

Minutes: Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2019 AGM

May 26, 2019, 10 a.m.

6th Floor, 40 Regency Park Drive, Halifax

Attendees: Paula Arruda (HRSSC vote), Pierre Clement (DCSSC vote), Rob Doucette (HRSSC vote), Lisa Gannett (Speedy Kids vote), Una Goggin (Speedy Kids vote), Todd Landon (DCSSC vote), Sheila McGinn (NSMSSC vote), Jonathan McNeil, Greg Milton (NSMSSC vote), Merrell Moorhead, Lauren Muzak-Ruff (AVSSC 2 votes), Lynette Robinson, Brent Thompson, Olga Lucia Torres

1. Call to order at 10:10 a.m. Quorum present.
2. Amendments to minutes from 2018 SSNS AGM: date to be corrected to May 27, 2018, references to Annapolis Valley Speed Skating Club (“AVSSC”) to be corrected. Moved by Pierre, seconded by Merrell; all in favour.
3. Reports:
 - a. President’s report: Greg sees as goals for SSNS to increase membership numbers and learn how to do without an administrative assistant since we have lost that position for the immediate future.
 - b. Treasurer’s report:
 - i. Pierre presented the financial statements: Balance Sheet, as of 31 March 2019, and Income Statement, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Both statements were prepared and signed by Hilda LaPierre, Sport Nova Scotia accountant. Equity is \$20,414.23. Loss for the year was \$4,981.36; this loss reflects the considerable Performance Pathways Expenses for Canada Winter Games preparation and coach and athlete travel to national championships. SSNS had 441 members in 2018-19. Discussion ensued about the Spordle fee of \$1 charged for each member manually entered in Speed Skate Canada’s MAS (online registrants have an administrative fee taken off as a percentage of their total fees paid); Pierre to follow up. The confused financials since 2015 have been largely cleared up, with the preparation of financial statements for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 by Hilda. The membership expressed satisfaction with this outcome. Approval of the financial statements: moved by Pierre, seconded by Paula; all in favour.
 - ii. Pierre presented a budget for 2019-20. “Block Funding” of \$3,750 needs to be changed to “Core Funding” of \$3,750. Discussion ensued about the \$4,000 budgeted for “Admin Support.” Concerns were expressed by Lisa, Paula, and Una that this allocation would diminish the funds available to support athlete development, including travel support for coaches and skaters to attend national championships, given the huge cut in Performance Pathways funding we face for the next few years. Approval of the budget: moved by Pierre, seconded by Rob; 8 in favour, 3 opposed.

- c. Committee reports:
 - i. Club and Membership Development: agreed that we should repeat the “Yes, You Can Do That Here” Open Houses project, with one open house to be hosted by each club. Brochures from this year’s project are available for the clubs.
 - ii. Canada Winter Games: no additional remarks
 - iii. Officials: Brent noted that he and Mike Sullivan are doing work on timing systems and suggested that the committee needs to ensure that officials are kept up to date about rule changes by bringing Level 2 officials together.
 - iv. Athlete Development: Lisa emphasized that we can only gain additional branch positions for the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships and Canada East Short Track Championships by sending as many qualified skaters to these events as possible since points are contributed to branch totals by the top 2 skaters in each age class and only by pursuit and relays teams entirely composed of skaters from the branch. The committee has requested that SSNS continue to provide a significant level of funding to skaters and coaches travelling to national championships, that SSNS consider sanctioning a list of provincial records, and that SSNS look into the purchase of provincial skinsuits to be loaned out to skaters competing at national championships. Discussion ensued about provincial records: Jonathan supported provincial records for giving skaters something to strive for: Todd opposed provincial records and recommended “subclubs” – i.e. recognition for skating under a certain time in a distance – instead. Discussion ensued about skinsuits: Lisa and Paula expressed regret that funds used to purchase skinsuits for the CWG were not used instead to purchase provincial skinsuits that could be used for any national championship event; Sheila recommended that the skaters themselves carry out a fundraising campaign for skinsuits.
- d. Club reports
 - i. NSMSSC – no additional remarks
 - ii. HRSSC – Paula noted that a significant increase in membership (with the help of the open houses and word-of-mouth) and a small decrease in ice time allowed the club to achieve a balanced budget this year; also that Richard Purcell has taken over the website and brought registration for the Citadel Cup online.
 - iii. Speedy Kids – Lisa noted that the club sent skaters to the CACLT for the first time and that for coaching development, Bethany is now certified at the Comp-Intro level, and Lisa and Bethany have fulfilled all requirements for Comp-Dev certification except the observation-in-competition.
 - iv. DCSSC – Sheila noted that the club’s first sanctioned competition, the Dartmouth Crossing Sprints, was a great success, with 92 registered skaters from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and PEI; despite being a one-day competition, out-of-province skaters were keen on attending, with the proximity to IKEA apparently a draw.
 - v. NSBSSC – not present
 - vi. AVSSC – no additional remarks

