

Minnesota Swimming Nominating Committee – Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 28th, 2016 at 8:00 PM
Via Conference Call

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM by Chair Jack Swanson. Attendance was taken.

Those Present: Jack Swanson, Jack Campbell, McKenna Togstad, Scott Tripps, Lillie Ortloff

Those Absent: Natalie Kuramoto, Tim Hroma

II. Review Mission Statement and Core Values

Swanson briefly reviewed Minnesota Swimming's Mission Statement and Core Values of Sportsmanship, Integrity, Excellence, and Fun. He asked committee members to keep these values in mind when discussing candidates for the Board of Directors.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Swanson asked committee members for changes to the minutes from the June 16th meeting. There were none. Swanson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Second Togstad. All in favor.

IV. Begin Vetting Members for the Board of Directors

Each Board of Directors position that will be up for election was vetted.

a. General Chair

Swanson stated that Luke Day from the University of Minnesota has agreed verbally and in writing to run for the General Chair position. He is a level headed, organized leader, and will facilitate a relationship between the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Center and Minnesota Swimming. Campbell stated that Day has indicated that he will begin to work with Jim Hanton to learn the role of General Chair. Campbell stated that the only opposition to Day's candidacy may be that he is under 30 years old. However, Campbell stated he has no reservations about Day's potential service, as he has run several national level competitions, understands how to manage and organize people, which is crucial for a General Chair. Tripps asked if these candidates are final, as he favors having more than one candidate for each office. Swanson responded that they are not. Campbell stated that candidates may run from the floor as well.

b. Officials Chair

Swanson stated that Marcus Stromberg from Sea Devils is a nominee for Officials Chair. He invited Campbell to speak about Marcus. Campbell stated that Stromberg is a young official who has plenty of experience working on national decks. He is respected and liked by all. His children are young, so he will be able to serve for a period of time. Campbell reminded the committee that this position has become close to a full time job. Stromberg is planning on utilizing the Officials Committee to delegate some of the duties of the position. He will be an excellent candidate. Swanson stated that Marcus displays a high level of professionalism on the deck, and that he is very likable – which will be excellent for recruiting and retaining new officials.

Swanson stated that Steve Nelson, MSI's Admin Vice Chair, nominated Tracy Meece, an MSI staff member, to serve as Officials Chair. Campbell stated that Meece is a highly involved official, who will be involved in Stromberg's Officials Committee. Tripps asked if there is anything in the bylaws that would prevent Meece's candidacy. Swanson stated that he believes that there is, but he suggested the committee check in with Bob Crunstedt and/or Michael Gibbons to be sure. Togstad agreed with Campbell and Swanson, stating that both Meece and Stromberg are great candidates. Tripps stated that before we contact Meece, it would be best to consult the bylaws. However, he stated that he favors having two or more candidates for each position. Campbell agreed that the first place to go would be Bob; he will contact Meece as well.

c. Senior Vice Chair

Swanson stated that Heidi Miler from WEST Express is the incumbent Senior Vice Chair, and has expressed interest in potentially continuing on the Board of Directors. He stated that she has done a very good job chairing the Senior Committee, and serving as a mentor for the athlete representatives, which is a major part of her responsibility.

Swanson stated that Mike Parratto has also been discussed as a potential Senior Vice Chair. Campbell stated Parratto is certainly ready to contribute, and should be involved if he is interested.

d. Finance Vice Chair

Swanson stated that Kelly Burrows from Mankato is the incumbent Finance Vice Chair and has no term limit. Campbell stated that Burrows is a great individual and is more than qualified to do this job. Tripps stated that Burrows is a great candidate to continue, and he appreciates that Burrows presents his reports without bias. However, Tripps stated that he prefers to have multiple candidates for each position. Togstad agreed.

e. Technical Planning Chair

Swanson stated that Dan Berve from Minnetonka is the incumbent Technical Planning chair and has no term limit. He stated that Berve is athlete centric and has been doing a great job. Campbell stated that ideally, candidates for this position would have served on the committee. Tripps stated the role of Technical Planning Chair may be changing to be a long term focused role. As such, candidates for Technical Planning Chair may change. Campbell agreed, stating that Michael Gibbons is chairing a Governance Task Force, and this will certainly be discussed in the task force.

f. Operational Risk/Safety Coordinator

Swanson stated that John Raby is the incumbent Operational Risk/Safety Coordinator, and is doing a great job. He provides thorough reports each Board meeting. Tripps agreed, and stated that ideally, multiple candidates will be vetted for this position as well.

g. Athlete Representatives

Swanson stated that the current athlete representatives are Erin McCarthy, Senior Athlete Representative, Breandan Gibbons, Junior Athlete Representative, and Megan Burrows, Athlete Committee Vice Chair. For the next year, McCarthy, a high school junior, will be running for Athlete Committee Vice Chair, and Burrows, a high school sophomore, will be running for Junior Athlete Representative. Togstad stated that it is outstanding to see consistent athlete leadership at the Board level, which we haven't had in the past. Ortloff agreed, stated that the athletes moving into new positions will know what to expect. Campbell stated that he agrees, and will defer to the athletes. Swanson stated that Zach Nelson from Riptide has also expressed interest in a position. Tripps stated that Nelson would certainly be a qualified candidate, but we should be cautious

with having multiple members of the Board of Directors from the same club. Swanson agreed, stating that a major focus of the Athlete Committee has been drawing more outstate involvement.

h. Junior Coach Representative

Swanson stated that Scott Tripps is the incumbent Senior Coach Representative and is eligible for reelection as Junior Coach Representative. Tripps stated that he is interested in running for reelection, and that Ryan Clausmen from Team Foxjet would also be a very good candidate. At this point, Campbell excused himself from the call. More discussion on the Junior Coach Representative position will be held when more committee members are present.

i. Nominating Committee

Swanson stated that all Nominating Committee members are up for reelection. All committee members stated that they are considering running for reelection. Swanson stated that Patrick Hunter has expressed interest in serving on the committee as well. Tripps stated that a focus should be geographic diversity – as there is little outstate involvement on the Board. Tripps stated that the Nominating Committee is easy to serve on for those individuals, as there are no in person meetings. Swanson stated that Board of Directors experience is helpful for Nominating Committee members. Togstad agreed, stating that having served on the Board helps members to get to know the leaders of the LSC.

V. Role of the Nominating Committee

Tripps stated that he would like to discuss nominating more than one qualified candidate for each position to best serve the members. He stated that we can do a better job at understanding the roles of each Board position. Swanson stated that if there is more than one qualified candidate, the House of Delegates, not the Nominating Committee should have final say.

Swanson asked how the Nominating Committee can be more transparent. Ortloff said that we should continue providing reports. Tripps stated that reports are nice, but are not completely necessary. The main concern has been that only one candidate has been nominated in the past, and members had no idea how this ballot was chosen.

VI. Any Other Thoughts

There were none.

VII. Adjournment

Swanson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ortloff. Second Togstad. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.