

USASA NBOD Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2019 - Milwaukee, WI

9am Sherwood Room Holiday Inn Milwaukee Riverfront

Approved with amendments 8/07/2019

9:09am 1. Meeting called to order by John Motta, President

John welcomed the guests (listed below) to the meeting and asked that they wait to ask questions until the new business portion of the meeting.

Guest present – Region 2 Deputy Director Claudio Frigo, Kentucky State President Peggy Polley - Grizzle, Gerhard Mengel, and Nick Radu, President of Michigan State Soccer.

2. Roll call by Karon Beyer, secretary. All Board members were present in person, with the exception of Richard Moeller, conference in and Cesar Wasecki who will call in at 9:30am

3. Approval of Minutes from April 6th 2019, April 9th 2019 and April 15th 2019. Minutes were approved by acclamation with no corrections.

4. Presidents Report: John Motta reported:

a. US Soccer Board Meeting Review that John and Vice President Richard Moeller attended.

1. Congratulations to Dan Garber, MLS Commissioner for receiving Sports Executive of the Year

2. Congratulations to Atlanta United who has won Team of the Year

3. Congratulations to Sunil Gulati, former US Soccer President and Abby Wambach, retired Womens National team player and Captain who are being inducted into the US Soccer Hall of Fame on September 21st in Frisco Texas, Toyota Stadium.

4. FIFA Council has approved the use of Video Assisted Referee in the 2019 Womens World Cup.

5. Concacaf hosted their meeting in Miami, Florida

6. The Asian Confederation will met in April, President Cordeiro tended.

7. US Soccer CEO Search Committee has narrowed down the applicants from 100 to 12 and it is now down to five finalists.

8. It will be a busy summer for US Soccer with Womens World Cup, U20 Men's Cup play (Monday vs. France), June 11th is the first USA game in World Cup vs. Thailand, U17 Mens lost to Mexico at the CONCACAF finals and Mens 7 aside Beach Soccer Competition will also compete in Brazil.

9. Budget and Finance, Richard Moeller has been appointed as the Budget & Finance Committee Chair. The committee has approved a negative budget at this time but we still have events and contract negotiations going on.

10. This will be Dan Flynn's last meeting as US Soccer CEO.

11. The National Council had approved a proposed negative budget of \$14 million dollars and the actual has come in with a differential of \$300,000.00

12. US National Team is on budget. Men's – \$5.5 Million & Womens - \$935 Thousand

13. Player registration is down across the board, for both adult and youth.

14. Niko stated that the Technical Program will focus on style of play with minimum principles at U15/U16/U17 and U18/19 will be more defined.

15. Referee Program - a new referee program will roll out July 1st with a 12 month implementation process that will include background checks. They will be starting with 5/6 volunteer states.

Bill Davy, Committee member, added that the National Referee Committee has had no communication about the program. The Chair has not attended a meeting.

Richard Moeller will contact Carlos Cordeiro and the committee chair and report back to us.

16. Youth Task Force created last year by US Soccer, Mike Colina (US Club) says they have not been very active.

17. Member Meetings – 103 members attended. Focus was on Safe Sport and The Growth & Initiative Fund. Some feedback was to meet with small group breakout sessions

21. US Soccer will hire a new person to manage this fund.

22. Patrons Program has collect \$542,000

There are 15 families that donated \$10,000 and 164 (\$5,000) circle members

23. Since May 13th, 2019 the US Soccer Hall of Fame Museum in Frisco Texas is averaging 1,400 visitors per month.

24. Visa has just signed back on as a sponsor of US Soccer.

25. Mens World Cup – there has been a proposal to expand the men's cup to include 32 teams

26. FIFA President, Giovanni Infantino has been reelected

27. FIFA's challenge has been how to deal with issues of race & gender & equality.

28. FIFA has made a change to the Technical Committee

29. CONCAVAF President Victor Montagliani has been reelected and our relationship with them is strong

30. Olympic qualifies start in January 2020

31. US Soccer Board Committees have been approved.

b. US Soccer Innovation Fund.

1. \$3 million is allotted per year but only \$1.3 million has been allocated in the past two years.

2. John has appointed a task force to come up with suggestions on how US Adult Soccer can apply for a large grant. John is suggesting that we look at social events and soccer as "health benefits".

