

US CHESS
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
January 13-15, 2018
Orlando, FL

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, FL. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the audio files online.

The following Executive Board members were present:

Mike Hoffpaur, President
Allen Priest, Vice President
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance
Mike Nietman, Secretary

Anjelina Belakovskaia, Member at Large
Hal Sprechman, Member at Large
Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath, Member at Large
Carol Meyer, Executive Director

The following guests were present:

Dan Lucas, Director of Publications
Boyd Reed, Director of Events

OPEN SESSION I, Monday, January 15, 2018, Orlando, FL

President Hoffpaur welcomed everyone to the meeting. Secretary Nietman called the roll and established a quorum. All Board members were present. He welcomed Boyd Reed, the new Director of Events, and Dan Lucas, Director of Publications, and thanked them for all the hard work they have both done throughout their careers with US Chess and through the transitions that have taken place in the past year. Mr. Hoffpaur called everyone's attention to the agenda and gave a brief overview of what would be discussed at the meetings.

OFFICER AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

President Hoffpaur called on Chuck Unruh to report on finance.

Vice President of Finance Report

Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance, commented the Board had been working on strategy and finance for the past two days. He stated that finances were stable and the balance sheet is excellent as they continue to build a cash position. Other topics discussed were upgrades to our infrastructure and additional funds allocated in the budget for top players and representatives in the next Olympiad and World Team. He stated the 2018-2019 budget is ahead of schedule and there will be a more in depth report in August.

Mike Hoffpaur thanked Chuck Unruh and Vice President Allen Priest for the hard work they have done not only in tracking the finances for this year but also for preparing the budget. Allen Priest commented on US Chess bank accounts in Crossville, TN, Scottrade and investments, funding and prioritizing events, and employee benefits. He also expressed appreciation for the help from our chief sponsor group in St. Louis and the Top Players and the Scholastic Committees. He advised that the Board continue to use caution in guarding the reserve account, in making investments in our programs and investments in our infrastructure for any future adverse circumstances.

President Hoffpaur called on Carol Meyer, Executive Director, to give her report.

Executive Director's Report

Carol Meyer thanked the Board for their guidance and support through the committee work and for having a Board that is as active and engaged as we have at US Chess. She highlighted changes in the events department as Franc Guadalupe retired at the end of 2017 and Boyd Reed, previously the Assistant Director, became the new Director of Events. Other topics reported on were as follows: US Chess staffing needs; revisions to the US Chess Employee Handbook and Employee Benefits Handbook; trophy vendors; partnerships and vendors; research grants and partnering with those organizations who are interested in exploring the benefits of chess regarding cognition and performance in academics and in the aging community; development and fundraising; and Phase I of our new infrastructure. Regarding infrastructure, she stated that this phase is well underway and will include upgrades to our office phone system and internet bandwidth. She also conveyed what this will mean for our web presence as well as the associated services that interlink between our public interface through the web and our internal support which is our databases. Other technology upgrades are still being reviewed.

Executive Director Meyer introduced the following motion:

EB18-039 – Meyer - I move that the Executive Director be authorized to enter a 3-year contract with Skytel to provide phone services to US Chess. **PASSED 7-0**

Director of Events Report

Boyd Reed, Director of Events, reported on the following topics: the success of the 2017 National K-12; upcoming national events; staffing and background checks including expenses and locations for events; scheduling of events; SuperNationals and larger event locations for the future; hotel food provisions and venues; team room reservations; international events and players; and identification bands.

Director of Publications Report

Dan Lucas, Director of Publications, thanked the Board for inviting him to participate in these strategic planning meetings which are informative to Publications missions and goals. He shared how his role has changed over the past few years as Director of Publications and as editor of *Chess Life* with the addition of an assistant editor in 2017. He reported on the following topics: the February, March, and April issues of *Chess Life*; the February issue of *Chess Life Kids*; digital downloads; future projects such as the Spring National programs and EB Election ballots; TLA Newsletters; the digitizing of our entire *Chess Life* collection; and editorial fees.

President Hoffpauir called for a brief recess.

