

O*H*I*O Masters Swim Club
Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Board Members Present by Zoom: Ann Marshfield, Nelson Abbey, Bruce Allen, Chuck Beatty, Anne Hegnauer, Lori Luken, Andrew McCollister, Keith Owen, Mark Stewart,

Not Present: Ashley Zoeller,

Guests: Bob Babiak, Kristen Bergmann, Ashley Braniecki, Dan Cox, Jay Definis, Jordan Dillon, Anna Easton, Tom Esposito, Gabby Kariotakis, Beth Katterle, Paul Katterle, Kevin Kelley, Mark Marshfield, Judi Norton, Diana Pi, Michaela Stryffeler,

Call to Order – Ann called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

- A. This was an emergency meeting to respond to a dramatic increase in cases of COVID-19 across the community, state, and country. O*H*I*O Masters Lakewood swimming was suspended for two weeks, November 16-30, by decision of Lakewood members of the board.
- B. Preceding the meeting, a letter was sent by Ann Marshfield to O*H*I*O Masters members, and it is attached (‘Ann Marshfield Letter to OHIO Masters...pdf’)
- C. Motion to Suspend O*H*I*O Masters Lakewood Swimming for Two Weeks:
 - a. Mark moved, “Resolved Lakewood practices will remain suspended until November 30.”
 - b. The motion was seconded by Lori, and discussion began.
 - c. Ann Marshfield’s comments are attached, (‘Ann Marshfield Opening Comments...pdf’)
 - d. Andrew McCollister’s comments are attached, (‘Andrew McCollister Comments...pdf’)
- D. Discussions Open to the Floor:
 - a. Kevin Kelley asked that non-member guests not be allowed to speak. He explained that as a cancer patient who is immunocompromised, he feels safe swimming at Lakewood practices.
 - b. Ashley Braniecki spoke and asked that people read the club’s Facebook comments. She stated that Anna Easton bullied members on Facebook, and our Facebook page is a ‘laughingstock’. Further, Ashley stated that the O*H*I*O Masters board should be “representing members interests.” Lastly, she stated that her rights were being violated by her location; Orange can swim, but Lakewood cannot.
 - c. Tom Esposito thanked the board. He asked if there are any violations of rules by our club or another other groups. He also felt there was a communications issue, that we should be back in the pool. His personal philosophy is ‘Chlorine keeps me healthy.’
 - d. Keith Owen spoke. His comments are attached (‘Keith Owen OMSC Memo.pdf’)
 - e. Kristen Bergmann spoke to the large increase in COVID cases and encouraged the club to follow State Health Department rules. Further, she emphasized that certain practices have much lower risk of exposure. In particular, Tuesday morning and practices not before/after LRST practices.
 - f. Paul Katterle expressed the opinion that it was his choice to swim or not.
 - g. Gabby Kariotakis is one of our coaches, plus she coaches LRST. She emphasized that LRST is at the mercy of the Lakewood Recreation department scheduling which leaves no time for a

buffer between practices. LRST is trying hard to observe protocols. She also encouraged us to look for pool scheduling solutions.

- h. Mark Stewart spoke of the seriousness of this pandemic, the loss of life, how COVID has become the third leading cause of death in the country, after only nine months. The club has a responsibility to protect public health and help our community.
- i. Mark Marshfield expressed the idea that swimmers have no right to get other people sick. Further they have no right to criticize people who are volunteering their time to guide the club through difficult times.

E. Discussions from the floor were closed at 6:13 pm

F. Discussion of the motion continued among Board members:

- a. Mark reiterated the motion, and Anne Hegnauer seconded it.
- b. Bruce Allen spoke. He thanked Mark and Keith and noted it is almost a full-time job keeping swimmers swimming during this pandemic. Communication has been a problem. He emphasized the club should conduct their affairs to be protective of public health and observe their legal and moral responsibilities.
- c. Andrew McCollister spoke. He noted it is a wrenching time for those who love to swim. He also emphasized how this is a personal decision.
- d. Mark Stewart had no further comments.
- e. Keith Owen spoke of being on deck for 4 of 6 practices each week. He spoke of how difficult and uncomfortable the pandemic has been for the community. Recently, he has had to shut down in-person church services. In fact, the community is on fire, and Ohio is close to shutting down, again.
- f. Nelson Abbey spoke briefly.
- g. Lori Luken spoke about how tough a meeting this has been, and how we are in uncharted waters.
- h. Chuck Beatty suggested an amendment to the resolution where swimming was allowed for practices where there was a buffer period before and after. For example, Tuesday morning. He withdrew this suggested amendment.

G. The Board Voted.

- a. The vote was 8 to 1 in favor of the resolution. Practices will remain suspended until November 30.

H. After the meeting, planning started for an ad hoc committee to consider steps needed to restart Lakewood practices.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Attachments:

Ann Marshfield Letter to OHIO Masters...pdf

Ann Marshfield Opening Comments...pdf

Andrew McCollister Comments...pdf

Keith Owen OMSC Memo.pdf