

Masters Swimming Ontario
Board of Directors Meeting
Skype meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Jake Nesovic
Carla Oliveira
Brigitte Zirger
Brian Sheridan
Beth Carey
Filippo Porco

Board Member Regrets:

Matisse Nelis

Staff Regrets:

Brian Croker

Brian opened the meeting at 7:40pm, quorum confirmed.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Motion 1: That the agenda is accepted as written.

Moved by Carla Oliveira and seconded by Jake Nesovic. All in favor, motion passed.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion 2: That the minutes from the March 30th meeting are approved as updated.

Moved by Brigitte Zirger and seconded by Beth Carey. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion 3: That the notes from the SGM held on March 25th are approved with the updates discussed.

Moved by Beth Carey and seconded by Brigitte Zirger. All in favor, motion passed.

3. Obtaining MSC Minutes

Brian Sheridan spoke with Doug Hannum from MSC asking for the AGM minutes. Doug indicated the minutes will not be posted until approved at the next AGM. Brigitte attended the meeting and isn't sure what the distribution of clubs was at the meeting for voting purposes. The past 3 AGM minutes do not include an attendance list; MSC is not very transparent.

Brian also spoke with Doug regarding the \$2 fee increase. Doug explained that \$1 was for SNC and the other is an increased cost to programs they manage. Based on 2015 and 2016

financials, it seems MSC has a surplus so it's unclear why there's an extra \$1 being added to the fees.

Jake pointed out that the fee increase should be communicated to members. Brigitte pointed out that it's unclear what MSO's role will be in the future. Before extra fees are communicated, MSO will need to set a budget.

Jake asked if the Board meeting minutes were requested; Brian confirmed he has not requested minutes from MSC Board meetings. Brigitte pointed out she has a standing request for the minutes. Brian will try to contact Doug again for Board meeting minutes.

4. Disqualifications at Provincials

Brian Sheridan spoke with Ian Feldman from Thornhill Masters regarding the volume of DQs at the Ontario Provincial Championship. Ian did not yet have details on the DQs, he indicated there was a wrap up meeting scheduled for later in the week to discuss the meet. The MSC rulebook doesn't appear to allow enough flexibility for Masters swimmers. Rules regarding turns are not clearly outlined.

Jake Nesovic explained that ultimately the referee reviews, approves and signs all DQs. If the referee has any doubts about the DQ it can be overturned by the referee. The referee at the Ontario Provincial Championship, Y Y, is very experienced and strictly follows the rule book.

Brian explained that compared to other meets, there was a higher level of DQs at Provincials. The number of DQs across other Masters meets appears to be inconsistent. MSC should review and adjust the rule book, specifically regarding turns.

Brigitte explained that MSC accepts the rules as defined by FINA. Ultimately the officials are trained by Swim Ontario but need to understand and enforce MSC rules.

Carla explained that MSC should facilitate a discussion with Swim Ontario to discuss the high number of infractions on this past provincial championship.

Jake pointed out that during the meet judges were looking for clarifications and confirmation on rules however the rule book is not printed or readily available at the meet.

Brian will speak with Chrystian Gauvin to help move the issue forward.

5. Hosting 2018 Provincials

Brian Sheridan indicated he has not received interest from any clubs wanted to host provincials in 2018.

6. New Board member

The board welcomed Filippo Porco back to the board.

7. Bookkeeper Proposal

Beth Carey explained that the paperwork for Tangerine is now completed. She also shared, via email, a proposal from Chris Cupidio to clear up all outstanding financial reporting for 2014 and 2015. The proposal includes Beth and/or Chris contacting ELT Accounting & Consulting Services as well as Schwartz, Levitsky, Feldman to sort out all 2015 and 2016 financial statements and reports. As well, Chris has requested a subscription to QuickBooks Online for \$13 per month to report on 2016 financials.

Motion 4: To accept the proposal from Chris Cupidio to sort out 2015 and 2016 financial reports at an additional fee of \$975 plus \$13 per month for QuickBooks Online.

Moved by Beth Carey, seconded by Brigitte Zirger. All in favor, motion passed.

8. SNC Letter and Response

Brian Sheridan shared, via email, a letter received from SNC's lawyer on April 7th regarding MSO's illegal use of SNC membership data.

Brigitte explained the MSO does not have any access to SNC membership data. MSO can only access member data for Ontario masters swimmers. A membership list was uploaded in September 2016 to Elastic Mail (the tool used to send member email communications) containing masters swimmers in Ontario as well as other provinces. Although it's not clear who uploaded the list, it would have come from the MSC system. It's unclear why MSC did not contact MSO about the issue first since MSO uses the same membership system as MSC. The letter specifically points out that it is from MSC and SNC.

Brigitte has written a response and would like our lawyer Ana to review before sending.

Jake asked if there is a facility within the current membership system to send communications. Brigitte indicated the system has this functionality but has not yet tried it.

9. Negotiating Positions

Brian Sheridan explained that he's spoken to Bud Seawright, a member of the Masters committee of SO, who indicated there haven't been any discussions about incorporating Masters swimming into SO. The SO board has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday; Brian will be following up with Eric Martin at SO on Thursday. If there hasn't been any progress, Brian will contact Ahmed at SNC.

Carla asked if it may be worthwhile to submit a formal, written request to SO in an effort to start negotiating the terms for incorporating masters swimmers within SO. Jake suggested that the negotiating items are sent to Eric in advance of the board meeting to be included in the agenda. The board agreed there wouldn't be enough time to pull together a formal communication to SO prior to their next board meeting.

Brian indicated we may be in a position where MSO would support only non competitive swimmers/clubs. Brigitte pointed out it would become an insurance issue; many clubs purchase their own insurance or have other arrangements for insurance. If clubs don't need MSO to provide insurance, it's unclear what other services MSO would provide to clubs.

Filippo explained he is very familiar with the USMS model and their focus is quite different. USMS offers its members stroke clinics and their attract more swimmers focus is on health and camaraderie. Jake explained that Chris Smith's focus has been to implement the USMS model in Canada.

Carla pointed out that the negotiations with SO needs to include single day event registration and open water swimming as well, sanctioning for yard meets need to be considered.

Brian Sheridan will report to the board on Thursday about his discussion with Eric Martin.

10. Other Business

Registrar email: Brigitte has been monitoring this email however she will be away for a few weeks and asked that someone on the board review it on occasion. Brian Sheridan and Carla Oliveira offered to review the mailbox periodically.

MSC Payment: Beth Carey has received notification from MSC to pay member fees. Brigitte indicated that Brian Croker should have the latest numbers. The last payment was late December which would have been for members from September to December. Beth will speak with Brian C. to confirm registration numbers.

Next Meeting: To be scheduled Sunday May 7th at 7:30pm.

11. Adjournment

Carla motioned to adjourn the meeting, Beth seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.