**USA Boccia Board of Directors minutes from 1/17/2019**

1. Meeting was called to order and role was taken. All board members were present for the meeting. Fiona Allen

 Tim Dalton

 Mark Flora-Swick

 Patrick Parkes

 Jim Thomson

Executive Director Beck Prince was also present at the meeting. New members Patrick Parkes and Tim Dalton were welcomed to their first Board meeting.

**Directors Report**

1. Becky Prince fielded questions regarding her Director’s report. Becky has been working on locations to set up regional centers in accordance with the specific aims of the Neilsen Grant. She has been in contact with Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania) and also with Scott Stokes to find a liaison at the Shepard Center (Atlanta GA). Scott provided a contact with Henry Sawyer connected with an organization in Jacksonville Fl. Becky plans these two/three locations as regional centers. There was a question about whether the Neilsen Grant specified development of 2 or 3 regional centers. This will be clarified in the near future.
2. Becky will be devoting considerable time this month to planning this year’s activities to answer the Specific Aims of the VA grant. She has the framework for plans in place but need to solidify plans.
3. Nationals 2019 will be held in San Antonio Texas from July 25th to July 28th. The board unanimously agree to suspend announcement of regional games until a contract for the facility had been signed. The contract is in preparation and should be signed within a week to the Board’s meeting.
4. The regional tournament with Jack Attack is scheduled and announcements were sent via email and social media following the Board’s meeting.
5. Twenty-Six people including 12 athletes are scheduled to train at the USOC training facility 1/31-2/4. All plans seem to be falling into place. Becky is working with USOC to schedule a comprehensive training program including an exercise therapist and sport psychologist. There will be 4 coaches attending Troy, Bruce, Charlie and Ken.
6. The “Giving to Grow” campaign has been quite successful. To date $9000 has been raised toward a $10,000 match. The match period has been extended to the end of January. The “Giving to Grow” campaign is planned to be yearly campaign, but the timing of the campaign may be varied so that we aren’t always collecting money during the holidays.
7. Our annual membership drive started, and 55 persons have registered so far during the early-bird membership period. The early-bird deadline is the end of February.
8. SafeSport is in the process of changing policies. When they finish we will need to integrate the new policies in USA Boccia. Becky will attend a SafeSport meeting at the end of February to become acquainted with the new policies.

Note: The proposal written by Mark Flora-Swick for the USOC has not been submitted and needs consideration. Also, we will seek future funding ideas from the USOC. Becky will make this contact during her visit to the training facility.

1. Patrick, Jim and Becky will meet with representatives from the USOC to ask questions about how to improve USA Boccia. Patrick in particular will want to talk about youth development.
2. There was some concern about the USA Boccia “brand” running tournaments that are by nature run more loosely compared to a BisFed standard. We want to be helpful and not to offend but it may be that a loosely run tournament reflect badly on USA Boccia. It was noted that we are not responsible tournaments not specified in our Grant with the VA. We don’t have funding to do so. If they want to pay our way and they need our help, perhaps we need a disclaimer regarding our involvement. This may be easier than trying to get these tournaments to conform to BisFed standards. We may say “This is not a USA Boccia endorsed event, but USA Boccia is providing technical support.” We may also want to institute a list or rules for regional tournaments.
3. Over the next few months Becky and others will be working on the “Train the Trainer” program. This will be used to answer the specific aims of both the Neilsen and the VA grants.
4. There will also be informational materials prepared from the USOC meeting to inform boccia athletes as to the rules and procedures involved in our interactions with the USOC. This will include the BisFed ranking procedures.

**Finance Report**

1. The $5000 from Jim’s father has not been invested because of stock volatility. That money is in the general fund for the time being.
2. The VA owes us money but recompense cannot be made until the government goes back to work.
3. Scott Stokes owes over $3000 and Jim suggested Scott be placed as a member not in good standing. There was no decision as to a change in Scott’s status.
4. BisFed is now charging 10 pounds for each active player in addition to their 800 pound BisFed fee. This fee will be collected at the players first competition.

**National Team**

1. Tournament update from BisFed. Slots were announced for the upcoming World and Regional championships. For the regional championship we were given one BC4 pair, one BC1 individual, one BC2 individual and one BC3 individual. Thus far, no names are associated with these slots. For the World Open we have a one BC4 slot. In addition, Brigid was given the BC1 slot, Michelle was chosen as the BC2 athlete and Charley is first on the wait list for a BC3 slot. These are the only current spots available. We were not given slots in Portugal. We must wait for volunteers to host two Americas cup tournaments before we find out if we have slots in these tournaments. ParaPan decisions have not been made. Perhaps Charley will be selected for a BC3 slot.
2. Montreal training camp had no allocation for Team USA. Perhaps some players need to be contacted personally.
3. Bruce Ashby Report. We discussed the need to provide Bruce feedback regarding increased detail in his reports. In particular, the need to standardize a number of metrics regarding the quality of individual play. For example, how close are our “first balls” to the jack. BisFed has now provided a terminology to follow and this needs to be converted into a report on the quality of individual play so that training can be demonstrated to be aimed at a player’s weaknesses. Perhaps we need to develop an Ap as others have done. Division coaches and sport assistants will need to collect data for Bruce. Becky plans to discuss this at the USOC training event. Mark will provide a file containing metrics. Becky warned us that we only have limited manpower to collect metrics so whatever we decide needs to be doable with the manpower we have.

**Grants**

We discussed grants as a part of the Directors report above. In addition, Becky reiterated the importance of the “Train the Trainer” program to help with our regional tournaments. Mark talked about literature he shared regarding setting up a boccia tournament/club.

**Committee Reports**

1. Committee reports have not been prepared because committee chairs were not solicited. Committee reports will be solicited soon and sent to the Board.
2. Jason Stubbeman resigned as chair of the Governance Committee and chair of the Bylaws Committee. Cathy Drobny was suggested as a replacement for the Bylaws Committee Chair. Subsequent to the Board meeting she was asked, and she accepted. She will be focused on several specific areas of needed immediate change in the Bylaws.
3. Lucy Berry was suggested with Board approval as a replacement for Jason on the Governance Committee.
4. Charlie Brown will be announced as chair of the Judicial Committee.

**Nationals**

Becky wanted approval to announce Nationals. We decided to wait for the signed contract and once signed the announcement is approved to be made.

New Business

1. We need to develop a process to do staff evaluations. The Governance Committee is working on this process so we will await their report to learn about progress.
2. We approved Board of Directors officers for 2019

James Thomson president

Mark Flora-Swick vice president

Tim Dalton secretary

Patrick Parkes treasurer

1. We approved the Becky’s budget as presented at December’s Board meeting. Because we have additional funds compared to projections, we will need to include additional budget items to be approved later.