

US Chess
Executive Board Meeting
March 9, 2021
Zoom

This document is a summary of the proceedings of this meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the audio files online.

OPEN SESSIONS

Tuesday, March 9

Executive Board members present:

Mike Hoffpauir, President

Chuck Unruh, VP of Finance

David Day, Member

Fun Fong, Member

Randy Bauer, Vice President

Ryan Velez, Secretary

David Hater, Member

Carol Meyer, Executive Director

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order.

Open Session 1

President Hoffpauir started the meeting by asking Executive Director Meyer to provide background for a discussion about the US Open. She mentioned work that had begun in early 2020, including proposals regarding reformatting the event to be fewer days while preserving the number of rounds. She noted the historic decline in participation in the event and the continuing financial loss to US Chess.

President Hoffpauir provided graphs illustrating attendance numbers over decades and the financial losses from 2015-2019.

Executive Director Meyer explained some of the costs associated with the event.

President Hoffpauir opened discussion among board members regarding ways to make the event more viable. Board members mentioned reducing the number of days, especially eliminating one of the weekends, and increasing entry fees and/or reducing invitational financial incentives. Board members also discussed revenue received from t-shirts bookstore sales, the addition of new events and the positive impact of endowments/sponsorships for invitational events.

The board tasked the US Open Committee to look at ways to improve the sustainability of this event in more detail with a report provided to the board by their May meeting.

The board then entered closed session.

Open Session 2

President Hoffpauir mentioned that the board discussed putting forward the college chess President's Cup (aka Final Four of Chess) event allowing a one-time national championship for the online event due to this year's unusual circumstances. The motion will be made and voted on publicly in the online portal.

President Hoffpauir shared that the board also discussed the US Chess voucher programs during closed session. The board will get committee input on those programs.

In addition, adding online events to the 2021 calendar was part of the closed discussion with further input sought from the Director of Events before formal announcement.

President Hoffpauir thanked everyone for their interest in viewing the proceedings.

The board will meet again on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

President Hoffpauir thanked the board members and the meeting adjourned.