



Alberta Amateur Speed Skating Association

Olympic Oval, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

AASSA Annual General Meeting Minutes - 2020

In Attendance

Marika Nadal , Cherise Eaves, Robert Fenton, Kim Paterson, Michelle Chabot, Kristine Pederson, Andrew, Nick Schultz, Chris Padbury, Andrew Jenkins, John MacLennan, Lynne Searles, Peter McCrory, Owen Cook, Mike Hall, Wen-Shu Huang, Paul Chateau, Robert Fenton, Rhona Hathaway, Zachary Lacroix, Sean Ireland, Justin de Vlieg .Gregg Planert, Emma Piayda, Antonio Faiola, Ezgi Kaya, Gabrielle Fletcher, Vanda Bilous Kinshella, Jason Thomas, Debby Fisher, Tarek Diane Anderson, Sam Pollock, Lorelei St Rose, Tammy Currie, Fiona Barnett, Chris Stone, Robin Borstmayer, Charmaine Stephens, Yuriko Boyce, Sandra Lueders, Thomas Dudley, Rachel and Chris Miller, Laurie Ehrman, Josie Daub, Luc Cote, Aleksander Dimas-Lehndorf , Blair Carbert, Ryan Hickman, Heleen Erasmus, Jill Gjerlaug, Shaun Medicott, Gordon Farquharson,

Meeting was called to order at 09:16.

Welcome & Introductions

Antonio introduced the special guests in attendance and review the agenda.

- Blair Carbert, President – Speed Skating Canada
- Peter McCrory, Director, Olympic Oval

Antonio reviewed the agenda and asked if any changes was required. No changes were proposed.

Antonio also review the voting process as this is AASSA's first virtual AGM. Virtual voting will follow this process:

- A motion will be brought forward.
- The motion will be seconded.
- Those eligible to vote will be asked if anyone opposes the motion.
- Those eligible to vote will be asked if anyone is abstaining from voting.
- If no one opposes or abstains, the motion will pass and assume all were in favour.

Recognition of club delegates

The following club representatives will carry all the votes for their respective clubs:

- Banff/Canmore Speed Skating Club – Robin Borstmayer
- Calgary Grizzlies Speed Skating Club – Gord Farquharson
- Calgary Speed Skating Association (CSSA) - Josie Daub
- Edmonton Speed Skating Association (ESSA) - Chris Miller
- Ichi-ban Speed Skating Club - Gregg Planert
- Lethbridge Speed Skating Association (LSSA) - Tarek Adelman
- Lloydminster Border Blades Speed Skating Club - Charmaine Stephens
- Medicine Hat Kinsmen Speed Skating Club - Emma Piayda

- Peace River Northern Lites Speed Skating Club - Vanda Bilous Kinshella
- Peace Wapiti – Speed Skating Club - John MacLennan
- Red Deer Central Lions Speed Skating Club - Nick Schultz
- Rocky Mountain House Speed Skating Club - Fiona Barnett

The meeting has met quorum.

Review of 2019 AASSA AGM minutes and approval

Motion: Marc Poulin motions to approve the meeting minutes from the 2019 AGM. Josie Daub seconds the motion. No member opposes the motion or abstain from voting. The motion is passed.

Josie Daub– volunteered in previous year to review financial statements however these have only now become available for review. Moving forward, AASSA will look for volunteers closer to the release of the financial statements.

Formal Business

All Board member reports have been made available ahead of time and posted on the AASSA website.

President

The past few months has been challenging, especially with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which has disrupted the end of the 2019-20 season. This season we experience staffing turnover, with recruiting an Office Manager and filling a Technical Director role that had been vacant for some time and remained vacant in the later part of the season.

VP Skater Development

The Skater Development Committee (SDC) held ten meetings over the season. Overall, our Alberta skaters performed well. One of the focus for the SDC this season has been on reviewing and improving the provincial team selection process. This remains a work in progress as we finalized the criteria manual.

During his tenure as Technical Director, Joffrey Larocque offered an online course to improve coaching. A total of 12 coaches attended the course from all over the province. Additionally, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AASSA launched an online training program which has been well received thus far.

