



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Athletics Ontario
Sunday, November 18, 2012 – 11:00 am
Sport Alliance Ontario Building, Boardrooms 3&4
3 Concorde Gate, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 3N7

At 11:00 am the Managing Director advised that Suzanne Leroux, Director of Technical Development, had resigned her position on the Board of Directors on November 15th, leaving that position open for nominations and elections. He advised that, since nominations would not be accepted from the floor, the start of the Annual General Meeting would be delayed by 10 minutes so that nominations for the position could be submitted.

1. **Call to Order:** 11.18 am

Bill Stephens, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Managing Director to review parliamentary procedures.

2. **Parliamentary Procedures and Voting Review:** The secretary (John Craig) announced the voting strength of each member club present at the meeting and reviewed the parliamentary procedures that would govern the conduct of the meeting. He advised that 126 votes were available at the AGM and that 42 votes represented a quorum of members. He advised that there were 39 votes in attendance at the meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Association By-laws allow that, if 15 minutes after the proposed start of the meeting a quorum is not present, then those in attendance are deemed to represent a quorum and that the business of the Association can be conducted.

3. **Introductions:** Bill Stephens introduced the members of the Board of Directors and the staff.

4. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion: to approve the agenda.

Toronto Olympic Club and Ontario Masters Athletics

Carried

5. **Approval of Minutes of the 2011 AGM:**

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2011 AGM.

Brampton Track and Field Club and Ontario Masters Athletics

Carried

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the 2011 AGM:** No Business arising.

7. **Ratification of Business Conducted by the AO Board of Directors in 2011/12:**

Motion: to ratify the actions of the AO Board of Directors in 2011/12.

8. Reports:

- a. **Chair (Bill Stephens):** Bill advised that he and the Managing Director have monthly conference calls with Athletics Canada and the other branches to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

Bill also mentioned the Association had to deal with two complaints this year. London Western asked about the process for dealing with complaints and about the Association's failure to deal with one of the complaints in accordance with its policies and procedures. The Managing Director advised that the Association usually deals with all complaints (two or three per year) in a timely manner, but the busy summer schedule precluded the opportunity to form a Complaints Committee within the time frame that the policy calls for. The Association will now have to deal with an appeal based on that failure.

- b. **Vice Chair (Lisa Ferdinand):** Lisa advised that her focus is on the AO policy and by-laws. She has developed an AO Governance Committee to ensure that there is a review of the governance model so that the future viability of the Board and staff can guarantee services to our membership. She is targeting Board roles and responsibilities, Board composition and the number of directors, Board knowledge (a need for education of the board), Board effectiveness (the Board needs to be able to streamline things so we react better), and Board leadership to make sure our members are properly serviced.
- c. **Director of General Operations (Leslie Estwick):** Leslie advised that the Directors now receive financial reports on a regular basis. She is focused on a financial review, looking for cost savings, a review of strategic directions, a restructuring and human resources review, and the identification of strategic priorities so we can zero in on priority areas. Leslie also represents Athletics Ontario in strategic planning with Athletics Canada.
- d. **Director of Coach and Athlete Development:** Harry provided a report as presented in writing to the membership.
- e. **Director of Coach/Athlete Development (Suzanne Leroux):** Suzanne provided a report as presented in writing to the membership.
- f. **Director of Marketing and Membership (Stuart Smith):** Stuart conducted a membership review in terms of numbers in each membership category, and discussed changes in membership and trends.
- g. **Director of Technical Services (Roman Olszewski):** Roman provided a report as presented in writing to the membership.

Newmarket Huskies asked about the new indoor track at Malvern which is scheduled to open in December, asking if Athletics Ontario has any involvement in its design or management. Clearly this is not the case as most AO staff and Directors are just hearing about the facility. While there are some shortcomings to the track (it is 375m long, has

square corners and spikes are not allowed), it may still provide a welcome opportunity for training in the winter.

There appear to be other new facilities in the area, including a new indoor track in Whitby.

