

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Athletics Ontario

Saturday November 19, 2011

Time: 4:00 pm

Oak Room, Montecassino Hotel at 3710 Chesswood Drive,
Downsview, ON M3J 2W4

Present: Bill Stephens (Chair), Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair), Stuart Smith, Leslie Estwick, Suzanne Leroux, Harry Stantsos, John Craig, Roman Olszewski, Anthony Biggar, Sue Wise, Peter Hocking (guest)

Welcome: Bill welcomed everyone to a Saturday afternoon meeting and thanked Peter Hocking, new chair of the Athletics Ontario Official's Executive Committee, for joining the meeting. Suzanne, Peter and Harry discussed the results of the OOC elections held earlier in the day, and the status of the accord between the OOC and Athletics Ontario. On behalf of the Board Bill offered congratulations to Peter on his election and expressed his hope that the new relationship between the officials and AO will provide for an excellent working relationship.

Ratification of the Acceptance of the Minutes of the August Board Meeting

Motion: to ratify the acceptance of the minutes of the August Board Meeting

Stantsos and Leroux

Carried

Business Arising

None

Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented

Estwick and Sarjeant

Carried

Staff Health, Safety and Wellness (John)

Nothing to Report

Ratification of Records (Roman)

Nothing to Report

Financial Statements – Explanation of Surplus: John advised that the association's auditor and treasurer had met to determine the reasons for the significant surplus in the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year. He explained the surplus as per the treasurer's notes. Generally, the surplus is a result of three factors: an increase in fees over 2009; an increase in membership over 2009; a change in accounting practices which provided a one-time change in reporting.

Preparation for the November 20, 2011 Annual General Meeting:

- **Budget** - John presented a proposed budget for fiscal 2012-2013, explaining the member's equity line and the reason for it. Most of the figures are based on the actual and estimated figures for 2011.

Leslie suggested that the member's equity should be a targeted and consistent amount. While this will be difficult given the uncertainty of future funding, it is worth the exercise. The treasurer should reference this at each AGM as an indicator of the health of the equity figures.

Peter Hocking advised that, under the terms of the new relationship that redefines the working relationship between the officials and Athletics Ontario, the AOOEC will submit an official's budget as soon as possible.

- **Report from Nominations Committee** – Harry advised that four Director's positions will be open as of the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2011 and that three of the incumbents will run again for a position on the Board. Two new nominations – for Trevino Betty and Albert Tschirhart - have been received and both are running for the position of Vice-Chair.
- **Ratification of the Motions:** John advised that new legal thinking suggests that the Association *should not ask* for the membership to ratify the actions of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting since, should the membership chose not to ratify the actions, such a decision would, in effect, be a vote of non-confidence. The current By-Laws of the Association do not have a means of dealing with such a vote. Other legal opinion, however, suggest that, should such a vote of non-confidence take place, the meeting should proceed as normal and be dealt with at the time of the elections of new directors.

In the interest of transparency, the Directors chose to ask the question and deal with a non-confidence vote, should it arise, during the elections.

Proposal for Membership Increase: John asked the Board to consider a request by Athletics Canada which would see increased membership fees going to the NSO. This would help Athletics Canada since Sport Canada funds Athletics Canada on many things including membership, and an increase in Branch membership fees would result in an increase in Sport Canada funding.

Motion: that Athletics Ontario provides an additional \$30,000 to AC in membership fees – Terms of agreement to be discussed.

Estwick and Smith

Carried

Motion: that we propose a \$10 increase on Youth, Junior and Senior Athletics Ontario membership fees at the 2011 AGM and, if approved, that this money be used to help defray the costs, on an annual basis, of Ontario athletes who are selected for Athletics Canada self-funded teams.

Leroux and Stantsos

Carried

AO Awards Update and Matheson West Letter: John reported that the 2011 AO Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Dinner realized revenue of about \$10,000 and had expenses of about \$13,000. Approximately \$2,000, collected from the silent auction was put into the Adopt-an-Athlete program.

John also read to those present a letter, received from athlete Matheson West, thanking the Board for recognizing him for an award at the recent Awards Banquet.

2012 AO Awards Banquet: Bill asked for input on the venue and menu so that he can begin the process of making arrangements for the 2012 Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Dinner. The consensus was to keep this event where it is and to position it at or about the same time of year.

Check-in Procedure: Bill asked for a short review of the AO Championship check-in procedure, asking how we should handle check-ins if the meet falls well behind schedule.

After some discussion the Directors agreed that the current system is a good one and that it works well. Failures of the system in the past year were likely a result of under-staffing and inconsistent enforcement of the rules.

Athletics Ontario needs to take responsibility for making sure the Check-in desk is well staffed and in an obvious place at track side.

Toronto International Track and Field Games Update: John provided an update on Government grants, future meetings, sponsorship/partnerships and prospects for Trillium and other funding with respect to the 2012 Toronto International Games. There will also be a new 'working committee' struck, which should better address some of the entertainment and timing issues.