The provincial team skaters vote for their representatives on the SDC. Two skaters were put forward and both were active throughout the season. Thank you to both skater reps.

VP Officials

The committee has struggled in the past couple years as not all clubs had representatives on the Officials Development Committee (ODC). The focus this season has been developing officials and enabling them to attend national level competition to earn upgrades as part of their development.

Speed Skating Canada offered officials grants for level 2 development. We applied for three grants and were successful for all of them. The third grant was for a level 3 clinic; however, this session was cancelled due to COVID-19. One outstanding and ongoing item for the ODC is to add information on the AASSA website that is value-add for the officials.

VP Communication

Kristine reported on her fourth year in this role. She spent a lot of time on supporting administrative functions during the transition of Office Manager on top of her role in communications. She is constantly looking for images and stories and reminded all the clubs to tag AASSA in social media posts. She acknowledged the website needs an overhaul which we were unable to complete this year. Kristine outlined some of the challenges of managing the current website and unfortunately there's no funding available for it now.

The social media platforms have been very busy. She noted that Instagram is most used by athletes, while Facebook more used by parents and clubs. Twitter is still used to a lesser extent.

A question came from the membership about how to tag AASSA. Kristine shared that using @albertaspeedskating is the way to go across all social media platforms. This notifies her and allows her to respond and/or promote the post further.

Director at Large

Luc shared that the role of Director at Large fulfills three functions:

- It supports the president as needed.
- It is also a sounding board for other members on the team.
- Lead or act as main support on a particular project.

During this past season, Luc has focused on guiding the Board through a strategic plan review.

VP Club & Membership

Yuriko shared that she was unable to spend as much time on the portfolio and Board meetings this past season as she had hoped. She did some work on a technical handbook for clubs which she hopes will be completed this coming year.

Treasurer's Report

Michelle presented the Treasurer's report and thanked Sue Steckle, Wen-Shu and Kristine for their help in completing the report. The financials were completed last Monday. Michelle noted the following:

- The Canmore camp is a challenging event to plan and budget for. It was budgeted on a \$5,000 grant however the actual grant came was reduced to \$2,000. The Board will need to further discuss next steps with the camp.
- It is unknown if the 2020 Canmore camp will move forward given the COVID-19 pandemic. AASSA does currently have a deposit that we're working through to get the money back.
- The Technical Director role has not been filled and the funding for the role has been reduced by half to \$15,000.
- AASSA's high performance long track program has ended.

- The Casino has been cancelled which is a significant fundraising activity for AASSA. We're anticipating the next casino event to bring in less revenue given the current situation. No re-scheduled dates have been offered.

Josie Daub thanked Michelle for great work on the Treasurer's report this year which she noted was much improved compared to years past.

Antonio noted that moving forward, provincial government funding is unknown at this stage.

Motion: Marc Poulin motions to approve Treasurer's report. Luc Cote seconds the motion. No member opposes the motion or abstain from voting. The motion is passed.

Kristine presented the membership numbers. She clarified that Associate members are any parents and others involved with the clubs, volunteering, etc. There is a chance to increase these numbers as some clubs have low member numbers even though they have good participation. These membership numbers matter from a funding perspective so if clubs can ensure their Associate members enrollment is accurate, this will help AASSA.

Summary of club reports

These were submitted by clubs and are available on the website. Antonio thanked the clubs for their activities and initiatives this past season in promoting and support the sport of speed skating in the province.

Strategic planning

Luc presented the work that was completed by the Board on the strategic plan. The process began with the Board completing a gap assessment and proposed goals put forward. What was clear is that too many goals were put forward for an organization that is mostly volunteer based.

Luc shared the S.W.O.T. (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat) analysis that was completed by the Board. Luc then presented the proposed Vision and Mission statements slide.

At the end of the presentation, a question was asked on how AASSA will measure success. Luc replied that we are currently at the planning phase and have yet to determine metrics and milestones.

