

## **OUSA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Sept. 1, 2018**

**Laramie, WY**

### **In person:**

Pat Meehan – VP Finance  
Alex Jospe – VP Competition  
Barb Bryant – VP Youth Initiatives  
Kris Beecroft – Secretary  
Matthew Robbins – Director  
Clare Durand – President

### **Attending by phone:**

Ian Smith – Director  
William Jameson – VP Clubs  
Ellen Stefaniak - Director

### **Absent:**

Nate Ohrwaschel – Director  
Lee Todd – Director  
Susan Grandjean – Director

### **Guests:**

Sandy Fillebrown (communications)  
Harvey

## **Technology Committee**

Kris: The committee has been working on figuring out its way forward. The committee wants to focus on the next step on the website. There is a lot of work to be done on other systems, but the priority is the website. We are on an unsupported version of Drupal; the proposal is to convert to Wordpress. The budget was \$30k; there was \$2k spent so far; Pat says we don't have \$28k more to spend this year. We will see what is available once the finances are settled.

Alex: EventReg is our registration system right now, and it needs help. There is an old broken database that functions for some events, and there is a newer database that Ed has been slowly rewriting. It is not customizable. We need to keep using this; we can't afford to let it just go away. What do we do in the meantime? Kris: Ed wrote up a proposal last year; can he write up a pared down proposal or a list of things that need to be done, with a time frame, so we don't have a broken system? Alex: it's more what VP of Competition needs for the race registrations. The local events have been abandoned. Clare: we are using it for > 20 events a year. I'm the one doing most of that. The downside is that there is post-processing we have to do with the data. Ed had said he could fix it but he wasn't able to get to it. Alex states that she has a conflict of interest, so Ed needs someone on the board to get instructions from (not Alex). We need to know what is needed now to keep the system running. Once we get the website updated, then we can focus on event registration. However, even then we need to look at Neon as the choice for membership system. Who should Ed be reporting to?

Ellen joins the call. Kris invites Ellen to introduce herself. Ellen: I first started in early 2000. I was living in SF area and saw ads in the newspaper to come and try orienteering. I thought it would help with navigation out in the water. First experience was with BAOOC. Moved to Richmond VA and sought it out. Spun off our own club; was founding member of that and have been active ever since. Occasionally get

up to QOC meets. Have also looked in other places. Tried orienteering in Toronto. Found a permanent course in Scotland. Found that the majority of their club members are into adventure racing. She does that too; they have been aiming our activities toward adventure racers while still teaching beginners and working with scouts.

Matthew Robbins introduces himself. Started orienteering in college, freshman year. Went to a lot of A meets. Was on a team that beat West Point one year. Got out of orienteering after college. Went to OCIN meets once in a while. Walked into 1996 US Championships meet and registered. Got more involved after 9/11. Currently the biggest thing he does is process LIDAR to make maps.

## **Election of Officers**

President: Two candidates: Clare Durand and William Jameson. After a secret ballot, Clare Durand was voted in.

VP of Competition: Alex Jospe has said she would stay on for another year. Kris asked whether anyone else was interested to stay on. Alex is voted in.

VP of Finance: Pat Meehan does not plan to rerun for the Board next year, so he will not be VP of Finance after this year. We need to groom someone to take this role next year. Ian said he'd be happy to learn the ropes. Pat is voted in.

VP of Youth Initiatives: Barb Bryant said she'd be willing to be this for another year. Ellen says she wants to be involved in some of these initiatives. Barb voted in.

Secretary: Kris Beecroft has expressed interest in taking on this role. Is there anyone else interested in staying on? Ellen was also interested in secretary role. It pairs well with what she does for work. Kris describes the role of the secretary: taking notes at the meetings, arranging board meetings. Secretary is also a member of the Executive Committee. Ellen decides to wait until she has some experience on the board first. Kris is voted in.

VP of Clubs: Barb says we need someone to reach out to every club and talk to them. Make sure they know about our initiatives, and make sure that we hear what their issues are. William agrees. Kris agrees: clubs have said that they don't feel well represented. Also would like VP of Clubs to explore change in membership structure. William is interested in that role. William is voted in.

(Clare takes over now as the new president.)

## **Finance Update**

More information on Jitasa. August statement will come out in about 10 days. It appears we haven't made taken in as much money as we had budgeted for. On the expenses side, \$30k for technology (spent \$2k); \$10k contingency for anything that might come up this year. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund does not cover technology, but it does cover the marketing work Bob Forgrave has been doing. Mapping has spent some; marketing has spent about \$7k. Balance is around \$22k for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund. Income shortcome might be about \$15k. Membership and club dues are down, and so are A meet fees. Sandy: Club dues aren't down by all that much. We budgeted \$90k and we are in at \$89k. Kris: donations are down. When we go out for our annual campaign this year, we need to get the word out and market it.

Ian: It would be helpful to get the slides from the AGM. Pat will send everything to Ian. Clare: the July reports from Jitasa would be helpful.

Alex: JTESC is getting frustrated about their current account because they are showing more money than Pat is showing. Pat spent a lot of time in February trying to come up with what is correct. Pat thinks he knows why there is a difference. It could be because of the difference between coaching expenses and

team. Alex will start conversation about a reconciliation meeting to be scheduled for late in the year, and also assuming for the time being that Pat's figures are what we work with until then.