Val expressed concerns about the level of sponsorship realized at the 2011 event. He also suggested some savings in hotel expenses might be had if we approach another hotel.

Toronto Track Volunteers: John noted that Melanie Chiu has started an organization called the Toronto Track Volunteers group, complete with a web-site and business cards. Melanie has joined the Yonge Bloor Business Association, and she hopes some of these volunteers will eventually move into the certified officials ranks.

Her volunteers have already assisted at AO meets, university and masters' meets and they are a good resource for twilight meets, Asian games etc.

John asked that Athletics Ontario recognize a new category of member, that of volunteer such that 'junior' officials and other volunteers are recognized as members of the association and covered by insurance, but that they pay no fee which could be a deterrent to participation.

Motion: that a new 'Volunteer' membership category be introduced for the 2012 membership year and that the fee for this category be \$0.00

Stantsos and Estwick

Carried

Abstentions - Sarjeant and Leroux

Motion: That the club registration fee for the Toronto Track Volunteers be waived for 2012.

This motion was not moved since all the people in the Toronto Track Volunteers group will be covered by insurance if and when they register as 'volunteer' members of the association. This keeps the door open to volunteers in other clubs who might also want to register as a volunteer.

Membership Categories: - Stuart addressed recommendations from AO Registrar Wendy Lee on membership categories and these were discussed.

Motion: that beginning in 2012 Athletics Ontario no longer offer or recognize first time minor bantam, minor bantam and minor midget membership categories.

Smith and Stantsos

Carried

Proposal for Administrative Review: John deferred this agenda item for discussion in the next item regarding Strategic Planning

AO Vision, Mission, Values and Goals Update: Val offered that former Director Pat Reid had done a great job on strategic planning and that in 2008 we approved a Mission, Vision and Values for the Association. Val and Leslie believe we need to move forward to flesh out the plan and this should be done before we do our office review.

Leslie reminded the directors that we need to align with AC strategic plan which, she thought, is a good one. Our best way to move forward is to align with them. She also advised that any business plan needs to be doable, measureable and sustainable.

With that it was noted that currently drafted strategic goals were not endorsed.

Further it is increasingly important that AO also align with the strategic plan with our funding partners. There are a lot of things we need to consider in order to go forward and that we pick our top six priorities and let staff work toward those things.

Given a changing landscape, a one year planning cycle is good, and there is a requirement for constant review. Leslie suggested we form a committee to deal with Strategic Planning, but thought she is not the best candidate to lead this since regular meetings pose a challenge for someone not living in the Toronto area. She also thought it is imperative that there be some significant consultation with the membership.

In terms of immediate actions, Leslie suggested the formation of a working committee, including a chair and co-chair, and suggested that AO ask the committee to come up with draft plan for presentation to the membership for approval.

John mentioned the High Performance Management Plan (KPI) program and the need for our strategic plan to be aligned with this as well.

ACTION: Leslie will ask for a working committee at November 2011. Nominations should be sent to the Athletics Ontario office.

John also provided some background on new legislation and legal thinking that requires a complete overhaul of Athletics Ontario Policies and Procedures to make sure we are compliant with new laws and up-to-date on important policies which will affect the management of the association. He asked for direction from the Board.

ACTION: John received a mandate from the Directors to pursue a course which would see the engagement of a person who could provide guidance and a re-writing of current policy such that the Association complies with legislative changes and a new legal landscape.

Canadian Sport Policy: John provided an update on the new Canadian Sport Policy and its implications for Athletics Ontario. There was a strong feeling that Athletics Ontario wants to support the new policy when it is published.

ORA Update: John mentioned that the Ontario Roadrunners Association is winding down operations and that roadrace accreditation as a program will be coming back into the Athletics Ontario office at some point in the future. The resumption of responsibility for roadrace accreditation should be part of the new office restructuring which will take place as a result of strategic planning. In the interim AO member Justin Duncan will manage roadrace accreditation on behalf of Athletics Ontario until the Association is in a position to bring that program back into the office. John has also contacted legal assistance to begin the process of dismantling the ORA as a distinct organization.

CS4L-LTAD Grant: John outlined the grant and consultation process that will take place to help Athletics Ontario push the CS4L and LTAD programs into the membership and clubs. He noted that Molly Killingbeck and Carla Warwick have volunteered to assist by sitting on a committee.

AO Sanction Policy: Anthony asked for direction with respect to sanctioning and asked for a review of the sanctioning process and policy. Suzanne and Harry will both assist in the process. This item will receive some attention at the fixtures meeting prior to the AGM on Sunday, November 20, 2011.

Anthony asked for changes to the policy which relates to meet conflicts within a certain radius.

