



ROWING
CANADA
AVIRON

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Rowing Canada Aviron
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES

October 6, 2015
5:30PM (PDT) / 8:30PM (EDT)

Attendance:

Michael Walker, President
Brian Lamb, Director (Treasurer)
Joel Finlay, Director
Jon Beare, Athlete Director
Andrew Fitzgerald, Director

Regrets:

Carol Purcer, Provincial Director
Rick Crooker, Director

Staff:

Donna Atkinson, CEO
Sid Murdoch, Secretary

1. Call to Order Acceptance of Agenda

The meeting was called to order by President Walker at 5:30 p.m.

- It was noted that Jon Beare and Brian Lamb were re-elected to their positions at the 2015 RCA Annual Meeting.
- Andrew Fitzgerald, also elected, was welcomed to his first meeting as a Director. Andrew has been involved in sport at the club and provincial levels for many years and looks forward to working with RCA at the national level.

MOTION #1: Board Meeting Agenda

Moved: Joel Finlay Seconded,

That the Board Meeting Agenda, October 6, 2015, be approved.

CARRIED

2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes:

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2015

- Further information on the Red Tie event was requested. This will be added to the CEO section.

MOTION #2: Board Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2015

Moved: Brian Lamb Seconded,

That the Board Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2015, be approved.

CARRIED

3. President

3.1 FISA Congress and National Federations meetings Debrief

- President Walker noted that this year's Congress was busier than prior years.
- The FISA President highlighted the *Sport Accord* organization in his report. Many federations, including FISA, resigned from the *Sport Accord* at a recent meeting.

Other items discussed at the Congress:

- 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- Briefing on the 2016 RIO Olympics including issues with the grandstands, water quality and virus testing.
- Bidding is still open on FISA events including the 2018 U23's and the 2018-19 Junior World's. Still negotiating with a host nation for the 2017 FISA Extraordinary Congress.
- Linz, Austria won the bid for the 2019 World Rowing Championships.
- A number of new members were announced: Trinidad and Tobago, Malta, Haiti and Luxembourg.
- 2017 & 18: World Cup 1 will be in Belgium
- 2018 World Cup 2, Linz, Austria
- 2018 World Masters, Sarasota Florida

A National Federations Meeting was held following the formal Congress:

- Looking at the future of rowing and 2020 issues such as universality and equity.
- Rules of Racing issues were briefed:
 - Athletes switching federations
 - Number of entries in specific boat classes
 - Gender issues – same number of events for men and women
 - Excellence versus universality issues

3.2 Commonwealth Rowing Debrief

- A number of nations met regarding the Commonwealth Rowing Association: United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Canada, along with a number of smaller Commonwealth rowing countries. A working group led by Australia will be formed to consider future Commonwealth Rowing Championships.

3.3 Canadian Olympic Committee Special Meeting Debrief

- A vote was held before the bid deadline regarding a Toronto bid for the 2024 Olympic Games where unanimous support was given.
- The President of the COC has resigned and Vice-President Tricia Smith will serve as the Interim President until the next meeting, November 22nd – 23rd. An election will be held at that meeting for the President's position to fill the rest of the current term until 2017.

4. CEO

4.1 Strategic Planning Engagement (for approval)

- As an agenda item for the November meeting in Ottawa, the Board will consider the terms of reference for an HP External Review and Planning Strategy for the next quadrennial. For the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan, the hiring of a consultant was considered to provide guidance on the planning process, with a strong focus on streamlining the SP's objectives. Board members should consider the makeup of a SP Committee prior to the November meeting.

MOTION #3: Strategic Plan Consultant

Moved: Brian Lamb Seconded,

That RCA engage Nora Sheffe as a Strategic Plan Consultant and review the structure and process at the November 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 Red Tie Event

- The RCA Red Tie Event was held during the 2015 Pan Am Games.
- A contractor was hired to manage the event while working with a senior staff member.
- A budget, which was reviewed and adjusted about 5 weeks before the event to determine whether to proceed with the event. This was based on a break even number and risks of cancelling versus risk of proceeding was weighed at that time. The decision to proceed was based on knowing that there was some back up funding available, should some things not take place as projected by the Contractor and staff member.
- Ticket sales were not as projected. There was a significant expectation from the local audience of free invitations considering the volunteer contributions that had been given towards the Games and a reluctance to purchase tickets. There were two sponsorships that were expected that had been committed but did not come through at the last minute.
- The event essentially broke even and those in attendance gave it a high rating. While it did achieve many of the objectives of donor and supporter engagement the event did not achieve fundraising targets.
- The 2015 Red Tie Event will be discussed in more detail at the November Board Meeting.

4.3 HP Debrief

MOTION #4: In Camera

Moved: Brian Lamb Seconded,

That the meeting be held In Camera to discuss the RCA High Performance Program.

CARRIED

MOTION #5: Out of Camera

Moved: Joel Finlay Seconded,

That the meeting move out of camera.

5. Treasurer

- Treasurer Brian Lamb updated the Board on the upcoming meeting of the Committee on Fees and Dues to take place on October 17.

6. Salish Sea Coastal Rowing Club

- An application for a new club probationary membership was received the day before the Board meeting for the Salish Sea Coastal Rowing Club. Because the application was too late to put on the Board agenda, it will be circulated by email in the coming week for secretarial approval.

7. London Rowing Society

- The CEO briefed on work that is going on with stakeholders of the London Rowing Society in London, ON to develop improved structure and relationships with all partners.

8. Next Meeting

- The in-person Board of Directors Meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on November 6, finishing by noon on November 8 in Ottawa.