United States Association of Blind Athletes  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Teleconference Call  
January 16, 2012

I. Call to Order:  Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm Eastern Time

II. President’s Welcome, Comments and Review of the Agenda:  Szott welcomed board members and he thanked Tracie Foster for presiding as chair during his absence from the last board meeting. Szott stated that it is apparent from the minutes from the last board meeting that there was a great deal accomplished and he congratulated and thanked the board for their hard work and efforts, including the adoption of Rules of Engagement and utilizing Consent Agenda to conduct board meetings. Szott also stated that he has been on the board for 17 years and that he is pleased about the work that he, along with board and staff has accomplished under his tenure. Szott added that at the end of his term this year, he would not run for a board position to allow for a new board member to run for his vacant board slot.

III. Roll Call:  Board Present:  Kevin Szott, Dave Bushland, Tracie Foster, Oral Miller, Dr. Michael Bina, Dr. Lauren Lieberman, Tom Parrigin, Gary Remensnyder, Dave Reiff, Michael Elliot

                                           Staff Present:  Mark Lucas

Absen:  Chris Jordan, Trischa Zorn-Hudson, Jim Mastro

IV. Consent Agenda: Two reports provided to board as re-ahead which included minutes from meeting December 2-3, 2011, and the Executive Director’s Report.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Lieberman and seconded by Bina. There being no objections, the Minutes from the December 2-3 board meeting and the Executive Director’s report APPROVED unanimously by the board.

V. Committee Reports

Finance Committee:  Bushland congratulated the board and staff on our efforts to reach our goal of achieving more than $1,000,000 in revenue in 2011.

Bushland presented the 2012 Budget and stated this is the same budget that was presented during the December 2-3 board meeting. Bushland reviewed the projected revenue of $874,300 and projected expenses for $866,924 and explained that 2012 will be more of a challenging year because we are not hosting the IBSA World Youth Championships as it is an Olympic/Paralympic year. Bushland stated that our projected 2012 revenue is an 11% reduction from the 2011 budget.

Miller asked how many staff the 2012 budget includes. Lucas explained that the 2012 projected budget includes 3 FTE’s and 2 contracted staff through the United States Olympic Committee who are dedicated to our military programming efforts.
Motion to approve the 2012 Budget made by Parrigin and seconded by Foster. There being no objections, the 2012 Budget APPROVED unanimously by the board.

Strategic Direction Committee: Remensnyder reported that he and the committee members who include Foster, Lieberman, Bushland and Lucas are excited to work on this new committee, which is expected to meet in February. Remensnyder explained the roles of the committee are to examine and monitor the long-term strategic direction of the organization, report to the board on progress and make recommendations to the board for corrective action and future direction.

Governance and Nominating Committee: Foster welcomed Michael Elliot to the board. Foster explained the roles of the current Nominating Committee who include Mastro, Bushland, Remensnyder and Lucas. Foster stated that committee name and responsibilities will need be revised to include Governance as recommended by consultant Rose Snyder during the December 2011 board meeting. Foster also explained the Bylaws would need to be changed to reflect the added roles and responsibilities of the committee.

Development Committee: Despite the 11% reduction in the 2012 projected budget, Bina stated that the committee of Bushland and Ortiz are motivated to find new avenues within the strategic plan and use the best practices from other successful non-profits to generate additional revenue streams. Bina publically congratulated past board member and Chair of the Development Committee, Elizabeth O’Brien for her leadership in reaching the goal of $1,000,000 in revenue.

VI. Old Business

Bylaws Ad-Hoc Committee: Bina stated that preliminary phone discussions have taken place with committee members Mastro, Remensnyder and Lucas to examine other similar sports organizations bylaws. The first formal committee call will take place within two weeks. Bina stated that the committee is looking to other non-profits serving people who are blind, and other similar sport organizations to recruit additional committee members.

A discussion took place regarding the current Sports Technical Committee and Disciplinary Committee. Lucas explained that these committees were discussed and tabled during the December board meeting. The board agreed to allow the Bylaws Ad-Hoc Committee to do their due diligence in examining the bylaws in their entirety including how to proceed with the Sports Technical and Disciplinary Committees.

Youth Development Committee: Lieberman reported that Lucas approved partial funding out of the USABA budget to send two Paralympic athletes in July to the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI) conference held in Boston in July. In return, USABA will receive an exhibit table, logo placement on t-shirts and a free membership for children who are visually impaired and join USABA. Lieberman also stated that she would be submitting a proposal to Association of Rehabilitation for Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) for her and Lucas to co-present during the AER conference in Seattle in July.
Bushland also mentioned he and the Minnesota NAPVI partnered with USA Figure Skating to conduct a learn to skate program for sighted and VI children in Minneapolis on January 16, and stated this could be an on-going program. Miller and Parrigin recommended that Lucas search the archives for a coach from Delaware who conducted skating programs for the blind and visually impaired in the 1980 who could be a potential resource.

VII. Next board teleconference meeting: April 18 at 7:30 Eastern Time.

VIII. Closing: Motion to close meeting made by Bina and seconded by Parrigin. There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm EST.