4. New Business

- a. Emera Oval safety: Brent stated that progress has been made on safety issues, with grass planted at the perimeter and a 3-metre pullback from the track achieved. Greg addressed concerns about the potential liability of SSNS Board members that have been raised previously and were reiterated by Sheila at the meeting: he is investigating the cost of securing insurance for board members, and he stressed the need to document a plan for improving safety at the oval that demonstrates due diligence. For the 2023 CWG, which is being hosted by Charlottetown, it is possible that the speed skating events will be held in Halifax, so this may present an opportunity for obtaining a safety pad system for the oval. Greg noted that Jenn Nickerson, SSPEI President, has expressed interest in holding LT camps with us at the oval.
 - b. Outcomes for funding: the Sport Development Tool document with the various pillars of Organizational Effectiveness, Participation, Coaching and Officiating, and Excellence was circulated. Greg noted that we are committed to increasing our membership by 10-15%. It was also noted that for officials, the committee should update the list each year, so that we can track numbers. Todd noted that coaches need to be encouraged to complete their portfolios. Pierre noted that we can adjust outcomes in the fall. Discussion ensued about the need to set achievable outcomes (e.g. increased numbers of members, coaches, and officials), the desirability of documenting the improved performances of our athletes in competition even though our Excellence funding was cut, and the importance of demonstrating improved organizational effectiveness in order to regain Sport NS funding for an administrative assistant.
 - c. SSNS Board insurance: Greg is looking into this.
 - d. Committee mandates: Greg asked Lisa and the committee's incoming members to come up with a mandate for the Athlete Development Committee.
 - e. Appointments to SSNS committees for 2019-20. Moved by Brent, seconded by Sheila, with all in favour that the following volunteers be appointed to SSNS committees: Bethany McKinley-Young and Mike Sullivan to Athlete Development, Sheila to Competitions, Pierre to Finance, and Paula and Brent to Officials. Jonathan subsequently agreed to serve on the Coaching committee. Additional volunteers for committees will be sought from the clubs. Paula mentioned that Richard Purcell is interested in discussing communication goals with the SSNS board and might be tapped as a volunteer for the SSNS website, as he was responsible for setting up online registration for the Citadel Cup and Atlantic Cup.
 - f. Jonathan asked about visibility of the lines on the oval since it is difficult for user groups to share the ice when skaters can't see the lines. Discussion about kind of paint, budget for a second painting, increased melting in sun. Jonathan also asked about funding for Comp-Dev courses: Lisa stated that individual coaches can apply for funding through Sport NS.
5. Appointment of directors for 2019-20. Moved by Sheila, seconded by Brent; all in favour: Paula Arruda (HRSSC), Lindsay Arsenault (HRSSC), Pierre Clement (DCSSC), Monica Lloyd (AVSSC), Donna Marie Marinelli (SBSSC), Greg Milton (NSMSSC), Steve Raftery (AVSSC), Lynette Robinson (Speedy Kids), and Olga Lucia Torres (Speedy Kids). The new Board of Directors will meet immediately following the AGM to elect President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 6. Adjournment at 12:40 p.m. Moved by Jonathan, seconded by Sheila; all in favour.