



USA Climbing: Board of Directors Meeting – 11/14/18 (via teleconference)

Board Members in Attendance:

Patti Rube, President	Dustin Skinner
Bruce Mitchell, Vice President	Jeff Pederson
Matt Roberts, Treasurer	Kate Felsen Di Pietro
Avery Cook	Jesse Grupper
Kyra Condie	

USA Climbing Staff and Consultants in Attendance:

Marc Norman, Chief Executive Officer  
John Muse  
Kyle Jablon  
Cole Erickson  
Zachary Brinchi  
Nick Foster

The meeting commenced at 5:02 P.M. Mr. Brinchi acted as Secretary for the meeting. Ms. Rube presided.

- I. Call To Order
  - a) On motion duly made and seconded, the Board minutes from the meeting of September 24, 2018 were approved. Mr. Grupper was not present at the time of voting and joined the meeting promptly thereafter.
- II. CEO Summary
  - a) Office Relocation and Utah Sports Commission
    - i) Mr. Norman provided an overview on the office relocation to Salt Lake City, Utah from Boulder, CO and the feedback he had received from USA Climbing members.
  - b) Media Agreement
    - i) Mr. Norman provided an update on the proposed agreement with a media outlet for broadcast of certain USA Climbing events. Mr. Norman indicated discussions are still on going. Mr. Norman stressed

the importance of finalizing the proposed agreement due to the timeline with which the events will occur.

- ii) Mr. Norman provided an update regarding potential sponsors for such broadcasts. A discussion ensued regarding interested parties, securing advertising space, and growing USAC's media presence.
  - iii) Ms. Cook raised concerns over how signing a proposed agreement with a media outlet might affect the work-load of current USAC Staff.
  - iv) On motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved Mr. Norman's proposal for USA Climbing to enter into the media agreement, subject to securing sponsorship for at least two thirds of the anticipated increased costs involved in production of the broadcasts compared to budgeted costs for production of broadcasts without the proposed new media arrangement, with Ms. Cook voting to oppose the motion and Mr. Pederson abstaining given his affiliation with the host facility of one of the events to be broadcast.
- c) High Performance
- i) Mr. Norman gave an update regarding support from the USOC on the USAC High Performance Plan. Mr. Norman responded to questions from the Board.
  - ii) Mr. Norman announced staff changes relating to the High-Performance Department.
- d) USAC Rulebook
- i) Ms. Rube and Mr. Norman provided an update on Section 5 "US Team Selection and Invitation to International Events" of the draft Version 2 of the USAC Rulebook proposed by the Rules Committee, noting that two items in the draft remained subject to further review by the Rules Committee, the USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee, and the staff.
  - ii) Mr. Norman and Mr. Muse provided additional background regarding the two open items.
  - iii) Mr. Grupper and Ms. Condie also provided background regarding Section 5 and the two open items from the review they performed as members of the Athletes' Advisory Committee.
  - iv) Mr. Norman noted that he expects resolution on the two open items by no later than mid-December 2018.
  - v) On motion duly made and seconded, Version 2 of the Rulebook was approved, including page 2 containing mention of the two items remaining under review, with Mr. Grupper and Ms. Condie abstaining due conflicts of interest as athletes.
- e) Mr. Norman provided a summary of his visit to Hachioji, Japan, a prospective partner city where the Combined World Championships is expected to take place in August 2019.
- f) Mr. Norman reported on the status of the proposed election for a USA Climbing athlete to serve on the USOC AAC.

- g) Mr. Norman reported regarding Mr. Skinner's anticipated involvement with the Association of Chief Executives in Sport ("ACES") in the area of officiating best practices.
- h) Mr. Norman discussed a potential USA-Climbing branded magazine.
- i) Mr. Norman provided a summary of potential sponsorship and fundraising opportunities.

### III. Financials / Audit Committee

- a) Mr. Roberts noted that although USA Climbing's audit for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2017 was clean and unqualified, the auditors had made various comments to assist USA Climbing in improving its processes and procedures. Mr. Roberts presented recommendations to address the auditors' comments, including presenting USA Climbing's updated Fiscal Policies & Procedures. Mr. Roberts anticipates receiving comments shortly from the auditors in connection with the fiscal year ending August 31, 2018.
- b) Mr. Jablon provided a summary of the September Financials.

### IV. Operations

- a) Mr. Muse provided a summary of his trip to the IFSC Event Organizers Meeting in Torino, Italy, a meeting that focused on the upcoming IFSC Competition Season.
- b) Mr. Muse provided an overview of current membership trends.
- c) Mr. Muse provided an overview of current registration for Bouldering Regional Championships
- d) Mr. Muse reported on upcoming USA Climbing competitions.

### V. Miscellaneous

- a) Mr. Grupper reported on the current statistics with respect to diversity within USA Climbing. Mr. Grupper has worked closely with Ryan Gagnon (Assistant Professor, Clemson University, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management; Research Advisor, USA Climbing) and Leici Hendrix (Consultant, Sponsorships), to help build diversity programs within climbing across the country.
- b) At Ms. Rube's suggestion, a discussion ensued regarding the optimal location and date for the next in-person Board meeting to be focused on strategic planning.
- c) On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the recommendations by the Nominating and Governance Committee regarding membership in the Competition Belaying Working Group.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm MST.