

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

PRESENT: John McIlhargy, Brian Hansbury, Bruce Brooks, Mary Fleckenstein, Corinne Cody, Monique Grayson, Don Wagner, Edgar Perez, John Yearwood, David Ellinghaus, Denise Byrne, Amine Bousis, Julian Mackrel and Elliot Ptasnik.

EXCUSED PRIOR TO MEETING: Rich Finkelstein, Colleen Driscoll,

ABSENT: Nicole Papsco, George Rhein and Rob Ripp.

1. **WELCOME:** John “Mac” McIlhargy welcomed everyone at the meeting which was called to order at 7:09pm at Lehman College APEX.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the BOD of February 23, 2013 was made (Bruce Brooks), seconded (David Ellinghaus) and accepted by all members in attendance. The minutes were approved as published.
3. **GENERAL CHAIR:** John McIlhargy
 - a) **Senior Training Trip** – Thanks to Don Wagner for organizing the April Senior Training Trip – Mac received many positive feedbacks.
 - b) **Metro Meets** – ZQ & Sr. Mets went very nicely – thanks to all that volunteered their time.
 - c) **Update USA Swimming Governance thoughts** – the big issue for September will be Governance: biennial convention; change in Day of Week; Delegate selection processes; etc. Metro is actually the 5th largest LSC in the Country – let’s aim to be the 3rd! Any ideas, please email Mac.
 - d) **Marriott Call in** – there was a conference call today - presentation to the LSC General Chairs on power point.
 - e) **Hall Of Fame** – the 2013 Inductees are **Kip Fierro, Danatello Galluzzi, John Santos and Julia Smit**. Almost everybody that was eligible to vote, voted. Invitations went out to the recipients – Three of them will be there – Julia Smit sent a very nice email to Mary explaining that she is coming home on June 2nd for her brother’s wedding, and couldn’t come from California twice in a couple weeks as she could not take the time off. Invitations also went out to the **Joe Stetz Memorial Scholarship** winners: **Julian Mackrel** (NDAC) and **Katriona Blezy** (AG). Mac expects the whole Board to be at the HOD dinner on May 22nd. **Congratulations to all!**
 - f) **Mail Chip account** – so we can do newsletters and mass emails to Club Contacts, Coaches, Officials, Meet Directors, etc. Ray Willie is helping Mary on this.
 - g) **Retreat thoughts** – email your thoughts to Mac (not to the whole board).
 - h) **Metro Shirts** – we need to order more – also Ianières , pins, coaches card holders, etc.
 - i) **Eastern Zone Meeting** – will be May 3-4, 2013 at the Swimming HOF in Fort Lauderdale.

4. **TREASURER REPORT:** Corinne Cody

- a) The report was available at the meeting. Pretty much everything is on target.
- b) Still some outstanding meet entry fees for Zone Qual. and Senior Mets!!!
- c) Club Excellence is done – still waiting for some paperwork to get back.
- d) George will take care of expired CD's and HSBC.
- e) Travel reimbursements – NCSA done and almost finished with SCS.
- f) David Ellinghaus announced that there is a new Summer NCSA Junior Championship meet in Indianapolis, IN. Discussion on this re: travel reimbursement (the scy stipend is \$400). A motion was made to include the NCSA Summer Junior Championship meet in the budget for 2013, in light that information about this meet was not made available until March 2013. Criteria for travel reimbursement would be exactly the same as for the Spring NCSA meet.
- g) Hudson Valley Aquatic Center in New Windsor (near exit 17 of the Thruway). The Town of New Windsor is providing the land; it will be a Myrtha pool 50 meters, 10 lanes; zero grade entrance; still in early stages of planning – this would be great especially for all teams of Hudson Valley North. The Metro BOD will support this project in any way we can and we will see how this progresses.

5. **FINANCE CHAIR:** George Rhein

George was not in attendance at the meeting

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR:** Denise Byrne

- a) Post meet reports – too many teams are still using the old sheets.
- b) Meet surcharges – still have problems with one team –bidding for 2013-14 meets will not be allowed for that team until the money is paid to Metro, as the team is not in good standing.
- c) Meet Directors – Denise has a master list that she updates regularly.
- d) Club Achievement – 4 teams will receive Grant money for 2011-12: AGUA, COND, LGAC and LIAC. The total disbursed to the 4 teams this year is \$13,400.
- e) P&P Manual – we need to strengthen the wording and definitions issues – many loopholes need to be fixed.

