



USA Climbing: Board of Directors Meeting – 5/16/18 (via telephone conference)

Board Members in Attendance:

Patti Rube, President	Joel Litvin
Bruce Mitchell, Vice President	Jeff Pedersen
Matt Roberts, Treasurer	Jeffrey Wilks
Avery Cook	Margo Hayes, Athlete
Josh Levin, Athlete	
Dustin Skinner	

USA Climbing Staff Members in Attendance:

Kynan Waggoner, Chief Executive Officer
Nick Smith
John Muse
Zachary Brinchi

Attending at the request of the Board of Directors and the CEO: Greg Padovani, Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee (“NGC”), and (for the portion relating to the Risk Management Committee (“RMC”), Jason Pill, Chair of the RMC.

The meeting commenced at 5:02 p.m. MST. Mr. Brinchi acted as Secretary for the meeting. Ms. Rube presided.

1. Jason Pill, Chair of the RMC, provided an update to the Board regarding the recent work of the Committee.
 - a. The RMC had been directed by the Board to consider, as the Committee’s first matter for review, whether to recommend any changes to the USA Climbing Rulebook as appropriate in relation to belay systems for Speed climbing events. The Board had expressed a preference that the RMC make any such recommendations in advance of Youth Regionals in May 2018. Mr. Pill, among other things, reported that the RMC’s work was ongoing and in depth, requiring more time and due consideration than would have allowed for a recommendation prior to Youth Regionals. Mr. Pill provided background on various factors being considered by the Committee and information being sought from third parties. Mr.

Pill noted that many members of the Speed climbing community, including many parents, volunteers and Regional Coordinators, are passionate about this topic and have made their views known through email and social media. Mr. Pill welcomed reports of safety incidents that could impact the RMC's deliberations. He noted, however, that at times emails and social media posts have included mis-information and hostility. He assured the Board that the RMC shares with the Board and the USAC staff the view that the health and safety of USAC athletes is of the utmost concern and should be reflected in all decision-making.

- b. Mr. Pill also reported that the RMC was aware of a Speed climbing incident during the Youth Regional Championship in Region 202 over the prior weekend. Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Muse had been reviewing the incident and providing information to the RMC, Mr. Waggoner had spoken with the climber's family.
 - c. A discussion ensued, during which numerous Board members provided comments and offers of assistance, and asked questions. The Board generally expressed the expectation that USAC members and stakeholders will respectfully support a fact-based and diligent review.
 - d. Mr. Pill elaborated that the RMC is considering matters such as details regarding industry certifications obtained by Perfect Descent, a popular auto-belay provider and the brand used by the IFSC.
 - e. Ms. Rube requested that the RMC make a recommendation to the Board prior to Youth Divisionals (being held on June 16/17). Ms. Rube requested that Board members be available for a special Board meeting in the next few weeks as needed to review any interim recommendations of the RMC.
 - f. The Board thanked Mr. Pill and the RMC for their efforts.
2. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board minutes from the meeting of April 19, 2018 were unanimously approved.
 3. Ms. Rube noted that CEO position description and the Realignment Task Force Charter had been approved on an interim basis by email. On motions duly made and seconded, each was unanimously approved.
 4. Mr. Waggoner provided an update regarding staffing within USA Climbing:
 - a. Ms. Henehan, Director of Operations, had resigned to pursue another opportunity near her home in Ohio. Ms. Henry, who had reported to Ms. Henehan and who had been working from Ms. Henehan's home office, also gave notice of resignation soon thereafter.
 - b. John Muse has been named Interim Director of Operations.

- c. Zachary Brinchi has been elevated to full-time status and will be assuming much of Ms. Henry's responsibilities.
 - d. The position of Sponsorship Coordinator remains open, and an independent contractor already working with USAC will fill in during the search period.
5. Mr. Waggoner provided an update regarding Sponsorship in the following categories:
 - a. Apparel
 - b. Climbing Shoes
 - c. Outdoor Equipment Retailer
 - d. Vehicle
6. Mr. Waggoner provided an update on March financials. Ms. Rube requested changes to the variance report form to be used going forward. Ms. Rube requested that Mr. Waggoner, with the participation of Mr. Muse and Mr. Jablon, work with the Audit Committee under Mr. Roberts' direction to review financials and assess the continuing alignment of actuals vs budget, with report to the full Board as needed.
7. Mr. Waggoner provided the Board with an update regarding membership.
8. Events:
 - a. Mr. Waggoner reported on progress with host facilities for the 2018-2019 Bouldering National Cup Series events, with verbal agreements having been reached with four facilities and signed agreements with two facilities.
 - b. Mr. Waggoner has re-dedicated himself to serving in an event organizer role for the upcoming Vail World Cup in light of Ms. Henehan's departure.
 - c. Mr. Waggoner reported that internet bandwidth limitations may prevent the transmission of livestream coverage of Sport & Speed Youth Nationals in July 2018. This would have been the first time that the event was covered by livestream. Conversations among Stone Summit, Lt11, and USAC are still ongoing with other options being considered.
 - d. USA Climbing has submitted an application to host the Olympic Special Qualifying Event that will take place in November or December 2019 and that is expected to result in the selection of 6 male and 6 female athletes for the 2020 Olympics. Due to IOC rules on hosting, both Japan and Russia are not eligible given other events they are hosting before or after 2019. The only two countries in consideration currently are France & the U.S. The IFSC had been expected to announce the host country decision on May

15th but no announcement was made. Mr. Waggoner anticipates meeting with members of the IFSC to seek additional information.

- e. Dates for Youth World Championships 2018 are still not confirmed. The IFSC had announced that there would be no Combined Format event at the competition. However, the Russian Federation thereafter expressed a desire to host the Combined Format event. This may be delaying announcement of the final dates for the competition.

9. Committees:

- a. Mr. Padovani reported that the NGC recommends the appointment of Maureen Beck to serve as Adaptive Committee Chair, effective June 1st, to replace Ronnie Dickson who is resigning to spend more time on growing a business. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved this recommendation. The Board thanked Mr. Dickson and commended him on his efforts on behalf of the Committee itself and on his guidance in the recent creation of the Adaptive Climbing Classification Task Force.
- b. Mr. Padovani provided an update regarding the Realignment Task Force. NGC has received indications of interest from numerous candidates, including one candidate seeking to be Chair. NGC anticipates making a recommendation to the Board next week.
- c. Mr. Padovani shared an update on the CEO Position Search. Two qualified individuals have officially submitted expressions of interest with supporting documentation, and others have held informal conversations with Mr. Padovani. Mr. Padovani requested that the Board share the position within their networks to encourage more applicants.
- d. NGC intends to introduce the leading applicants to the Board and staff for interviews during Sport & Speed Youth Nationals in July.

10. Miscellaneous

- a. Mr. Waggoner noted that he had shared information with the Board regarding the March IFSC Plenary Assembly, attended by him and by Pete Torcicollo, former President of the Board of USAC and currently Treasurer, Pan-American Counsel Board.
- b. Mr. Waggoner provided an update regarding a possible national event center in Troy, IL. Meetings are continuing, and Mr. Waggoner has been sharing proposals with Mr. Roberts.

Ms. Rube ended the meeting at 6:43pm MST