OPEN SESSION II, Monday, January 15, 2018, Orlando, FL

President Hoffpauir opened the meeting by asking Secretary Nietman to confirm that the November 2017 Executive Board meeting minutes have been completed and were passed by the Board. He gave a brief overview of what the Board discussed on Friday as part of their strategic planning meeting and invited Chuck Unruh and Allen Priest to report on the budget process discussed in Saturday's meeting as well.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mike Hoffpauir called on Carol Meyer to discuss the work being done on Committee Charters. She reported the office put together documentation regarding the purpose each committee was formed for and the charges given to them. As US Chess relies heavily on committee guidance, recommendations and advice, EB liaisons were asked to engage their committees to develop charters to help determine the purpose and scope

of each committee. A detailed discussion ensued among the Board about the expectations of committees and the structure of charters.

President Hoffpauir recessed the meeting for lunch.

OPEN SESSION III, Monday, January 15, 2018, Orlando, FL

President Hoffpauir opened the meeting with a recap of what was previously discussed concerning committees and asked that each Executive Board liaison engage their committee to develop a committee charter. At this time, he called for discussion on delegate motions referred to the Executive Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Hoffpauir called on the Board to discuss new business. The following Executive Board motions were introduced, discussed in detail, and voted upon:

EB18-040 – Priest - I move that the board of directors affirms a prior board of director's policy requiring that the US Open end no later than August 15. However, given that US Chess had a US Open previously scheduled in St Louis that had to be moved due a hotel issue, our desire to hold that event in St. Louis, and difficulty in finding a way to schedule a St. Louis area US Open within the time guideline, we make a one-time exception to the policy and authorize the events staff to schedule the 2020 US Open in St. Louis to end on August 16. **PASSED 7-0**

EB18-041 – Belakovskaia - I move that US Chess authorize \$5,000 in additional funds for the Women's Chess Fund ("WCF") created and approved by EB17-041-Priest with a vote of 6-0 in favor. An anonymous gift was received by US Chess to offset the additional requested funds. WCF is authorized to spend up to the aforementioned amount in support of volunteer activities at US Chess events. Furthermore, Women's committee members shall submit detailed expense reports with receipts to the Committee Chair and Executive Director for their approval of the requested reimbursements no later than sixty days after the event. **PASSED 7-0**

EB18-042 – Belakovskaia - I move that US Chess support the new Regional Women's Championships – a movement recently initiated throughout the U.S., by providing the organizers of those events with free online TLAs during 2018, to encourage growth in the under-represented segment of US Chess female membership. **TABLED**

EB18-043 – Belakovskaia - I move for US Chess to promote and encourage inclusion of female and mix doubles prizes in local and state tournaments, by offering 15% reduction in TLA cost to the organizers who offers women/girls prizes, mix doubles and/or for all female events, to incentivize the organizers to attract more female players to the game of chess and increase female participation at events. **TABLED**

Anjelina Belakovskaia moved to support 2018 FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled with a \$1,000 donation (EB18-044). After discussion, Mike Nietman moved to substitute the wording in EB18-045 for the original wording.

EB18-044 – Belakovskaia - I move that US Chess authorize a \$1,000 contribution to support 2018 FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled that will be organized and run in the United States. Such contribution is aligned with one of the main US Chess Core Values of Accessibility - "Chess can and should be enjoyed by individuals regardless of social and economic status or physical and developmental capability". **SUBSTITUTE WORDING PASSED (See EB18-045)**

EB18-045 – Nietman - I move to substitute that US Chess authorize \$1000 for two \$500 grants to the top two rated US Chess members pre-registered to the 2018 FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled. The \$1000 is coming from donations and if not received, the stipends will not be paid. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Allen Priest abstaining.

Chuck Unruh brought attention to the Professional Players Health Benefits (PPHB) Fund and a brief discussion followed. The Board decided to continue discussion on the PPHB Fund at a later time.

EB18-046 – Unruh - I move that the Executive Board create a "US Chess Accessibility and Special Circumstances: Person of the Year Award." The award name change complies with the recommendations of A&SCC, Executive Director and the Executive Board as requested in NDM 17-01. **PASSED 7-0**

President Hoffpauir concluded the Open Session meeting and moved into a closed session.

OPEN SESSION IV, Monday, January 15, 2018, Orlando, FL

President Hoffpauir opened the meeting stating they have completed their closed sessions and there were no motions that needed to be introduced from the closed session. He announced the Board had consensus that their next meeting will take place May 19th and 20th, 2018 in Louisville, KY at the Galt House. He conveyed the Board will most likely meet via conference call before the May meeting.

Mike Hoffpauir adjourned the meeting.