

O*H*I*O Masters Swim Club

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Virtual

Attendance: Sara, Kristen, Chuck, Bob, Kristen, Molly, Joe, Duane, Kristi, Luise

The meeting commenced at 1:05 pm

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

- Bob - motion to approve, Chuck seconds. Minutes approved.

Reports

1. Presidents Report - Sara

a. Roles and Responsibilities overview and feedback (presentation). This will help with future recruitment.

i. Establishing roles. Senior members (2 years) versus junior members (1 year). Junior members should be able to shadow meet management.

1. President roles -renew insurance, USMS registration, social media, maintaining accounts, club credit card
2. Vice President - Try OHIO Masters, New Membership. Standard is to respond within 48 hours to inquiries, but we'll challenge this as this is difficult to do (Proposed: 2 business days for response). LMSC can export contact info from spreadsheet, but the team president can not. This creates extra work/is not as efficient.
3. Treasurer - club finances, invoices and payments, PayPal and Stripe/ClubAssist accounts, tax info, onboard new coaches. Swim Outlet account details have not been handed over by Ann Marshfield yet. This would help us understand benefits of purchases.
4. Secretary - apart from taking meeting minutes, but there are more roles this person can take on in the future.

ii. Establishing chairs and committees - This doesn't need to be a board member position, but we should have redundancies.

1. Awards chairs - top ten patch distributions (Judy Norton has taken this on at the national level but good to create a redundancy and have someone else learn). Iron Person award. National awards (engraving, etc). Annual lifetime achievement award. Ordering of awards (ribbons, medals, coupons). Bob has the history of purchases. **Needs to be filled.**
2. Hospitality chair - Kristen is managing at the moment (coffee, condiments, purchases continental breakfast, snacks, lunch for volunteers). This person doesn't need to be at all meets but needs to delegate.

3. Brogan chair - Chuck holds this. Establishing a date, permitting, permissions, volunteers, award, registration and communication.
4. Workout chair - Lori Luken. Punches passes and volunteer punchers.
5. Nominating Committee chair - currently Chuck and Kristen co-chair. Handling elections, early vacancies.

Comments

Bob: We can use non-board members but do need a shadow.

Kristen: The only thing to ensure is accountability, for non-board members.

Chuck: Any volunteer that isn't a board member should report to someone who is a board member. They may also be future board members (or previous members).

Sara: Non-board chairs could submit a report ahead of quarterly meetings or attend meetings and present a report.

How should this information be shared?

Bob - It doesn't need to be shared with club members.

Kristen and Chuck - Roles can be posted to the website. There is an administration tab that has information about the board. Perhaps more information could be listed.

Sara - Chairs could be listed on the website with a short summary, but the detailed information does not need to be on the website.

Action item: Sara to share this info via email.

Bob has award expenses and can share. Chuck has Brogan awards. What is missing is an inventory. Sara and Molly offered to work on understanding expenses and inventory. Molly expressed interest in being awards chair.

Need to reach out to Lori about her role in membership and her interest in maintaining the role, inquire about serving as a backup. Maybe one of the punchers might be interested in being in the role.

- b. Annual Meeting Planning
 - i. This is our 50th Anniversary and perhaps leaning towards a continental breakfast after a Lakewood practice, encouraging more swimmers to attend and scaling down the costs. Kristen and Sara are taking on the bulk of the planning (Kristi will also support). Securing the women's pavilion at Lakewood Park is the most urgent action (Sara to do). **Proposed: Saturday June 8.** June 1 is also an option. Memorial Day is the 27th. Olympic Trials start the following weekend, and then Nationals follow that. Brogan is scheduled for June 29th.
2. Vice President Report - Kristen

- a. Membership is going ok. At this point no one who has tried for a month has become a new member. 16 new members, 9 one month trial tries.
 - b. Low on caps (30). With Nationals coming up, Kristen made a motion for a caps order. \$345 for 100 on the order made last year. Out of caps at the Hudson meet. Bob gave the ok for Kristen to order caps.
3. Financial Report – Bob
- a. Bob sent the report as a PDF via email
 - b. As of Jan 5, 2024 - a little over \$21,000 in the bank. No large liabilities. The gmail subscription is on the credit card.
 - c. In the first six months of the financial year (July-Jan 5), deficit of \$5700 (p2 of the financial report).
 - i. Running the club costs \$1100 (admin expenses)
 - ii. Awards and prizes \$1700
 - iii. Swim meets - made \$2500, lost money at Avon; good turnout at the Pentathlon. Brogan is typically a money maker but lost on past two years. Chuck - we make more money not running it.
 - iv. Workouts - deficit of \$5600, split between Lakewood and Orange. The Orange group is smaller. Per swimmer, it is smaller in the Lakewood group. We are in the middle of our price increase and therefore we may see a reduction in the deficit over time. It is difficult to understand if we are improving in six month increments because there are varying conditions. In the first two quarters of the year we did reduce the deficit a little. The income from Lakewood is slightly less. Income from Orange is slightly up. Expenses have increased for Orange, not as much for Lakewood. Need more time to see if there are trends either way developing. What additional measures are needed to eliminate the deficit? We can wait another six months to see how funding might trend. We have 4 years to exhaust our cash. The Postal helped.
 - 1. Orange: average swimmers at each practice 10/11. Core group may be bigger.
 - 2. Lakewood: 87 members are purchasing punchcards (116 last year, running slightly less). Numbers on Tuesday and Thursday practices are similar to Orange.

