

USA Climbing Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
5:00 p.m. | Virtual via Zoom



Board Members in Attendance:

Kate Felsen Di Pietro, Chair
Megan Martin, Vice Chair, Athlete
Trace Harris, Treasurer
Kyra Condie, Athlete

Laura Domoto
Jesse Grupper, Athlete
Sienna Kopf, Athlete
Deana Labriola

Connie Lightner
Jason Pill
Steve Struther

USA Climbing Staff and Others in Attendance:

Marc Norman, Chief Executive Officer
Lisa Valiant, Chief of Staff | Secretary
Patti Rube, USAC Foundation Chair

Caitlin Curry
John Muse
Trevor Clay

Zack DiCristino
Dave Patterson, USOPC

All attendance virtual

I. Call To Order and Board Business.

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM MDT.
- b. Thanks were expressed to Geoff Smith for his dedicated service on the USA Climbing Board, which came to a close as of this meeting. Geoff remains committed and available to advise as needed going forward.
- c. *On motions duly made and seconded, minutes of the March 13, 2024 Board meeting minutes were approved.*
- d. *The unanimous electronic approval of Avery Cook's appointment to the Nominating Committee was affirmed.*

II. CEO Update.

- a. A report from IFSC General Assembly was provided, noting the upcoming shift in IFSC age categories beginning in 2025. The Youth Series Task Force will review and make recommendations regarding USAC implementation.
- b. Recent athlete performances on the international circuit were highlighted, noting Sam Watson's world speed record in Wujiang.

III. USOPC Governance Presentation | Dave Patterson

- a. Dave Patterson discussed the ongoing transition process from a non-Olympic to an Olympic sport and the inevitable growing pains within any maturing NGB. Suggestions were provided regarding the continuing shift from an operating board to a strategic board. The primary duties of a board were reviewed – fiduciary, strategic, and generative.

IV. Foundation

- a. The Board was encouraged to make introductions to potential trustees, forward the Paris Olympic hospitality packages to their networks, and provide any sponsorship leads.
- b. An update of potential incoming trustees was provided.

- V. Financial Update and Audit & Compensation Committee.
- a. The FY23 financial audit is in process. An update on the EIDL was provided. Current cash balances were reviewed. The FY24 financials were reviewed noting the drivers of any significant budget variances. The FY24 budget was reviewed as a reminder of how the three USAC entities interact with one another. Areas of risk were discussed.
 - b. It was noted that the Audit & Compensation Committee approved revised fiscal procedures that reflect USA Climbing's growth and associated operating changes over past years. Financial controls were reviewed.
- VI. National Training Center Project & Stakeholder Engagement.
- a. Actions to date related to gym owner requests were reviewed. Actions to date toward Board requests related to the National Training Center project were reviewed.
 - b. The project timeline and next steps were reviewed, contingent on Board direction and approvals. Timing constraints and risks were identified.
 - c. A Request for Interest and associated process were discussed.
 - d. The results of a stakeholder community survey soliciting feedback related to the National Training project were reviewed, noting 1670 responses across all stakeholder groups.
 - e. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board approved lifting the pause on the National Training Center project to shift from the current "stakeholder engagement" period into action and continued stakeholder engagement; one abstention was noted.*
 - f. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board approved High Performance, Events, Accessibility, and Community Access as the four National Training Center project pillars; one abstention was noted.*
 - g. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board approved the release and dissemination of a nationwide Request for Interest (RFI) to gym owners and operators, with amendments to include clarity around the site USA Climbing is currently considering in Salt Lake City, to provide an information session for respondents, and with the proviso that the board have an opportunity for feedback prior to release of the RFI; four abstentions were noted.*
- VII. DEI Committee and Transgender Athlete Participation Update
- a. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the composition of the TAPP Revision group as presented.*
 - b. The board was presented with a list of five suggested revision areas in the TAP policy. The Board discussed and fully supported their inclusion among any changes or revisions suggested by the TAPP Revision group so constituted.
 - c. The board supported the exploration of inclusive pathways for participation by trans and other non-team-eligible athletes within the TAP policy.
- VIII. Strategic Planning Task Force
- a. The proposed members of the Strategic Planning Task Force were presented and discussed, pending confirmation of interest and athlete safety screening. An electronic vote will be held following the meeting to confirm the appointments.
- IX. An ad hoc Board meeting was added to the calendar for Tuesday, May 21, 2024.
- X. The Board moved to closed session.
- XI. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM MDT.