3. Committee members – John appointed Darius Ejiali, Brett Hurwitz, and Paul Scherer to the committee along with Duncan Riddle.

c. Founders Cup –

1. Starting in August, USASA will not register players/teams from the Founders Cup as our Insurance will not allow it.

Bill Davy is asking for an update on financial obligation from the Founders Cup Group.

2. The Board feels that we need a policy in place for "Professional Player" and it needs to be added to our bylaws. Does US Soccer have a definition in their Bylaws that we can draft into ours?

Tony Falcone will research and get make to the board on a policy definition.

3. The national data center is still having problems.

5. Executive Directors Report: Duncan Riddle Reported on

a. Steinbrecher Cup is going on now. Semi Finals were competed last night and the 2019 Final (& 3rd place consolation) game will play this evening. 5pm will be 3rd/4th place – Bavarian SC vs. FC Motown and the 7:00pm Championship – FC Chicago United vs. Flint City Bucks will be live streamed on the USASA Website.

b. US Amateur Cup update. We are still waiting for all four regions to compete their Cup games to decide the 2019 venue. Winners in the 2019 Open cup will play a UEFA team next year (2020) in May.

Region I Will play it's Final is June 19, 2019

Region II is in their semi-finals this weekend

Region III competitions will be June 7 – 9th in Tennessee

Region IV Cal South vs. Colorado will play New Mexico.

c. 2019 Soccer Fest report- we have 101 teams registered so far but Massachusetts (home state venue) still has ten teams to register.

11:00am – 11:20am Break

11:20am

6. Retreat Report and Updates - Duncan Riddle reported on what came out of the NBOD Retreat in March.

a. Strategic Planning Committee of Tom Moore, Dave Guthrie and Dave Bortz

b. The Board believes that:

1. we should help the states that are struggling.

2. we should provide basic USASA packets with minimum requirements

3. have USASA member service staff personal available to help. It may be a National person or a person in each region.

4. USASA staff personal with knowledge off all the online registration systems that our members use.

5. USASA needs to upload data to US Soccer. This may mean hiring regional staff or interns.

c. Duncan needs to evaluate the current staff for work assignments, individual task and hours.

d. Policies – [Paul Scherer is working with Safe Sports on an Adult policy](#) that we can give to our member states. We need to look at a Transgender policy for the adults.

Question from the board - do the Olympic Rules cover this issue?

e. Competitions: We have evaluated all competitions into three categories. Revenue, membership or growth based. The Amateur Cup is membership driven but needs consistent Competition Rules for the Final Four.

f. Open Cup – 2020 competition will start in March. MLS teams will come in in the second round.

Lunch break 12:10 – 12:48pm

12:48 Meeting Resumed

7. Committee Reports:

a. Women's Task Force. Karon Beyer reported that the Womens Committee has been working to create a National Womens Directory of state representatives, leagues, teams

and tournament/event competitions. They are still looking for a Region 2 committee member.

Duncan has a format for a 2020 Amateur Competition with eight teams from WPSL, UWS & possibly WUPSL played over one weekend for the committee to review.

John stated that he formed the Womens Committee to come up with a proposal for an National Womens Amateur Cup, just like the men. We will not have two National Cups.

b. Governance Committee. Paul Scherer reported on a written memo sent from the Governance Chair, Fritz Marth. (Attached below)

1. The Committee is looking at the concept of representation for affiliate USASA National Leagues and Affiliates "Other" members on the National Board of Directors as a "Regional" Director.

2. They are currently not looking for a second Independent Director

3. Eliminate the position of Treasurer and Secretary and replace with two independent Directors.

4. The immediate future efforts of the Committee involving: 1) a requested review of the current voting structure; and 2) the possible search for a second independent director candidate.

c. Referee Committee – The level designation for referee levels of 9/8/7 have been changed to "Grass Roots". Discussion within the board about possible reaction of the adult players to the term "Grass Roots".

John will send a letter to the Referee Committee with the USASA NBOD's concerns and recommendation to return to the ranking of their referees.

d. Rules Committee – Tony Falcone reported that the committee is working on a standardized Appeals Policy and the designation of Standing Committees vs. "Task Force" Committees.

e. Hall of Fame Committee – Duncan Riddle reported that the Committee will meet on Monday June 3rd. There is a question of three or four nominees for 2019.

f. Report of Meeting with US Youth Soccer – Karon Beyer reported that the youth representative has been unable to meet due to medical issues with her family. John asks that Karon reach out to the youth board to invite them to the September USASA meeting in Palm Springs California.

