

Minutes of the USHA Annual Winter Board Meeting, Tucson, AZ. Saturday, January 26, 2019

President LeaAnn Martin called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Present were: Martin, Vice-President Alethia Mendez-Caba, Treasurer Steve Birrell, Secretary Tom Sove, Rob Nichols, Jared Vale, Jamie Simon, Terry Nett, Ben Van Arsdale, Bob DeVleming, Jeff Wall, Carl Porter, Ralph Fregoso, Denis Hogan, Matt Jorgensen, and staff members Matt Krueger and Vern Roberts.

Wall moved to accept the summer 2018 board meeting minutes as they appear on the website. Simon seconded. Motion passed 14-0-0.

Martin first made a few administrative announcements and welcomed new and returning board members. She then asked members to introduce themselves and announce their region, as well as what they have done to support or promote handball since last summer's meeting. Board members also submitted their annual signed conflict of interest forms. This was followed by a review of Executive Committee and board decisions made since the last board meeting.

President's Report:

Martin traveled to National events and will continue to do so. Martin will be traveling to Collegiates and invited any Board Member to attend in her place if they had a connection to the site, tournament or area. Sove asked Martin and the rest of the board to wear USHA apparel during tournament visits.

Martin noted a positive collaborative relationship with the WPH, citing recent tournaments and future tournaments. She stated that the relationship with the WPH is positive and we are working well together.

Martin thanked Birrell and Roberts for their work with the budget and emphasized the need to maintain our budget goals and be aware of what changes and recommendations can mean to the bottom line. Martin also asked board members to keep in touch regarding the goals set during this meeting, specifically noting acquiring new memberships.

Treasurer's Report:

Birrell started with a review of the balance sheet that saw assets grow thanks to major donations, including \$172,340 from the Bill Bohr Estate and an additional \$100,000 toward the Mardak Endowment.

Game Committee:

Sove asked for rulebook updates prior to printing. He has submitted a request asking the Presidents Club to fund the cost of the 4-wall rule book, while the 1-wall committee has the 1-wall rule book printing and editing committed.

A new rule was proposed clarifying procedure if the wrong score is announced by the referee.

Rule 4.3 Dead Ball Serve, add Part 3) If it is determined the wrong score has been announced by the referee before the serve has become a legal serve the score shall be corrected and the serve shall be replayed. Any prior rallies shall not be affected.

Mendez-Caba moved to adopt the amended rule. Nett seconded. After more discussion, the motion passed 13-2-0.

The Game Committee is reevaluating the current referee certification test and evaluation form.

Sove led a discussion on the need to enforce the use of eyewear designed for court sports. The upcoming collegiate players and coaches will be informed with several announcements. Additionally, the board directed enhanced education announcements directed at our members using our current media.

Membership/Services:

This committee is looking for a new chair and Simon volunteered to be considered.

Investment/Endowment Committee:

Wall discussed the performance of the endowment funds as well as other investments. Wall will write an article promoting heritage contributions.

Meeting broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

One-Wall Committee:

Mendez-Caba provided an update on the One-Wall Committee Membership: Jay Spooner, Matthew Kudrick and Glenn Hall were added to the current list of Vale, Karen McConney, William Polanco, Raquel Murphy, Nancy Ortiz, and Sove.

There has been a great awareness for the need for one Official One-Wall Rulebook to unite the various national and world organizations.

The biggest hurdle to bring all the one-wall groups together has been the use of eye protection. Vale confirmed that the 2019 King of the Courts Tournament will require eye protection and several others are considering the requirement.

McConney is also requiring the St. Alban's Handball Association referees to take the clinic for USHA Level One referees.

Vale and Mendez-Caba were congratulated on helping build the relationships among the one-wall constituencies.

Collegiate Committee:

Martin gave this report with input from Chair Mike Wells. The upcoming National Collegiates will be held in Minnesota.

Promotion:

Sove gave a report on the WPH pro stop to be held in conjunction with our Hall of Fame Tournament; then reviewed the confirmed and potential sites for 2019 and 2020 events.

Sove presented the Awards Task Force nominations for USHA Coach of the Year and USHA Volunteer of the Year.

Martin moved to accept USHA Awards Task Force recommendations. Hogan seconded and the motion passed 15-0-0.

Sove then discussed the need to increase awareness of the Awards process including the nomination process.

The Awards Committee needs new members and a new chair.

First Ace:

Krueger presented the recommended First Ace Grant amounts from the First Ace Committee. **Simon motioned to accept First Ace grant recommendations. DeVleming seconded and the motion passed 15-0-0.**

Wall suggested naming a grant fund in honor of Bill Bohr for his generous gift. **Wall moved to name Discretionary Grants after Bill Bohr. Fregoso seconded and the motion passed 15-0-0.**

Planning:

The Summer Board Meeting will be at Los Caballeros just prior to the upcoming four-wall Nationals.

Martin discussed her plan to stress the term strategic in the name of the Strategic Planning Committee and is implementing a goal setting and reporting plan for each committee. She will compose it and submit to each chair.

The board was reminded that there was still a budgeted shortfall in operations of \$28,511 and about \$4000 in the promotion budget.

Nett moved to increase the selling price of balls by \$.50/can. Porter seconded and the motion passed 15-0-0.

Hall of Fame:

Martin gave a brief report on where the new inductees and where they have chosen to be inducted. Nichols volunteered to serve on the committee.

Technology:

Wall gave a report that some new applications are in the works.

Personnel:

The board reviewed the board and staff evaluations of the executive director that continued to be very positive. After inviting staff to leave, the board considered salary recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. for handball, dinner and budget discussion.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019

Martin called meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Birrell reviewed a number of adjustments to the proposed budget that would result in a balanced budget. Items included the increase in the selling price of balls, undesignated gifts being assigned to operations and salary adjustment by the executive director.

Vale moved to accept the balanced budget as presented by the Treasurer. Mendez-Caba seconded and the motion passed 15-0-0.

Martin reviewed the Board of Directors up for election in 2019 and assigned the nominating chairs for each candidate's election. Heading the nominating committees are:
Mendez-Caba for Fregoso's At-Large Position; Van Arsdale for Birrell's At-Large Position; Nett for Southwest Region (Wall); Hogan for the Northeast Region (Vale); Sove for the Southern California Region (Nichols).

The At-Large Candidate statements are due by May 15. The Regional Candidate Statements are due by Sept. 15, so that the ballots can be mailed in early fall.

The election for the vacant At-Large seat was conducted with Gary Cruz being elected.

Officers Elections:

Alethia Mendez-Caba ran unopposed for Vice-President; Tom Sove ran unopposed for Secretary; and Steve Birrell ran unopposed for Treasurer.

Nett moved to elect the slate of officer candidates by acclamation. DeVleming seconded and the motion passed 15-0-0.

Executive Committee Elections:

Vale, Hogan and Fregoso were elected to fill out the seven-member Executive Committee.

Committee Updates:

Martin asked the board members to update their committee membership. The task forces were updated with several no longer necessary. All committee chairs will confirm with the non-board members as to their willingness to continue serving.

At this time, Martin asked board members and staff to share what they will do to grow handball and/or the USHA prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.