Comments

Chuck: We could increase the cost of meets.

- 4. Secretary Report - Kristi. Nothing to report.
- 5. Brogan Update - Chuck
 - a. Scheduled for June 29th. Third choice of dates. Working on sanction process and permits.

Old Business

- 1. Orange Practices

- a. Message from Coach Peter
 - i. We are getting better numbers
 - ii. Every time one of our group converts to a punch card, our income goes down. I know there was a strong desire to get money up front, but the dynamics don't add up. When we were monthly or drop in, the monthly swimmer would only benefit if they did every practice available. The punch pass person always uses 100%.
 - iii. If my month of December, we converted the punches to \$10, we take in \$1260,00, which would be a less than 200 deficit. The Fall Quarter was brutal because most of my Quarterly and 12 and 25 punches all renewed before the price increase.
 - iv. I can not believe that the Lakewood Board of Education will have to eventually look at their operating costs and raise the hourly rate.
 - i. Lifeguards rate of pay has gone up significantly, Chlorine costs have gone up in less that 4 years from \$1.00 per gallon to \$5.00 which is a 400% increase not reflected in your current rate at Lakewood.
 - ii. Our venue cost at Orange is much higher, but is not out of line with other eastside venues.
 - b. I propose that the coaches' stipend for Orange be reduced to a flat rate of \$400.00 per month. That would help us get closer to breaking even in a 6 lane pool. If our income improves, we can revisit that rate.
 - v. Lakewood Attendance

Practice	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Total	Avg
October Tuesday AM	8	9	9	8	11	45	9.6
November Tuesday AM	11	11	11	9		42	
December Tuesday AM	11	10	9	8		38	
October Thursday PM	10	13	10	7		40	9.5
November Thursday PM	13	6	6	12		37	
December Thursday PM	9	15	4			28	

Comments

Sara: It will take time to see punch pass changes to impact. We do not control what happens with Lakewood charges.

Bob: It is true, if you purchase a punch pass it is cheaper than the drop in rate. By allowing the Orange swimmers to buy punch passes we have reduced the income. The Orange pool is more expensive to rent/operate and Orange has a smaller group of swimmers. Orange is more expensive than Lakewood and the board of education charges more. This of course is not true for Foster costs. Peter has offered to reduce his stipend and Bob is ok with that but notes that Peter coaches more compared to other coaches.

Kristi: The pool temperature does play a role in attendance.

Chuck: If the Stow location had to pay, it would operate at a deficit.

Kristen: We underpay our coaches to begin with so reducing pay is not a precedent to set. Bob: It would disrupt the pay structure. Kristen: We could let it play out for a bit longer. If we were to cut anything, we could cut the amount of lanes rather than pay the coach less (Bob and Sara agree).

Sara: We should reply to Peter and encourage him to recruit more swimmers, reduce lanes if needed but not make cuts to stipends. We are monitoring changes at Lakewood as well as punch pass changes and can revisit later.

Kristen: Are there other Orange pool options? This may be something to consider.

Bob: We still have an open offer from USMS to help us promote more swimmers at Orange.

Action item: Kristi to speak with Peter and others at Orange about low attendance, possible solutions, then follow up with the Board on results of that conversation.

Sara: Is there a need to cut practices at Lakewood due to attendance? Looking at Tuesday morning, CSU has started a practice that morning. Would some of the swimmers go down to CSU rather than Lakewood. Attendance in the spring was low (3 or 4 attending on Tuesday).

Bob: If we aren't going to change Orange, and Lakewood is the same, then does it make sense to cut practices at Lakewood?

Sara: Is there a need to take action?

Bob and Kristi: No.

Sara: Continue to monitor data, no action at this time.

vi. Kevin Kelly Donation

1. Following up on the donation discussion from last meeting.

a. Sara: Should we make the donation?

b. Chuck: The last time I talked with Karen she said that she was fine with us making the donation to the Malachi Center.

