry Dunne, Jack Wallace, Risa Shimoda, Suzanne Britt, Sarah Bahn, Thom Crockett, and Scott Mann.

ACA Staff: Beth Spilman

Visitors: John Kells, Andrea White

1. Call to Order

Mr. Pope called the meeting to order at 8:08 PM ET.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Williams called role and confirmed a quorum was present.

3. June 15, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Approval: C.C. Williams

Ms. Britt moved, and Mr. Dunne seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 15, 2022. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

4. ACA BOD Conflict of Interest: Beth Spilman

Ms. Spilman reviewed the Conflicts of Interest declared by Directors. Ms. Levesque, Mr. Slate, and Mr. Williams are whole or part owners of paddlesports businesses. Mr. Lumian is currently a Director for the American Sailing Association and serves on various marine commissions. Mr. Dunne and his wife donate a substantial amount of volunteer hours to the ACA in various capacities. Ms. Dillon is an officer in several related paddlesports organizations and is employed by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) that works with various regulatory agencies that regulate paddlesports. Ms. Shimoda noted during the discussion that she serves on many volunteer boards that work in various aspects of the paddlesports industry. All Directors that declared conflicts and were present at the meeting agreed to honor their Duty of Care, Loyalty, and Obedience and recuse themselves from votes should their conflicts prevent them from being objective on future votes.



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5. DEI Committee Update: Risa Shimoda

Ms. Shimoda reported that the committee continues to work with the ACA DEI Coordinator to plan several grant funded events in 2022. Ms. Spilman noted that the USOPC has expressed their admiration for the DEI efforts by the ACA.

6. Strategic Plan Committee Report: Pam Dillon

Written report was submitted to Directors prior to the meeting. The committee is meeting with representatives from the British Canoe Union in September to discuss their strategic planning process.

7. Board President Report: Robin Pope

Written report was submitted to Directors prior to the meeting. There were no additions.

8. Executive Director Report: Beth Spilman

Ms. Spilman provided a brief review of the current financials. Currently we are ahead of budget in both revenue and expenses. Based on historical member data and looking at current trends, we expect to be ahead of budget by year-end.

Ms. Spilman provided an overview of staffing changes and new initiatives:

- Several changes are underway to increase capacity in order to fulfill grant obligations and redistribute responsibilities among staff.
- Donated funds will be used to enhance the ACA Lifetime Member program
- Research is being conducted to identify potential avenues to increase fundraising.
- Development continues to use donated funds to launch a program to support clubs with a competition focus.
- ACA Form 990 is due by August 15 and will be submitted on time.

9. ACA Member Code of Conduct: Beth Spilman & Robin Pope

A draft Member Code of Conduct was sent to all Directors for consideration prior to the meeting. Comments were submitted in writing from various Directors prior to the meeting. Directors discussed the need to provide membership with the Grievance Procedure when the Code of Conduct is released.

Mr. Lumian moved, and Ms. Britt seconded, to approve the ACA Member Code of Conduct pending changes made based on previously submitted written comments and a review by ACA staff for grammatical and stylistic changes. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.



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10. Competition Subcommittee Report: Rainey Hoffman & Scott Mann

Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Mann presented the pros and cons of opposing viewpoints regarding the decision to retain or relinquish NGB status. Directors were asked to consider a proposal from a current ACA staff person to relinquish the NGB status to him and what would be a newly formed organization. A request was made by Ms. Dillon that all Directors be provided with the draft business plan that was submitted by the staff member to the Competition Subcommittee. Ms. Shimoda noted the importance of maintaining a focus on the current and future competition athletes. Mr. Lumain noted that before any proposal to change which organization served as the NGB for paddlesports, significant financial resources would need to be secured and committed to the new organization. Continued discussion on this topic was significant and vigorous and Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Mann fielded many comments and questions from Directors on various aspects of this topic. Mr. Mann noted, and several Directors agreed, that there is significant unrealized potential for competitive paddlesports and the ACA if the ACA remains the NGB for paddlesports.

Mr. Hoffman moved, and Ms. Dillon seconded, to develop bylaws to present to membership that retain National Governing Body status and express support for competition as one of ACAs four key missions.

Mr. Hoffman moved, and Mr. Lumian seconded, that Directors continue to evaluate the proposed "new NGB" business plan (including speaking with the USOPC), and commit to giving feedback on the new NGB promptly after the September board meeting. Ms. Dillon, Ms. Britt, and Mr. Lumian abstained from the vote. Remaining directors voted to approve the motion.

11. Additional Comments

Ms. White expressed her appreciation to the Board for their continued diligence in addressing the issues of retaining or relinquishing NGB status. Ms. White also noted disappointment that the Regional Activity Committee proposal put forth by the State Directors in August of 2021 had not been acted upon. Mr. Pope noted that the proposal from the State Directors, while thoughtful, did not include specifics related to changes that would need to be made to the ACA bylaws to create this new committee nor did their proposal address how these changes might impact other existing parts or groups of the ACA. Mr. Pope committed to follow up with Ms. White and the State Directors about this proposal.



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Mr. Williams moved, and Ms. Shimoda seconded the motion to move to Executive Session to discuss a confidential staff related issue. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mann moved, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to end the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

C.C. Williams
Board Secretary