7. **DISABILITY:** Denise Byrne

- a) Edgar and Denise attended a Disability Clinic in Newton Square, PA (Middle Atlantic) – Mallory Weggemann (2012 Paralympics Gold Medal winner) was a very inspirational guest speaker.
- b) Middle Atlantic approached Denise & Edgar about the possibility of hosting a Disability Clinic next year (maybe in cooperation with NJ and AD) – maybe at Lehman.
- c) June 2014 – New Jersey will be the host for the Special Olympics. Denise would like to attend and suggests including an athlete and an official.
- d) Metro has only a small number of athletes with disabilities – we need to encourage more kids to register but many do not want to be “labeled”. It is to the advantage of the swimmers to be on those lists as it gives them more opportunities to do things.

8. **SENIOR CHAIR:** Don Wagner

- a) Training Trip – 20 athletes and 4 coaches. Trip was very worthwhile.
- b) Very long discussion about the trip - Timing of the trip needs to be changed – Winter or Spring breaks – many kids can not afford to lose more school days after the championship season. Maybe do a weekend clinic instead – also, many coaches don't want their swimmers to be coached by other coaches.

- c) Power Point – hard time figuring out – had to go far down the list to get swimmers to attend.
- d) Discussion about Senior Budget vs Age Group (Zones) budget –
- e) The format of the Trip needs to go back to the Senior Committee (Rachel Stratton-Mills, Dave Ferris, John Collins, Don Wagner) about the Trip – selection – timing of trip – process of organization of trip – how do we justify having the kids going to Zones pay almost \$400 to attend Zones while Metro pays \$20,000 for 20 kids and 4 coaches to attend a training trip (no one else in Metro gets a free ride to anything. Athletes dropped out at the last minutes – there was no real commitment. We need all info to be completed by a certain date (correct name, birth date, monetary deposit.
- f) Club Excellence – are the coaches of those teams actively involved with the Senior Committee?

9. **AGE GROUP CHAIRS:** John Yearwood and Edgar Perez

- a) Zones – biggest comeback – kids swam well – thanks to Brian Hansbury and Elliot Plastnik for their help.
- b) Parents are complaining about the amount of \$ they must pay for the kids to attend Zones. The budget for Zones should be increased to meet the expenses. Age Group Committee needs to put a proposal together to see how we can help the swimmers at Winter Zones.
- c) A motion was made to eliminate the Metro Team suits from the mandatory uniform list for Zones and add it on the Optional list – rationale is that kids have their own favorite “fast” suit and have a hard time adjusting to a new suit at Zones – and most of the LSC’s do not use an “LSC” suit. The motion was seconded and approved by all in attendance – **motion carries**.

10. **COACHES REPRESENTATIVE:** Amine Boubsis

- a) A Coaches Committee meeting took place before the BOD - Amine announced that the Senior Coach of the Year is **Rachel Stratton-Mills** (Asphalt Green) and the Age group Coach of the Year is **Verny Rodriguez** (La Guardia). Congratulations to both.
- b) The application and selection process will be reviewed and updated for next year.

11. **ATHLETES’ REPRESENTATIVES:** Julian Mackrel and Nicole Papsco

Nicole was not in attendance at the meeting. Julian mentioned that the Athletes’ Facebook page has about 800 athletes.

12. **TECHNICAL PLANNING:** David Ellinghaus

- a) The Technical Planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 7th at 6:30pm at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco.
- b) Tentative Calendar for 2014 Championships:
 - Zone Team Qualifier – February 15-17, 2014
 - Winter Senior Mets – February 20-23, 2014
 - Silver Championships – February 28, March 1-2, 2014
 - 8 & Under Champs – March 8-9, 2014
 - Junior Olympics Short Course – March 14-16, 2014
 - Bronze Championships – March 21-23, 2014
 - Eastern Zones – probably March 27-29, 2014 (will be decided at EZ meeting)
- c) Proposal: Alternative 15 & Over Metro Swimming Championships – proposed by Alexis Skelos of LIAC. A copy of the proposal was available at the meeting.

