



**U.S. Association of Blind Athletes
Board of Directors Meeting February 28, 2024**

Present:

Mark Ackermann, Chair
Skye Arthur-Banning, Vice Chair
Gary Remensnyder, Treasurer
Amy Wasson, Secretary
David Cohen, Board Member
Matt Simpson, Athlete Board Member
Brian Eaton, Independent Director
Eve Wright Taylor, Board Member
Eliana Mason, Athlete Board Member
Calahan Young, Athlete Board Member
Zach Buhler, Athlete Board Member
Molly Quinn, CEO
Amanda Duke Boulet, Staff
Catherine Raney Norman, Staff
Breann Scott, Staff
Tyler Merren, USOPC AAC Alternate
John Kusku, Chair of Ethics Committee
Tracie Foster, Chair of Nominations & Governance Committee

Absent:

Jennifer Demby, Board Member

The meeting took place via teleconference. The meeting was recorded.

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by chair Mark Ackermann at 4:00 p.m. MST.

Conflict of Interest

Mark asked if any board members had a conflict of interest. No such conflicts were declared.

Approval of Minutes

Mark asked for approval of the December meeting minutes. Motion made by David Cohen and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair Highlights

Mark noted he attended the Miami Lighthouse Gala with Molly and USABA's major benefactor, Tom Abraham in February. A video presentation on the Ethics and Judicial Committee will be sent to all board members in the coming week and should be viewed by all board members. A redline of the bylaws with the merging of the Ethics and Judicial Committees was sent to all board members and there will be a vote tonight to approve



those changes. Mark asked for a motion to approve the revised bylaws. Motion made by Gary Remensnyder and seconded by Brian Eaton. Discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Ackermann appointed John Kusku as chair of the new Ethics & Judicial Committee. Mark asked the board to approve a resolution to assign formal signing authority to Molly Quinn to act on behalf of the board. Mark asked for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Molly mentioned that the scheduled August 21 board meeting conflicts with travel of the men's goalball team to the Paris Paralympic Games. Consideration is given to still conduct the August meeting and increase the September meeting to two hours. A quorum will still be required for the August 21 meeting.

CEO & Staff Report

Molly shared a personnel update and welcomed Liesl Begnaud as the new USABA community outreach & education manager. The 5-year strategic plan will be communicated to the membership on the website and via a CEO video. A town hall will also be held this year. A sponsorship has been signed with Google Pixel to support the USABA Sport Ambassador program. Due to the generous contributions of two USABA board members, a matching pledge has been met for the grant from the Gordon & Llura Gund Foundation. A two-year grant has been received from US Soccer Federation to fund a coach and referee certification program. A blind soccer experience was held in Miami on February 24. Gary Remensnyder and Amanda Duke Boulet shared their thoughts on the Miami event. A successful meeting was also held with Inter Miami FC leadership, along with USA Blind Soccer athlete Alvaro Mora Arellano, Molly Quinn and Tom Abraham. Meeting are in the works with the Inter Miami FC brand team, fan engagement team and its foundation in regards to how they can be part of building blind soccer.

Sport Performance Update

Amanda Duke Boulet gave an update on goalball and blind soccer. The 2024 USA Goalball Men's and Women's National Teams have been named and training camps are scheduled throughout the year for both teams. EJ Whitney at Turnstone will help facilitate practices for the men's team until Keith Young begins his residency in Fort Wayne for the summer. The women's team is meeting monthly via Zoom. The search for the new women's coach is still in progress. Karen Zabel has come on board as the women's goalball development coordinator to help grow the talent pool on the women's side. A boys junior development goalball camp was held in Fort Wayne in January. A blind soccer summit was held in January in Colorado Springs with USABA and USOPC staff involved. A blind soccer tryout camp was held in February to select the 2024 USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team. All athletes will go through the classification process and the national team will be named in March. Our eighth blind soccer site is being built in Miami with discussions ongoing for the ninth and tenth sites. Partnering with United Soccer Coaches to launch an online coaching diploma. Working on another in-person Level 1 Blind Soccer Coaching Certification. A Blind Soccer Referee Certification is also being planned for the fall.

Committee Updates and Reports

John Kusku gave the Ethics & Judicial Committee report and reminded members to submit their conflict-of-interest forms.



Gary Remensnyder gave the Audit & Finance Committee update and reviewed the year-end financials. Final revenue for 2023 is exceeding the last forecast by \$230k. Expenses came in \$5k over the last forecast. Ended 2023 with assets of \$1.2M and liabilities of \$542k. Revenue diversification continues to be explored. External audit will occur before July.

Tracie Foster gave the Nominations & Governance Committee report. This will be an election year and Mark encouraged fellow board members to send names to Tracie of any board candidates.

Eliana Mason gave the Athlete Advisory Committee report. There will be an athlete rep meeting in the next two weeks.

Molly mentioned the Bylaw Working Group will be meeting and needs representation of board, committee and athletes, and also someone familiar with law.

The meeting went into executive session at 5:39 p.m. MST.