There were talks about the Pan Am stadium at York and the lack of communication and partnership in this stadium. The Managing Director discussed the situation as it appears to staff, expressing interest in having a more active role in some of the decision making, especially as the track, which will be a legacy of the Games, needs to have some strong sport input if it is going to be a valuable asset in the future.

The Chair also suggested that the refurbishing of support Pan Am Games facilities (Birchmount and Centennial) will interrupt current training opportunities for the summer of 2014, and the arrival of the Games will mean these facilities will not be available for much of 2015 while Games are on.

Roman finished by advising that Ontario continues to over-achieve in terms of the number of carded athletes we produce and the number of athletes we put on National Teams and he congratulated the clubs and coaches on doing a very good job in the high performance area.

- h. Managing Director (John Craig):** John discussed the Quest for Gold program advising that about 150 applications have been received. He suggested that coaches and clubs assist their athletes, if possible, with their applications as the funding can be meaningful but many athletes do not complete the forms properly.

John also advised that the Base Funding Grant from the Ministry would, once again, be decreased and that the Association needed to find alternate sources of funding.

- i. Manager of Communications and Public Relations (Anthony Biggar):** Anthony talked about the fixtures/calendar meeting that had taken place earlier in the day, which was attended by competition directors. He said discussions on scheduling and the inclusion of all events had been good.
- j. Para-Athletics Coordinator (Kayla Cornale):** Kayla introduced herself and discussed her job and project, funded by the Trillium Foundation, that will help Athletics Ontario bring athletics programs for athletes with a disability into mainstream AO programming. Kayla provided a report and spoke about the 'hub' system which we hope to create, the idea of which is that the hubs are meant to be resource centres for equipment and knowledge to help provide ongoing inclusion, integration and recruitment.
- k. High Performance Coordinator (Sue Wise):** Sue said that the OHPSI program is going well, mentioning that Ontario athletes comprise 60% of the talent ID group recently recognized by Athletics Canada.

Sue also suggested that some of our best athletes are being ignored. We have three athletes with 'C' standard who were not carded because they are not at training centres. Sue is pursuing this at the Athletics Canada level.

As well, Sue said that our sponsor an athlete idea has not worked (yet) – because we don't have the resources to initiate it - so Sue is going to try to find a way of bringing more money into the mix so our athletes benefit.

Scott McDonald of Athletics Ontario will try to assist some of our top athletes with training camp expenses. Sue suggested that there is only so much we can do at the AO level and AC has final say.

- I. **Ontario Masters (Doug Smith):** Doug advised that the Masters Association enjoys a great relationship with Athletics Ontario, including a partnership with both the cross country championships and the Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame Banquet.

Doug also reminded the membership that Masters athletes will soon be part of the AC rankings. He said Ontario Masters Athletics is looking forward to integrating with the para-athletes and they will be active in the para-athletics project.

Officials Report: Lisa Ferdinand provided a report from the Officials, saying that clinics are available if people or clubs want to host a clinic they should let Lisa and/or the officials committee know. AOOEC has had a number of upgrading clinics and there is a focus on bringing officials from across the province to Championships so they can upgrade. The AOOEC believes this is a key to keeping officials in the sport.

Lisa also said that the Association is seeing some growth in the number of officials registered and working at meets. She said the AOOEC will provide more information with respect to the number of officials and their duties.

She also said the AOOEC will be recommending changes to the MOU with Athletics Ontario. She said the AOOEC wants to standardize the forms and measures at meets so all meet directors work with the same documents and expectations.

- m. **Other Reports:** no other reports were presented.

Motion: to Receive Reports.

Toronto Olympic Club and Ontario Masters Athletics

Carried

9. **Treasurer's Report, Budget Review, Appointment of Auditors:** In the absence of the Treasurer the report was delivered by Director Leslie Estwick. Leslie presented the Audited Statements for 2011-2012 and discussed specific line items and significant changes or variations.