- Move the 10-Under to the morning sessions at JO's so that they swim their timed final events at the same sessions as 11-12 and 13-14 swimmers.
 - Add a new 15 & Over Team Championship meet for the 15-18 Metro swimmers – cuts from Silvers (inclusive) to 1/100 of Sectional cuts – no more 15-18 in JO's or maybe even in Silvers.
- d) Proposal: Split the age groups at the 8-under championship: for example: 8 year-olds at one session; 7 & Unders at the other.

13. OFFICIALS CHAIR: Bruce Brooks

- a) There will be an LSC Officials Chair National Meeting in May in Orlando, Florida
- b) Background Checks – talks of including more people to do background check (timers????)
- c) Try to recruit more officials – there are 2 teams in Metro with more than 400 swimmers – one has 1 official and the other has none!
- d) Bruce spoke about challenges of interpretation/clarification of some rules at meets
- e) Clinic at AGUA at noon on Saturday, May 25th – new officials – contact Bruce Brooks at bbrooks124@gmail.com

14. REGISTRATION CHAIR: Mary Fleckenstein

As of today: Metro has 9,915 athletes; 510 coaches; 225 officials and 150 others

15. NATIONAL TIMES VERIFICATION / TOP 16: Monique Grayson

- a) Meet name MUST follow this pattern: YEAR MR TEAM Meet Name for example: **2013 MR PATS** (or Patriots) **May Long Course Meet** and not Patriots 2013 May Long Course Meet
- b) Do not use only CAPITALS – and do not add dashes “-” between each word
- c) When there is a problem at the meet (yellow or blue line in Meet Manager) , please check the timers watches times and add them manually in backup 2 and backup 3 – don't just change the time without first adding the watches times.
- d) Try to add the DQ codes as it does help the coaches (and the swimmers and parents).

16. WEB PAGE COORDINATOR: Monique Grayson

- a) Many thanks to Peter Smit for spending days cleaning the malware out of the files on the web site
- b) Top 25 instead of Top 10 for the Top Times Updates? Opinion on this?
- c) I try to have the new Top times once a week, mid week, after all the previous weekend meets are in SWIMS.

17. SAFETY/SAFE SPORT COORDINATOR: Brian Hansbury

- a) New report of Occurrence for incidents – online reporting only.
- b) Raising awareness about prevention of abuse in Sport. Hotline is available at USA Swimming
- c) Also education for athletes and parents about inappropriate contact, physical, emotional and behavioral boundaries. <http://www.usaswimming.org/protect>
- d) Meeting at the end of July: Air Quality problems; Risk Management; Racing starts; Education (Team travel; chaperones; male/female chaperones/coaches ratio; meet photographers; meet hosts responsibilities; meet marshals)
- e) Athletes are not allowed to room with a coach unless it is an immediate family member

18. OPEN WATER COORDINATORS: Rob Ripp and Colleen Driscoll

Rob and Colleen were not present at the meeting

Paperwork to run an Open Water meet is huge. Guidelines are huge. Not much going on at this time. Metro cannot host their Open Water in conjunction with Masters – so no meet planned at this time.

19. DIVERSITY: Elliot Ptasnik

a) On April 28th, Metro Swimming hosted its annual outreach clinic with the special guest Olympic Gold Medalist **Anthony Ervin**. The event was held at Asphalt Green with over 100 swimmers from the five borough of New York City and coaches from across the Metro LSC. This event gave kids the opportunity to learn about competitive swimming, enjoy the water, listen and learn from Metro coaches and interact and swim with a gold medalist. The day was a great success for all coaches and swimmers. Metropolitan Swimming continues to support diversity in the sport of swimming. Not only do we want to enhance our area's youth, but show the rest of the country Metro swimming is a committed leader to promote diversity within our sport.

b) Make-A-Splash Tour is making a stop in New York on Saturday, May 18th.

20. UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

21. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

a) Technical Planning – David Ellinghaus

b) Treasurer – Corinne Cody

c) Age Group Co-Chairs - Edgar Perez & John Yearwood

d) Review Committee – we need to make sure of the exact number of people that must be on the BOR committee – as of now – the BOR is running again

22. NEXT MEETING:

The next BOD meeting will take place at Lehman College on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 6:00pm sharp.

The next HOD meeting (Elections and Bids Meetings) will take place at Lehman College on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved by all. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully submitted

Monique Grayson

May 12, 2013