



ACA Board Meeting
[Video Conference]

Wednesday, September 18, 2024
[Approved 4/2/25]

David Lumian began the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The published agenda formed the general format for the minutes.

Attendance. Attendance was taken from the video logins. **BOD Present:** Hunter Branstetter, Suzanne Britt, Beverly Cosslett, Kenny Kasperbauer, Robert Kauffman, Anna Levesque, Dave Lumian, Risa Shimoda, Andrea White.

BOD Not Present: Thom Crockett, Zach (Bud) Lokken, Jack Wallace

Staff Present: Beth Spilman

Other Attendees: Jerry Dunne

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the July minutes. It was seconded. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Beth provided the following updates.

Sport 80. The implementation of the new membership system is moving along. Beth provided an update.

Paris Olympics. We were relatively successful, winning several metals including slalom. USOPC has taken notice, which may result in additional funding. We shall see.

Budget. Beth has started working on the budget. She discuss the funding of the COO position. She reminded the group that the Councils were willing to give up their discretionary spending to fund the position.

October BOD Meeting. Dave made the decision that the October meetings would be a Zoom meeting.

USOPC Training. Beth announced that everyone has completed the board training. Actually, one board member started but still needs to finish the training.

Paddlesport Trade Coalition. Kelsey represented the ACA at the recent conference. Also in attendance were Andrea and Risa.

Outdoor Alliance. Risa, Brett and Kacey attended the 20th anniversary in Washington, DC. Beth congratulated Risa on her involvement and converting it to a 501(C)3 organization.

Budget/COO Position. Dave noted that the primary purpose of the two meetings in October was the budget. Dave recounted the COO position and that it was his understanding that the Councils were willing to give up their discretionary funding to pay for the position. His position was similar to that of Beth's. There was a robust discussion. The options discussed are listed below. No action was taken.

- Use the funds from the vacant DEI position. We are currently covering and can continue to service our DEI with other staff.
- Use the discretionary funds from the Councils as was suggested at the February executive session.
- Raise the membership fee from \$40 to \$45. The amount could be more or less.
- Risa suggested that we could hire a part-time COO.

Board Training. Dave noted that the USOPC has additional board training materials and he is planning for a separate night to experience the materials.

Instructor Updates. There were two regional updates. One was in Texas and the other was in California. The New York update was successful with 30 people attending.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

SEIC. The leadership path is nearing completion and SEIC is planning to bring it forward at the October meeting for approval.

RAC. Regarding the Instructor Updates, Andrea noted that we need to advertise them better, particularly the one in California. Also, she will have a live stream proposal.

Competition Council. Risa provided an update on the activity of the competition council. The group is meeting quarterly, and they are beginning to act as a group. She provided an update on the dragon boat situation and the activity of the dragon boat committee. There are five people on the committee and they are coming together. She indicated that they were interested in a coaching program. Beth noted that the deadline for dragon boat was the 15th of October.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dragon Boat USA Grievance. Jerry Dunne provided the group with an update on the dragon boat grievance. He provided the history of the situation, the implications to the ACA , and the likely outcome.

Motion: A motion was made to postpone the decision on the grievance and to have a separate board meeting. [Disposition: Motion passed]

Executive Director Update. Robert provided a brief update. Key in the process is that the executive director submits a self-study at the October meeting, which becomes the basis of developing the performance objectives for next year. We were working on them.

Nominating Committee. Beverly provided an update on the election process. Thirteen people are being reviewed for the positions. Two of them are athletes. The review process should be completed mid-way through October. The election will occur from the first of November to the 20th. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on the 24th.

Visibility after Paris. The Paris Olympics occurred and the ACA received considerable visibility. The question is how can the ACA build upon its success to help the athletes. Kenny advanced three points listed below. The discussion focused on the name change and the discussion gravitated to changing the name of the organization. No action was taken.

- 1) **Unifying Theme with the Name.** He suggested that competition could change its name to UCKT, USC&K, or US Paddlesport.
- 2) **Fund Raising.** The COO position would help.
- 3) **Full or Part-Time Position for Sprint.**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:28 p.m. and enter into executive session. The motion passed. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert B. Kauffman
Secretary