Motion: to Approve the Audited Statements.

Ontario Masters Athletics and London Western Track and Field Club

Carried

Leslie presented the budget for fiscal 2013-14.

Speed Academy asked about the National Team Recovery Fund. Sue explained the process and the approximate amount of money in the fund. Sue advised that some athletes who were on a CE team to Holland should be considered for re-imbusement as well.

Roman said the National Team Recovery Fee will go out shortly and be given to the clubs, with a notice to the athletes.

Newmarket Huskies asked if the projected deficit of \$40,000 for the year was a reasonable and wise amount to budget for given decreased funding in the foreseeable future. The Managing Director said that the Association currently has about \$400,000 in equity and that, while the Association should be careful in depleting the reserves, the Association could sustain this type of deficit financing for 8-10 years. This could provide the time required for government funding to increase, new sources of revenue to be found and an upturn in the provincial and national economy to help offset the deficits.

Motion: to approve the budget for the fiscal year 2013-14.

Toronto Olympic Club and London Western Track and Field Club

Carried

Motion: to appoint Thompson Turnbull as the auditors for the Association for fiscal 2012-13.

Hamilton Olympic Club and London Western

Carried

10. **Election of Directors:** Suzanne Leroux, Chair of Nominations Committee, advised that there were three vacancies on the Board of Directors. She confirmed that Harry Stantsos and Stuart Smith did not want to run for re-election, and she acknowledged that she had resigned her own seat and that she would not contest the election.

Suzanne advised that three nominations had been received as per the Association's By-laws and she introduced the three candidates: Sharon Stewart of Niagara Olympic Club, John Stevenson of London Western Track and Field Club, and Anne Mullins of the Ottawa Lions.

Each nominee spoke to the membership, providing some background on their involvement in the sport and their interests in running for a position on the Board.

Motion: to accept the slate of nominees for Directors as presented.

Ontario Masters Athletics and Toronto Olympic Club

Carried

11. **Motions:** Five motions had been received in writing prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting.

Ottawa Lions withdrew the four motions that they had submitted and presented a new motion.

Motion: that on May 1, 2013, the current Athletics Ontario 2013 Championship meet bidding document and co-hosting criteria be overturned and that a new set of Championship bidding and co-hosting criteria be developed by an appointed committee of the Board of Directors.

Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club and Toronto Olympic Club:

After much discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Motion: that beginning in 2014 in order to be eligible to bid for an upcoming Athletics Ontario Championship event, a bidding club must:

1. be a member club in good standing;
2. have successfully closed off any and all previously hosted AO meet(s), including submitting to Athletics Ontario a completed and balanced budget report signed by the club president and the treasurer overseeing that event;
3. have participated in a previous AO Championship meet.

London Western Track and Field Club and St. Thomas Legion Track and Field Club **Carried**
Abstained: Ontario Masters Athletics, Ontario Roadrunners Association, Toronto Olympic Club

Motion: That any Athletics Ontario Co-Hosting criteria scheduled for 2014 implementation that is developed and approved by the AO Board by May 1, 2013, be implemented in all 2013 Championship Meets following this date.

Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club and University of Toronto Track Club **Carried**

Opposed: York University, London Western Track and Field Club, St. Thomas Legion Track and Field Club
Abstentions: three clubs abstained

12. New Business:

- Successful co-hosting bids will be announced once the successful clubs have been informed and have agreed to the partnership.
- Sue advised that athletes who participated in the Canada Summer Games training camps can apply to Athletics Ontario for a subsidy. Harry Stantsos will develop the application and they will be posted on the AO website. Harry also noted an error on the date posted for a future camp. The error will be corrected.

13. Comments by Chair: Bill thanked the outgoing Directors, Harry Stantsos, Suzanne Leroux and Stuart Smith, for their significant contributions to the Association and for their hard work. They were all instrumental in the development and implementation of several policies and they have provided leadership on many issues.

14. Adjournment: 2:20 p.m.