

USA Climbing Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
5:00 p.m. | Virtual via Zoom



Board Members in Attendance:

Kate Felsen Di Pietro, Chair	Laura Domoto	Connie Lightner
Meagan Martin, Vice Chair	Jesse Grupper	Chris Park
Trace Harris, Treasurer	Alice Kao	Jason Pill
Maureen Beck, Athlete	Sienna Kopf, Athlete	Geoff Smith
Kyra Condie, Athlete	Deana Labriola	

USA Climbing Staff and Others in Attendance:

Marc Norman, Chief Executive Officer	John Muse	Zack DiCristino
Lisa Valiant, Chief of Staff Secretary	Caitlin Curry	Rebecca Ingraham
Patti Rube, USAC Foundation Chair Observer	Patrick Bodnar	Matthew Maddison
Rocky Harris, USOPC Guest	Mike Bockino	Sharlee Strebel
	Trevor Clay	Wendy Vinhage

All attendance virtual

I. Call To Order and Board Business

- a. Kate Felsen Di Pietro called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM MDT.
- b. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved minutes of the December 13, 2023 Board Meeting.*
- c. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved minutes from the December 28, 2023 Ad Hoc Executive Session, January 3, 2024 Ad Hoc Board Meeting, and January 8, 2024 Ad Hoc Board Meeting.*
- d. *The Board affirmed the unanimous electronic approval on January 17, 2024 of the Gym Partner Task Force Charter dated January 11, 2024.*

II. Ethics Committee

- a. Findings of the Ethics Committee relating to Board member Alice Kao were reported to the Board, citing a violation of USA Climbing's Code of Ethics Policy and a violation of the Board Responsibilities Policy. The Ethics Committee deferred action to the Board and shared factors relevant to its decision-making process for consideration by the Board.
- b. Ms. Kao made a verbal statement in response to the Ethics Committee's findings.
- c. A question-and-answer period occurred between Ms. Kao and Board members.
- d. The Board excused Ms. Kao and moved into closed session for discussion.
- e. The Board returned from closed session at 7:17 p.m. MST.
- f. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board approved, with a majority vote of 11:2 and one Board member absent, to accept the findings of the Ethics Committee.*
- g. It was noted that the Board committed in closed session to participate in additional Board training.

III. Rocky Harris, USOPC Chief of Sport, joined the meeting to share insights on the important work of growing sport, support from the USOPC, and perspectives from his experience leading a National Governing Body.

- IV. National Training Center
- a. An update related to the National Training Center was provided. A presentation from CCS regarding the capital campaign was continued to a future meeting. The Board was reminded to refer any media requests to USA Climbing Marketing & Communications Director, Patrick Bodnar. Efforts to engage local Salt Lake City gym operators and other stakeholders were reviewed, progress toward a joint CWA/USAC committee was reviewed, and a Youth Series Task Force is being formed.
- V. Gym Partner Task Force
- a. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved Steve Struthers as chair of the Gym Partner Task Force.*
 - b. The Gym Partner Task Force has been engaging in conversations with and listening to feedback from gym owners. A gym partner communication and survey related to the National Training Center will be released on January 25, 2024. Surveys will be subsequently created and made available to other stakeholder groups, including athletes, to ensure voices throughout the climbing community can be considered relative to the National Training Center project.
- VI. Transgender Athlete Participation (TAP)
- a. The DEI Committee has been meeting with stakeholders, including Athlete Ally and Trans Climbers Belong, with a goal to better understand the issues related to the TAP Policy. A summary was provided of the recent Transgender Athlete Participation feedback survey, including noted challenges with the survey and key takeaways. Potential focus groups and possible resources to help facilitate conversations were discussed as next steps.
- VII. The Board moved into closed session.
- VIII. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM MDT.