

USASA NBOD Approved Meeting Minutes

8pm (EST) Wednesday January 3, 2024

1. Called to Order at 8:03 pm by President John Motta
2. President John Motta welcomed all our Board Members and guests for attending this evening. All guests are listed below under attendance. President John Motta asks that all guests please refrain from speaking unless called upon by the President.
3. Roll Call by Secretary Karon Beyer, and we have a quorum to conduct Board Business. See full attendance list below.
4. Proposed January 3, 2024 Agenda that was emailed out to the board is approved by the board.
5. November 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved by the USASA Board with one correction by Cezar Wasecki.

B) USASA Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Rebate Program, written proposal submitted by Cezar Wasecki, Independent Director.

This proposal suggests funding the pilot program in 2024 with an initial budget amendment of \$25,000. This budget will provide rebates to approximately 100 clubs, leagues, or state associations to purchase AED machines. After 12 months, the program will undergo a comprehensive evaluation to determine its effectiveness. Based on this assessment, the program may be renewed for another 12 months or modified to better serve its goals.

6. Officer's Reports

A. Vice President's Report: Fritz Marth

- 1) December 20th 2023 was the first meeting of the US Federation committee on the competitive amateur ecosystem. President John Motta, Vice President Fritz Marth and National Cup Chairperson, Richard Groff are on the committee. They had discussions on, what is the role of the adult council, what everyone envisions for the future of adult soccer, and on building adult membership within and increasing participation in USSF Members and nonmembers.
- 2) AS USASA Liaison for the National Cups Committee is in constant contact with Chairperson Richard Groff. Chairperson Richard Groff will update the board under committee reports.
- 3) Fritz Marth has been putting together educational material for USASA as a way of promoting USASA. Fritz Marth started with Team Managing, Region 4 Director Robin Runstein and Ann Braghero from Oregon had sent information that Roger Hamilton had created. He would like to create a uniform set of presentations (webinars with audio) not just for our members but

the whole soccer community.

4. Fritz Marth and John Motta will be attending the Region 4 workshop this weekend, January 5th – 7th in Portland, Oregon.

B. President's Report: John Motta reported

1) Major League Soccer (MLS) trying to pull out of the US Soccer Open Cup with their division 1 teams. John Motta and Richard Groff strongly opposed and US Soccer has created a task force, along with MLS to work on fixing the problems that MLS has with the US Soccer Open Cup

2) John Motta will be attending the Region 4 Workshops in Oregon and hopes to have a great conversation with the membership.

C. Executive Directors Report: Bruce Bode submitted a written report to the board members.

1) Player Registrations are over the threshold of 200,000 for 2023. There have already been some registrations sent in in January so Bruce Bode is optimistic that we will hit last year's numbers soon. A registration report was included in his written report to the board.

2) Online Insurance Claims: The USASA office is not one hundred percent up on line but they will be by January 15, 2024. The USASA Office held a zoom meeting with the USASA members and there is a recording online at the USASA Website. All claims will be submitted online, paper submissions will be gone, and this should increase the efficiency, speed, and effectiveness of our claims process. Executive Director, Bruce Bode stated that Jen Sunderland and USI did a lot of work to get this done.

3) Insurance renewal with USI for 2024. USI did a really good job of shopping our business and matching our 2023 agreement. The proposal actually came at point five percent less than what we spent in 2023. Bruce Bode went back to USI and asked for information about increasing our access coverage for fields and facilities. We have been able to increase our excess coverage. . Bruce Bode believes that this is a huge bonus to the members, that we now have one million liability coverage and four million in excess for our members. The total brings us to 3.47percent over what we budgeted for 2024 and is an increase of less than eight percent. Bruce Bode with the support of the USASA Executive Board will present this to the membership. USI has been very helpful in working very hard for USASA.

3) Social media – USASA has made a change and will be working with GroupLevinson to improve the impact of our social media presence. Bruce Bode, John Motta and Richard Groff have met with them and Bruce Bode has a meeting with them tomorrow (January 4, 2024) to discuss specific plans and we will see the results of their work in February.

4) United Soccer Coaches Convention. President John Motta and Executive Director Bruce Bode will be attending the 2024 United Soccer Coaches Convention in Anaheim, California on Jan

11th through January 14, 2024. USASA will have a booth and Bruce Bode has lined up some things that should draw some attention. The original Amateur Cup Trophy will be there for photo opportunities and Bruce Bode thinks we will have a positive impact at the convention.