Motion: that under the Guidelines for Granting Sanctions, part b) be changed to read: "Any competitions to be conducted outside a radius of 100km" (changed from 200km)

Smith and Estwick

Carried

AO Booth at OFSAA: Val suggested that, whether he is involved or not, we continue to have a table at OFSAA to promote our sport.

Where is Sport? John provided an update on the extent and perceived success the "Where is Sport?" initiative which called for an across-sport campaign to urge the Premier of Ontario to make sure sport is included in a Ministry and that it has a Minister responsible for the delivery of sport.

Generally we have heard that the campaign got some attention at the Premier's office. Announcements about the positioning of sport will be made in the next several weeks.

National Youth, Junior Indoors – Branch Support: John advised that, in a conference call in October between Branches and Athletics Canada, Ontario was the only branch that spoke against such a

championships. The other branches endorsed the idea, so it would appear that these championships will be hosted in 2012.

Endorsement of Pan Am Junior Bids: John advised that several letters of interest, from Ontario clubs and communities, to host the 2015 Pan Am Junior Games have been received by Athletics Canada. Does the Board want to endorse a single bid or provide letters of support to all Ontario bids, which are due at the end of January, 2012?

After some discussion the Board decided to support all Ontario bids unless there are obvious concerns.

Provincial Championships Host Bidding for 2012: Roman asked for Board endorsement of his recommendations regarding 2012 Championship hosts.

The Board decided to award Championships as follows:

Indoor combined events and Prep Meet 1 – Project Athletics will do it for us as a service –
Indoor Relays and Prep Meet 2 – University of Windsor Alumni Club
Indoor Youth / Senior – TBD
Indoor BMJ – YUTC
10,000m on Track –LRDC
10,000k Race walk – Ontario Racewalkers
Jr. Sr. CE (in combination with NACAC?) – TBD
Outdoor Prep Meet – University of Windsor Alumni Club
Outdoor Jr. Sr. and Selected Relays – OTTL
Outdoor BMY – London Legion/NOC
Cross Country – Physicult (subject to positive course evaluation)
20km Walk – TBD

Motion: that 2012 Provincial Championships be awarded as noted above.

Leroux and Sarjeant

Carried

Abstentions – Estwick and Stantsos

Inclusion – John advised that a grant application has been sent to the Trillium Foundation which, if successful, would see funding for a 3 year program to bring track and field programs for athletes with a disability into Athletics Ontario and move them away from MSOs which currently manage these programs.

John will provide status updates as appropriate.

2012 AO Cross Country Date: Roman asked for some direction on whether the 2012 AO Cross Country championships should be on our traditional Sunday date on November 11 or moved to November 10 in respect of Remembrance Day.

The consensus of the Board was that, in 2012, the Championships should be hosted on Saturday, November 10.

Canada Games Team Staff Selection: Roman presented his recommendations for Canada Games team staff and a list of all of the applicants. Harry Stantsos had been preselected so Harry, Sue Wise and Roman were the selectors.

Roman also noted that selection criteria for team staff, including the candidate selected by the Para-sport group, called for gender equity.

Motion: That for the 2013 Canada Games the Team Coaching staff be:

Hurdles and Combined Events - Leslie Estwick

Endurance – Derek Hackshaw

Throws – Randy Millar

Jumps – Colleen Dotson

Sprints – Kurt Downes

Manager – TBD

Team Leader – Harry Stantsos/Head Coach

Smith and Sarjeant

Carried

Ottawa Lions Proposal re: Championships: Roman and Suzanne presented a request by the Ottawa Lions that levy fees for Senior and Junior CE and Relays meet in 2011 be waived so that the club does not realize a financial loss in hosting the meet.

Suzanne acknowledged that the Association should have responded earlier to this request.

After much discussion the consensus of the Directors was that the levies to OTTL should be invoiced as per policy.

Athletics Canada Committees – Branch Representatives: Roman advised that several applications had been received from members who wished to sit on Athletics Canada committees.

Motion: that Athletics Ontario endorse the nominees listed below for the Athletics Canada committees as noted:

Stantsos and Smith

Carried

National Team Committee – Chris Moulton and Carl Georgevski

Athlete Development Committee – Leslie Estwick, Tony Sharpe

Run Canada Committee – Michael Brennan

Pan Am Games – ongoing updates: No report

New Business

Suzanne reminded Roman to make sure that Championships hosts ask Sandy Repko for the official's availability list before any officials are approached. This is an important part of the new agreement between Athletics Ontario and the AOOEC

Suzanne asked that the title of her directorship be changed to more accurately reflect the responsibilities of her position. Making this change will require a change to the bylaws and requires a membership approval at the AGM.

ACTION: Suzanne to introduce this topic in 2012 for approval at the 2012 AGM.

Harry asked for the establishment of a link between the Canada Summer Games website and the Athletics Ontario website to create an easier flow of information.

ACTION: Anthony to provide this link when and as appropriate.

Adjournment

8: 32 pm.

Leslie