- c. Bob: The LMSC was determining where to donate in the Cleveland Public School (high school) system. However, no action has been noted at this time.
- d. Chuck: We don't need to align with the LMSC but can donate to Malachi. Further donation conversations with Karen are still pending.
- e. Kristen: We need to make donations to 501(c)3s which is what Karen can do. Giving to Malachi makes it easier, giving from one non-profit to another.
- f. Sara: We've been kicking this around for a year and at this point we may not want to wait for the LMSC decision. No disagreements. Donation should be directed to the swim camp.
- g. Motion for \$500 donation to Malachi to be used for the Urban Swim Camp. Chuck makes the motion, Luise seconds. No opposition. **Action item:** Bob and Chuck to make donation.

vii. Coaches

- 1. Still need coaches. Sara: any leads? Should we recruit? There is a coaching shortage across the region. Lakewood, Thursday evening is needed.
- 2. Luise - Dan Smith in Avon? Probably not available at the moment while high school swim season going on. Bob recommends reaching out to Dan. **Action item:** Luise to ask Dan. Sara will send out the job description.

New Business

- 1. 50 Year Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting - Sara
 - a. Clam Bake Celebration
 - b. Logo designs from Chuck - potential t-shirt fundraiser. Sara presented 4 designs from Chuck. Kristen suggests that we have something in time for Nationals. Patches and stickers are also an option. If we are in a more final design phase, we could reach out to members to see what they would like (designs/stickers/patches/etc). **Action item:** Chuck to finalize designs.
 - c. Any one to take the lead on the 50th anniversary? Duane's name came to mind. Duane joined 42 years ago. A tribute to past presidents would be nice as well as club members who made All-American or Top Ten. Duane can start to dig up items. Judi Norton may also have some historical information. **Action item:** Duane to work on club history.
 - i. Duane: With our club founding at CT Branin Natatorium, it may be a good location to align with the LMSC swim meet proposed below.
 - ii. Sara: It may not work out with the 50 year celebration.
- 2. Social Media Accounts - Molly

- a. Molly: There are a number of people who don't check Facebook. An Instagram account would help.
- b. Sara: FB and IG are linked so if we have one we can manage both. Molly offered to manage the IG account as Chuck does the heavy lifting on the FB account. There could be a media chair in the future.

Comments

Kristen: Great idea. Investment of time and not our budget.

Chuck: IG is a way to get younger members involved. Likes the idea.

Action item: Sara and Molly to work together on starting the IG account.

3. Summer Ohio Meet

a. From Ann M.

- i. We are working on bringing back the Ohio State Masters Championship. We would like this championship to occur between April 12 and May 12, 2024 in a short course yards pool as a 2-day meet, or between August 1 and September 1, 2024 in a long course meters pool. Our goal is to partner with a club to make this meet possible! Clubs will be able to collect meet fees from the event.
- ii. You (the club) provide:
 1. A Venue: a short course yards pool with a separate area for continuous warm up/cool down. Must have a timing system. Preferably a pool with wedges on the blocks for starts.
 2. Volunteers: we will send out emails asking for volunteers as well!
 3. A Meet Director
- iii. We (the LMSC) provide:
 1. Money: we will pay for the pool rental fees!
 2. Awards: 1-3 place rubber ducks for event winners, example [link](#)
 3. T-shirts for all meet participants: This may need to be included in the meet fees.

Comments

Kristen: We do not know if CSU is running their meet this spring.

Duane: We used to hold a last chance meet to qualify for Nationals. There has been outside interest expressed. A zone or state meet might draw a bigger crowd. Duane can volunteer to support.

Sara: We would lean towards hosting long course (Avon). We don't want to take on more meets but replace an existing meet.

Kristen: We hope CSU will host in the spring. Hannah was initially enthusiastic but not sure about the status. CSU would be a great location for a state meet.

Sara: As a club, yes, we are interested but summer long course, changing Avon to be the Long Course State Masters. We aren't adding but offer standing meet. Potential issue: shutting down Avon for two days, but this is an LMSC issue.

Chuck: We have to consider that we've used that second day as a back up day and we wouldn't have this if it were scheduled for two days.

Sara: We'll need to think about the logistics and ask Ann if a club is needed, who is responsible for setting up the meet. Is there anyone who thinks this is a bad idea? No responses.

Action item: Sara to follow-up with Ann.

Other items

Duane: We may need a ribbon order for 2nd and 3rd place. **Action item:** Sara to check her awards.

Adjourn at 3:03 p.m.