



## American Canoe Association (ACA) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 15, 2018

**Location:** Teleconference

Attendance:

Voting Board Members Present: Lili Colby, David Bell, Peter Sloan, Stanton Collins, Kirk Havens, Steve Hutton, Robin Pope, Bill Micks, William Irving, Marsh Jones

Non-voting attendees:

ACA Staff: Wade Blackwood

A quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 1940

Peter opened by asking for discussion on the Safe Sport policy and asking for further discussion on the document.

David Bell moved to accept the policy, seconded by Kirk Havens.

Kirk asked if the document had been run through USOC; Wade indicated it had been. He also noted the document is a “living document” that we can update as needed, based on USOC needs and changing circumstances. Kirk suggested we may want to formally review the policy annually. Wade felt that at least a biannual review would be needed, even if the review indicates no change is needed.

Lili asked if it was likely that significant changes might occur in the near future. Wade indicated that some high-profile situations have led to distinct changes that have to be implemented, and that further distinct changes still might occur. He noted that being able to flexibly change the policy will make it easier to respond to these changes.

Peter asked if there was further discussion. No one had any. He then asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously, with no opposing votes or abstentions.

Bill Micks then brought up work that Wade and Kirk have done with University of Mary Washington, and noted that faculty and athletes have spoken very positively about the opportunity for free classes. Peter noted

that we should be promoting this program to ensure that athletes and paddlers are aware of the program. He asked if we could provide a description of the program to Board members. Stanton suggested that next year could be a critical year for the program as we gear up for the 2020 Olympics.

Wade next discussed changes to membership structure and fees. He's suggested four membership levels, which would simplify joining without changing overall dues.

- General membership = \$25
- SEIC membership = \$35 + general membership
- Olympic program = \$45 + general membership
- Event membership = \$5

Fees are based on actual costs of membership. Robin noted that the proposed structure would create a 20% fee increase for PAC member instructors. Stanton asked how the increased fees would be used; Wade indicated that the Olympic and SEIC fees would be dedicated to their respective programs. He also indicated that the Olympic fees, based on existing membership, would not cover the costs of all we'd like to do, so increasing membership will be important. Kirk noted that event membership, and conversion of event membership to full membership, will be an area for growth. Wade also noted that he'd like to change the PAC membership program. Clubs with 75% ACA membership would have free PAC membership, otherwise the cost would be \$125 per club. Kirk noted that dropping the price is easy; bringing it back up is much harder.

Lili noted that ACA booths at retail shows needs to better sell our instructional program as a path to potential retail clients. She suggested that a VIP tour of the Oklahoma City facility by ACA athletes and instructors

Peter suggested that the Board would benefit from a price and projected revenue projection so we can make a better-informed decision.

Wade next asked Marsh Jones to introduce himself to the Board. Marsh is the new head of the Competition Council. Marsh is the head coach and founder of Twin Cities Paddlesports. He has a long history in paddling and has been involved in spring racing for about 9 years. He's been recently involved in coaching development. His competitive background is in marathon and sprint paddling, but primarily in multisport racing including cycling as a competitor and official. He's here to pay back to the next generation. Thanks to Marsh for joining our Board.

Wade next talked about Camp Sebago. He gave a brief description of the Camp. He'd like to consider options for camp management, including hiring a professional on-site manager. He indicated that there have been a record number of complaints about camp management this summer, where a select small group of members have the bulk of benefit. Stanton noted that he stayed at Sebago this summer on two occasions. He noted that it is a bit "behind the times" but has the potential to be an outstanding facility – if the camp is brought up to modern standards. Marsh described it as "beautiful but 50 years out of date". Discussion followed on the importance of all members having equal access to our properties and on the need to develop an overall management plan for our properties.

Closed the meeting by asking for approval of last month's minutes, included below. Motion to approve by Kirk Havens, seconded by Steve Hutton. Minutes approved unanimously.

Call closed at 2048

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Pope, Board Vice Chair