There was feedback shared by a member on the impact of the Safe Sport initiative and how it applies to the strategic plan. Luc again shared that the plan is not at the tactical level yet.

Marc Poulin acknowledged the work by Luc to complete this task and leading the Board through the planning session.

AASSA Executive Elections

All roles were filled with a single candidate name put forward for each open role, except for the role of Director at Large. All candidates were voted in without any member opposed.

- **Secretary/Treasurer** - Michelle Chabot
- **Vice-President Club & Membership** - Gabrielle Fletcher

- **Vice-President Skater Development** - Marc Poulin
- **Vice-President Marketing** - Thomas Dudley
- **Vice-President Officials development** - Andrew Cross
- **Director at large election**
 Robert (Bob) Fenton and Heleen Erasmus were given the opportunity to speak about themselves and their candidacy for the role. Voting occurred verbally over Zoom and monitored by Luc Cote. The club's votes were confirmed by Luc as follows:
 - Banff/Canmore Speed Skating Club – Bob
 - Calgary Grizzlies Speed Skating Club – Heleen
 - Calgary Speed Skating Association (CSSA) - Bob
 - Edmonton Speed Skating Association (ESSA) - Bob
 - Ichi-ban Speed Skating Club - Bob
 - Lethbridge Speed Skating Association (LSSA) - Bob
 - Lloydminster Border Blades Speed Skating Club - Bob
 - Medicine Hat Kinsmen Speed Skating Club – Abstained
 - Peace River Northern Lites Speed Skating Club - Bob
 - Peace Wapiti – Speed Skating Club - Bob
 - Red Deer Central Lions Speed Skating Club - Bob
 - Rocky Mountain House Speed Skating Club - Bob

There were 19 votes in favour of Bob and 2 in favour of Heleen. Bob has been voted as Director at Large.

New Items

The following items were addressed:

- Speed Skating Canada has introduced Interpodia as the new membership registration system. This will require work from each club to transition to this platform. Every club has received information about Interpodia. Clubs were encouraged to reach out to AASSA if support is required to transition from MAS to Interpodia.
- The Red Deer and Calgary Grizzly speed skating clubs have provided volunteers to assist with the migration to Interpodia. Wen-Shu (Office Manager) will be the main contact assisted by Gabrielle (VP – Club & Membership) and Kristine (VP – Communication).
- All clubs are encouraged to ensure all member information is inputted and nominate a point of contact for the transition. That club contact will be the individual liaising with Interpodia. We recommend someone who is familiar with registration and invoicing.

Special Guests

Speed Skating Canada Update

Blair Carbert provided an update on Speed Skating Canada. Despite many of the challenges of late, it was a good year for SSC in both long and short track.

Olympic Oval update

Peter McCrory introduced himself as he's new to the role and looks forward to working with AASSA.

Roundtable

Competition schedule

Discussion occurred about the upcoming competition season and qualifying events. The matter will be discussed in the next few weeks and SDC representatives will need to be present for a virtual meeting soon. Some of the clubs shared that there's a sense of urgency as many of them need to confirm ice time soon. The SDC is working towards releasing a schedule earlier than in previous years however the current COVID-19 pandemic provides a level of uncertainty.

Code of Conduct

Clubs are looking to AASSA for direction on conduct in sport. Antonio indicated that this will be a takeaway for AASSA.

Antonio also informed the clubs that AASSA can make its Zoom account available to clubs if they need to conduct a virtual AGM or other meetings.

Return to Play

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, there are several questions around return to play/sport. Antonio shared that there is no return to play/sport plan yet, however AASSA will take the lead on this as more information is provided by government and health officials.

Antonio asked how can AASSA help.

Josie Daub shared feedback from CSSA on a return to play/sport plan. CSSA has been offering virtual programming at this point and looking to offer inline skating and dryland outdoor programs. CSSA is currently working on a month to month basis to navigate through the pandemic.

Peter McCrory assured all present that the Olympic Oval will be ready and follow best practices as a venue to help people overcome the fear of returning to sport, in the context of a pandemic.

Antonio thanked everyone who participated in the AGM. The meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.