1:20pm

8. Marketing - Where are we? Where do we need to go? – Brett Hurwitz was unable to present his power point presentation. (Emailed out June 3rd to the board and attached below)

1) Member Value Proposal – members, Revenue streams, non-members

How do we serve our members?

A. Customer 1st / and USASA accessibility.

B. Communication – through our data base?

C. Defining our events

2) Goals

A. Data Base

- B. Staffing & Resources
 - C. Membership
 - D. Marketing
 - E. Identify and package our assets.
- 3) Clear message of who we are.

Duncan talked about USASA on social media. Facebook continues to drop in popularity, snapchat & twitter is level and Instagram & podcast are up.

9. Budget - Lori Stoneburner emailed out a draft budget to the board members on May 29th for review before the meeting.

A. Women's Tournament. We had a discussion on prize money for the Women. John recommends the same as the Men. Some Board Members were not on board, since we are trying to start this tournament again.

[John has directed Karon to go back to the Women's Committee and get their recommendation on prize money and come back to the Board with their recommendation.](#)

B. NBOD Members Travel Expenses. Lori asked if we should look at individual member itemization for travel expenses. The Board recommends leaving the budget as is.

2:31pm – 3:06pm Executive Session

Budget resumed:

- C. Lori announced that all four regions are now on quick books.
- D. Budget Committee members are Bill George and Rob Lavielle.
- E. State Associations cannot make electronic payment to USASA

Adjourned at 3:15pm

Those in Attendance on June 1st, 2019

President – John Motta
Vice President – Richard Moeller (conference)
Treasurer – Lori Stoneburner
Region 1 Director – Tony Falcone
Region 2 Director – Bill Davey
Region 3 Director – Darius Ejlaili
Region 4 Director – Paul Scherer
At Large Director – Cezar Wasecki (conference)
At Large Director – Werner Fricker
Independent Director – Brett Hurwitz
Executive Director – Duncan Riddle

Guest:

Region 2 Deputy Director Claudio Frigo
Kentucky State President Peggy Polley – Grizzle
Gerhart Mengel
Nick Radu

Governance Report emailed to the board on June 3, 2019 by Paul Scherer

Memo

To: National Board of Directors

From: Fritz T. Marth, Chair – Governance Committee

cc: Governance Committee

Date: May 30, 2019

Re: Update on Governance Committee Activity

The Governance Committee (“Committee”) continues to be active. Our current efforts involve the review of a proposed concept to add direct representation for the USASA National Leagues and Affiliates on the USASA National Board of Directors (“NBOD”), through a position analogous to a Regional Director. Currently it is envisioned that this new position would replace the position of a second Independent Director. While neither the additional of this new USASA National League & Affiliates Director, nor the elimination the second Independent Director has been finalized, the governance committee is not currently seeking out nominations for the second Independent Director. If the NBOD feel that a second Independent Director should nevertheless be nominated, we will begin this effort. In this regard I know of at least one potential and qualified candidate with whom we could commence this process.

I have also asked the Committee to consider a possible restructuring of the NBOD to eliminate the direct election of a Secretary and a Treasurer, who would then instead be elected by the NBOD from among its members. This proposal is being debated by the committee and if put forward at all may simply turn the current Secretary and Treasurer positions into two additional at-large positions thereby avoiding any appearance that this proposal is directed at any particular NBOD member or group. The NBOD would then still elect the Secretary and Treasurer from among its members, and could then at some future time, if desired, shrink the size of the NBOD as it deems most appropriate.

I anticipate the immediate future efforts of the Committee involving: 1) a requested review of the current voting structure; and 2) the possible search for a second independent director candidate. At this time the Committee proceeding on the assumption that the current independent director will remain in his position.

Some of the past efforts of the Committee included reviewing and commenting on proposed changes to the USASA Disciplinary Hearing Procedures, and reviewing and commenting on proposed changes to the USASA League Policy. In both instances the NBOD acted on the Committee’s recommendations and we are pleased that we could be of assistance.

The current Committee members are: Lu Aprigliano (NJ), Cindy Spera (NPSL), Harold Kahler (IA), Larry Hall (N. TX), Robin Runstein (OR), and Fritz Marth (Chair). Lu Aprigliano replaced Matt

Krywonos (W. NY) at this past USASA AGM.