## Long-range Planning

Championships vs high-level events.

Championships: US championships (Juniors, S/M/L, Masters)

High-level events: NRE, NAOC, World Cup, World Games.

High level events: 2020 NAOC in California. Want to start soliciting clubs for 2024. This is something we should start working on. Other high-level events: 2021 World Games in Birmingham AL. Cristina Luis is the competition manager; will work with Tom Hollowell. IOF will handle a lot of the work, including arena production and a heavy hand in the technical side (map and course setting). We are committed to providing a bunch of bodies. Kris: Cristina is the competition manager, the main liaison between OUSA and IOF. IOF is working with the World Games organization. Ann Matthews is the assistant on site. In the beginning of October, will have a meeting in Birmingham AL, paid for by World Games. Kris asked if Ann could go, too, at OUSA's expense. She doesn't need lodging or airfare. In the original proposal, Tom wrote and said there are two ways: (1) IOF does everything, or (2) the country does the mapping and the course setting but IOF does all the tech, TV, arena stuff. He would prefer #2. He feels confidence in Cristina. GAOC is committed to help. Clare: it would be nice to do it the second way too. It helps us on the world scene.

The map will be IOF based? Kris will send the correspondence about this to Clare and Alex.

World University Games 2023 in Lake Placid NY. Lots of sports - will include ski-O. This is a big deal for ski-orienting. One problem: local club is very small - EMPO but not really? The contacts have been Janet Findlay and Dave Hunter. They are both certified IOF event advisors, and they say they don't have the manpower to do the event. The location does not have the infrastructure of a xc area (groomers, spectator spaces, indoor area). So that is still under discussion. Clare: what about Russ Myer? Alex: the venue is the big problem. Can't use many of the other venues because of the other games.

We haven't hosted a WRE in several years. Alex would like to bring WREs back to the USA. Clare: they've started WRE for Trail-O. It would be great to do that too. Alex: it would be great to combine them. Clare: there are people who could become event advisors. Alex: my dream is that Nationals is a WRE each year and bring in Trail-O to happen at Nationals.

Expanding our pool of ability for hosting high-level events. Get people to go to the high level event seminar. Is Mike Minium still an event advisor? Other people may have let their certifications lapse. Alex get a list from IOF of who is event advisor now. We have budgeted some money for people to attend these. Barb: we should make sure that if we pay for someone to go to the event advisor clinic, that they file the paperwork to become a certified event advisor from IOF.

Championship events 2019

- Jr Nationals -> QOC
- Masters: UNO, OCIN have both applied. Geof Conor from HVO also interested.
- Nationals: This is hard because of sprint venues. Denis Wildfogel - BAOC wants to hold one of the championship events.

Championship Events 2020

- Jr Nationals → OCIN
- Masters: GAOC, but on the January MLK day.
- No bids or bites for Nationals for 2020.

## Discussion

### Re-establishing regions

Clare: regions - need to go beyond the clubs that always do championships. Barb: need to make sure every club gets a chance. Clare: maybe we do want to look at a regional approach (she mentions the number 9), for championships - and start to look at a 3-year cycle starting in 2021. Kris: maybe the board members can help out too and talk to other clubs.

Ellen: how many of the clubs have the resources to put on events like this? Alex: there are many clubs who can do this (a dozen), and there are other clubs that can work together with other clubs nearby to put on events.

Alex: it is easier to host events if you are not relying on volunteers for every aspect of the event. Eg hire for expert in wilderness and SAR to write safety plan. Can hire people with course setters. Could you ask clubs what is preventing you from holding events.

Barb would like to see regional youth championships.

### Question of controller vs consultant.

We have robust course consultants at OUSA. We offer event consultation but clubs aren't using it. Course consultants don't have enough power. E.g., winning times are too long. Clare: do you know that consultants tried to fix those problems and were turned away? Barb: let's ask for a report from the course and event consultants.

### Junior Nationals scoring.

Need to simplify. Barb: important to keep the mixed teams and motivation to keep girls involved. Matthew: useful to have the fastest kids start last. Alex: also good for safety. Alex will create a task group to come up with a simpler system. Include someone from rules committee. Matthew said that the seeded start might help without changing the current rules.

### Rankings.

They are used for Junior team, for selection. There is talk on senior team ESC of bringing rankings back. Getting rankings from national events is a benefit from being an OUSA member. Valerie is not drawing from our membership database. She has to do a lot of manual work. Once everything matches and the data is good, it is easy to calculate. She would be thrilled to have someone take over the rankings. Need to make it easier.

In the short term, we should solicit for a volunteer to help with the data cleanup before it even gets to Valerie. Sandy: works with Valerie a lot; used to do the rankings before Valerie. A lot of it is that event directors are not responsive when requesting results. There's also the issue of Canadian events. And there are differences in names. Longer term, we need a system that uses membership information.

### Action Items

- Ian will be apprentice on finances
- Kris will inform Ed that he will report to her.
- Pat will send July 31 financial reports.
- Clare & Alex will consult about regions and whatnot
- EC will review course & event consultants' reports
- Junior national scoring
- Clare will work on scheduling for the next year
- Alex to communicate with JTESC about the team budgets; make a meeting for reconciliation.

- Find someone to help with cleaning data for rankings. Longer term, connect to our databases.

Motion to adjourn: Kris, Alex seconded.