

**USA Climbing Board of Directors Ad Hoc Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 11, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m. | Virtual via Zoom**



**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kate Felsen Di Pietro, Chair  
Megan Martin, Vice Chair  
Trace Harris, Treasurer  
Maureen Beck, Athlete

Kyra Condie, Athlete  
Jesse Grupper, Athlete  
Laura Domoto  
Bret Johnston

Deana Labriola  
Joey Molko  
Jason Pill  
Steve Struthers

**USA Climbing Staff and Others in Attendance:**

Marc Norman, Chief Executive Officer  
Lisa Valiant, Chief of Staff | Secretary  
Caitlin Curry, Finance & Administration Director  
John Muse, VP of Sport

Patti Rube, USA Climbing Foundation Chair  
Zack DiCristino  
Mason Sorey

*All attendance virtual*

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM MDT.
- II. The Board welcomed Joey Molko as a new USA Climbing Board Director.  
  
*On motions duly made and seconded, minutes from the July 17, 2024, and August 21, 2024 (ad hoc) meetings were unanimously approved, noting one abstention for not being present.*
- III. **Strategic Planning Task Force.** Steve Struthers reviewed stakeholder engagement to date through listening sessions and an online survey. Emerging themes and next steps were reviewed. Progress toward a draft strategic plan will be presented at the October meeting for board guidance. The Board was asked to provide feedback on the draft outcomes framework as soon as possible.
- IV. **SafeSport Audit.** The U.S. Center for SafeSport conducted its annual random audit of a USA Climbing event to evaluate adherence and level of compliance to the SafeSport Code and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). With thanks to USA Climbing staff, particularly Sharlee Strebel and Mason Sorey, and volunteers, it was noted that USA Climbing was 100% compliant with no corrective actions required.
- V. **Audit & Compensation Committee.** The Audit & Compensation Committee is currently focused on reviewing the financial models from the prospective gym partners for the National Training Center and the developing budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- VI. **FY24 Financials.** Caitlin Curry reviewed current FY24 financials, noting cash balances and the drivers of any significant budget variances.

- VII. **Partnerships.** Marc Norman provided an update on USA Climbing partnership negotiations in several categories. Opportunities were discussed stemming from Paris 2024 momentum, excitement around a home LA28 Games, and the introduction of paraclimbing to the Paralympic Games.
- VIII. **Gym Owner Town Hall.** A virtual town hall was held on September 5, focused on the key changes to the youth series and QE season. These changes are a product of the joint CWA/USA Climbing committee. An update on the status of the National Training Center project was also provided on the call.
- IX. **National Training Center.** Marc Norman provided an update on progress with potential gym partners, and next steps toward a capital campaign and site agreement. Efforts to advance architectural design are commencing with upcoming athlete engagement sessions.
- X. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee is actively searching for a candidate to fill the required independent position on the Board. The committee is also turning attention to filling committee vacancies.
- XI. **Board Performance Assessment.** The board was reminded to complete their annual Board Performance Assessment by October 9.
- XII. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held in person in Salt Lake City, October 25-27. The Board was reminded to send any input on topics for discussion to Kate Felsen Di Pietro.
- XIII. **Other.** Discussion occurred on alternative regional competition series. A CWA post is upcoming to continue informing the gym community on the ongoing work of the joint CWA/USA Climbing Committee and the positive changes to youth QE event hosting.
- XIV. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board moved to closed session.*
- XV. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM MDT.