6) SportLoMo, the implementation for registration and the USASA office is on track to have a portal up in January. Oregon and Michigan have been really helpful in getting SportLoMo to understand what the states need. We will see some nice changes in the next six weeks.

7) 2024 US Soccer Annual General Meeting in February. Bruce Bode is reminding the board members that they will need to register themselves on line and to book their hotel rooms through the US Soccer link. The Adult Commissioners will be taken care of by US Soccer.

8) Independent Director Cezar Wasecki asked for an update of the status of members sent a notice by USASA for outstanding player registration and fees.

Cascadia Premier League/ Regional update: They have paid \$15,000 and the office is expected to see another update soon.

President John Motta asked about the registration decreases in several of the larger states and asked why the United Women's Soccer had no registrations.

Action Item - Executive Director Bruce Bode advised that he would have an update for us at the February Meeting.

D. Financial Report - Lori Stoneburner had no report

7. Committee /Task Force Reports & Updates:

A. USASA Committee/Task Force Reports

1) 2024 National Cup - Richard Groff sent a written Report to the board members.

Budget was approved at \$160,000 with a lost component of \$40,000.

The significant change for 2024 is that USASA will pay for the eight teams to come to the National Finals. That will include airfare, ten hotel rooms for (twenty people) per team. The Committee is hoping that at least two teams will be from the local area.

The Competition will be held July 25 – 28 in Dekalb County Illinois at Northern Illinois University. A local club, Dekalb County United, will serve as the host organization. After negotiations, the cost for the venue will be about \$5,000, half of the original estimate.

John Motta has provided us with a second national sponsor, which is Dunkin. We now have \$50,000 dollars in national sponsorship income for the event.

The USASA Ad committee is working on the 100th Anniversary Book and the budget estimate is \$10,000 net, after printing.

The National Committee is projecting one hundred and fifty teams will enter and that is about \$15,000 and the committee has a proposal into US Soccer to assist with the referee cost for \$10,000. If you add up all the numbers the committee is confident that there will be no larger loss than \$37,000.

Hotel room cost is \$100.00 per room, per night. The only people budgeted for hotels are the USASA staff. There will be no budget for USASA Board members or USASA National Cup Committee Members. If a Board member wants to attend then they will need to use their board budget.

There was a question by Independent Director, Cezar Wasecki about the women's side of the event. Chairperson Richard Groff stated that they were pretty confident that Region 1, 2, and Region 3 will have four teams each. Region 4 may need help. If we get support from the two national women's leagues then it should get us to the sixteen teams we need. Richard Groff will be attending the Women's Premier Soccer League annual meeting to talk to their teams. There are also ongoing discussions with United Women's Soccer.

2) 2024 Soccer Fest – Chairperson Cezar Wasecki reported:

The Committee continues recruiting teams.

There is a little trouble with team registrations for Women's over 60/65/70 divisions. There are two competing tournaments the same weekend, one in Canada and one is a Masters Event that plays every four years.

New venue for the Soccer Fest Party is still being worked on as the baseball stadium is booked. Executive Director Bruce Bode is working on the operational aspects such as the liquor license. The next question is where to host the event in 2025? It is Chairperson Cezar Wasecki's recommendation to move the event to either a middle or west coast state as the event has been on the east coast for three years.

Heat is an issue that has been brought up due to the ages of the participants that needs to be looked at.

In 2024 Soccer Fest will open a new Over 30 Coed division.

3) Rules Committee – Chairperson Chaz Ballish Regueiro reported that they have not received anything to review.

4) USSF Membership Advisory Committee (MAC) - Chairperson Chaz Ballish Regueiro reported: There will be a live meeting of the MAC in February at the US Soccer AGM to discuss with US Soccer how they can be more effective as a committee.

5) Budget & Finance – Chair Andy Marion reported:

Chair Andy Marion has had several discussions about USASA finances with USASA Treasurer Lori Stoneburner, who has been sending him recent monthly statements for the investment account at US Bank.

Executive Director Bruce Bode set up an introductory zoom meeting in mid - November, with Chair Andy Marion, USASA Treasurer Lori Stoneburner, Executive Director Bruce Bode and our two account representatives at US Bank. The discussion included an overview of the account's goals and management strategy.

