

Minutes of the Organizational Services Conference Call

June 30, 2016 8:00 p.m. EST

Present: Ed Koch, Chair; Ginger Mulanax, Secretary; Lefty Martin; Linda Melzer; Herb Nicholls; Katherine Branch; Wayne Roberts; Carolyn Griggs; Win Eggers; Ruth White; Ron Pate; BJ Palma; Frances Brown; Desiree Friedman, National Office; Stephanie Hightower, USATF President. A quorum was present for business.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. EST. The Chair stated that there were three items of business on which to report: Site Selection update, Special Election for the Youth Committee, and the elections at the Annual Meeting.

Special Election for Temporary Youth Chair: Stephanie Hightower, USATF President, asked that she be allowed to speak to the committee now as she had another conference call to join at 8:15 p.m. She explained that unfortunate circumstances had led to the Board taking legal consequences against the Youth Executive Committee. The BOD felt it necessary to take immediate action based on their fiduciary responsibilities to suspend thirteen members of Youth Executive Committee – the five elected officers, the five Zone Reps, and three ex officio members (the Youth Legal Counsel, the Youth Past President, and the Regional Coordinator Representative). Those thirteen were suspended because they allegedly made the decisions that violated USATF regulations. Stephanie clarified that our responsibility was to see that all regulations are followed when setting up the special election (after the JO in August or September). The suspended members are no longer members of USATF; most have been served papers notifying them of the civil lawsuit the BOD filed against them in Indiana. Stephanie explained because of the litigation that all USATF Articles and Regulations must be followed precisely. She also stated that USATF Articles and Regulations supersede any committee operating rules. According to our regulations no one suspended can run for office. She also said that anyone providing assistance to the suspended members can also be suspended. Ed Koch explained Linda Phelps, Youth Past Chair and a member of the Organizational Services Committee, has been removed from our committee. Stephanie answered various questions and excused herself to her other conference call.

Ed continued to explain that the original timeframe approved on our last conference call (5-31) was impossible to meet due to the filings of the litigations. The Youth Executive Committee chose not to be involved with the Hersey Meet which was handled by the National Office. Ed emphasized the importance of electing at least a temporary chair for two reasons: 1) need someone to chair the Youth Committee in Orlando; and 2) need a temporary chair for the Organizational Services Committee to communicate through for the remainder of the vacant Youth positions. Organizational Services has the authority to hold a special election for the chair. Additional concerns were articulated for general discussion:

- 1) Who is actually eligible to vote in the special election?
- 2) How might the court's decision affect what the Organizational Services Committee does?
- 3) Why was everyone on the Youth Executive Board not suspended?
- 4) Can the time requirement for election notices be met?
- 5) Is it possible the Election Panel could be added to the complaint?
- 6) If so, who would represent the Election Panel legally?

Ed asked the committee to revise the May 31st recommendation to the BOD. Ron Pate made the motion to revise the recommendation to the BOD to establish a new timeline for a special election electing a temporary Youth Chair after the Junior Olympics in August or September. The exact timeline will be created by the Chair and subject to distribution and approval of the whole committee. Motion included

asking the BOD to amend the regulations to temporarily allow acceptance of nominations and voting by email through a dedicated email. Motion seconded by Herb Nicholls and passed with no “nay” votes or abstentions. More time will be available for the whole process, but the same general plan and timeframe as discussed in May will be followed. Ed adjusted the size of the Election Panel from five to seven and appointed – Herb Nicholls, Ruth White, Win Eggers, Ed Koch, an athlete, Bill Roe and Wayne Roberts.

Site Selection: Ed said the memo was sent to the BOD recommending the Reno for the 2019 and 2020 Annual Meeting with Salt Lake City as backup. Desiree said Site Selection was on the Board’s agenda for the upcoming meeting in Eugene. Ed reminded us that the process for site selection has changed. We no longer approve sites at the Annual Meeting before the contracts are finalized. If the Board approves our recommendation, then the National Office will negotiate the final contract hopefully for improved benefits.

Election Process for the remainder of 2016: Stephanie had told us that suspended members can not be candidates/nominators/seconders for the 2016 USATF Elections in any election according to USATF Counsel. Concern about the timeliness of USOC or court decisions and how that would impact our elections occurred. Ed expressed the belief that the USOC decision will come first; then the Indiana Civil Court decision. But we really have no idea how long the decisions will take. Desiree said she had sent the nomination notice out June 14 within the required timeframe. At the 2016 Annual Meeting an election room will be used for the USATF wide election of the President, LDR Division Chair, and three BOD positions; as well as various committee elections. Our committee will still need election panels for the Officials Committee, AAC, the Youth Committee, Men’s T&F and Women’s T&F. Nominations for USATF-wide elections should be in 60 days before the Annual Meeting so a nominations booklet can be prepared and distributed. Additional nominations are allowed until the beginning of the 1st General Session. Nominees for President will have 3 minutes to make speeches about their candidacies. Election will be Saturday AM with a second round, if needed, on Saturday PM. As a reminder, Organizational Committee members can not endorse, make nominations, or second nominations of any candidate. They are to be neutral. Ed suggested if any one has any concerns about neutrality to speak to him directly. Ruth and Desiree said that we will have voting machines for use in the election room. Desiree is working on finalizing the contract.

Ed will notify the committee by email after the BOD makes its decision about the special election and site selection.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Mulanax, Secretary