There is one and a half million dollars in the account. Within the large account there are two accounts – one is a money market cash fund for \$255,000 and the other holds \$1,300.00 in mutual fund investments, including a second money market fund of \$15,000. As far as the composition of the investments, there is \$785,000 in equity funds and about \$500.00 in bond funds. Looking at the account statement Treasurer Lori Stoneburner sent out for November, US Bank liquidated about three fourths of the account, selling a million in security funds and then buying a million in other funds to replace them.

Chair Andy Marion would like to know what kind of fees we are paying for management or trades?

Andy Marion is still collecting information and so far he has only looked at the investment accounts. He would also like to get the Budget & Finance committee members together so he needs the members to be confirmed. Region 1 – Vincent Treglia, Region 2 – DJ Gallant, Region 3 – Donna Langdon, Region 4 – Anne Braghero, Board Liaison, Lori Stoneburner.

Chairperson Andy Marion asks that Bruce Bode and Lori Stoneburner help him set up a committee call.

Action Item: Bruce Bode to set a Committee call for Budget & Finance

Action Item: President John Motta asks Chairperson Andy Marion to submit a report on the investment accounts for the US Soccer AGM in February.

8. Unfinished Business: -

A) Jim Sadowski – The Renegades team filed a complaint with the USASA NBOD that was referred to a committee. The committee's report was sent to the NBOD, but the board has not done anything with it.

B) Jim Sadowski – Metro DC/Virginia filed a complaint with USASA against the Maryland State Soccer Association regarding the registration of Virginia leagues and teams by Maryland. A committee was formed and a policy was drafted and he would like to know the status of the complaint and the draft policy.

C) Independent Director Jim Sadowski would like the board to look at an agenda with timelines for action items.

President John Motta assured Jim Sadowski that he would get with the Executive Director tomorrow and they would get back to him.

Action Item – President John Motta & Executive Director Bruce Bode will research the status of the two complaints and get back to Jim Sadowski.

Jim Sadowski apologizes for not being able to attend the Region 4 Workshops and asks if there is a way for the workshops to be recorded. Tom Moore, Region 4 Deputy Director says that they will be attempting to record the sessions.

9. New Business:

A) Tom Moore, California Soccer Association North, wanted to inform the USASA Board of Directors that Cal North has submitted a policy revision for the 2024 US Soccer AGM, with US Soccer, pertaining to the definition of referee abuse. The current definition clearly defines abuse as a threat to physical safety, property or equipment. The Cal North Board felt that there are enough verbal threats to young referees that the definition needs to be inclusive of the definition of verbal abuse.

Jim Sadowski, advised Tom Moore that Janet Campbell from North Texas has also submitted a policy revision to US Soccer. Jim Sadowski suggests that Tom Moore get with Janet Campbell for discussion.

B) Tom Moore asks Executive Director Bruce Board to send information to apply for the USASA National 2024 Automated External Defibrillator Rebate Program. Bruce Bode says that he and Cezar Wasecki, Independent Director, are still working on the mechanics of the application for the AED Rebate Program.

Action Item: Cezar Wasecki and Bruce Bode to have a presentation for the membership at the 2024 US Soccer AGM.

C) Richard Groff announced that the merger agreement between Utah Adult and Utah Youth is being finalized. John Motta congratulated Richard Groff on a long two years' worth of discussions.

10. Adjourned by President John Motta at 8:44pm

Those in Attendance:

President - John Motta
Vice President – Fritz Marth
Treasurer – Lori Stoneburner
Secretary - Karon Beyer
Executive Director – Bruce Bode
Region 1 Director – Tony Falcone
Region 2 Director – Karissa Richardson
Region 3 Director – Otey Smithson
Region 4 Director – Robin Runstein
At Large – Jim Sadowski
At Large – Cezar Wasecki
Independent Director – Brett Hurwitz

Guests:

Region 1 Deputy Director –Mary Beth Falk
Region 2 Deputy Director – John Mitchell
Region 3 Deputy Director – Jeanne Smith
Region 4 Deputy Director –Tom Moore

Andy Marion, Budget and Finance Chair
Chaz Ballish- Regueiro – Rules Chair
Richard Groff, 2024 National Cup Committee Chair