

**US Chess**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**August 5, 2021**  
**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

*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 file online.*

***OPEN SESSIONS***

***Thursday, August 5***

Executive Board members present:

Mike Hoffpauir, President

Chuck Unruh, VP of Finance

Fun Fong, Member

Carol Meyer, Executive Director

Randy Bauer, Vice President

David Day, Member

David Hater, Member

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order with Ryan Velez absent.

**Open Session 1**

President Hoffpauir opened the meeting by providing a summary of the agenda for those present.

The following two motions were voted on without discussion.

**EB21-085 – Hoffpauir** – I move that the minutes for the July 2021 Executive Board meeting be accepted. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Randy Bauer abstaining and with Ryan Velez absent and not voting

**EB21-086 – Hoffpauir** – I move to approve the budget as discussed during closed sessions. **PASSED 6-0** with Ryan Velez absent and not voting

President Hoffpauir then turned over the floor to Vice President of Finance Unruh to go over the fiscal year-end financials.

VP of Finance Unruh addressed the impact of the pandemic on fiscal year 2020-2021, highlighting the adaptability of the organization in entering online play, which ameliorated the anticipated impact of the pandemic on membership income. He added that US Chess had a good investment year and also did a good job of controlling expenses, with the lack of travel for in-person tournaments also having a positive impact. All of these factors resulted in a surplus.

He then turned to the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, which is set conservatively to break even. It anticipates that membership will not yet return to pre-COVID numbers.

Vice President Bauer mentioned the Paycheck Protection Program and its positive impact on the 2020-2021 end numbers and VP of Finance Unruh elaborated on its importance in ensuring operational stability.

Executive Director Meyer let those in attendance know that more detailed discussions of the budget would take place at the Finance Workshop the next day.

At the prompting of one of the members present, there was a brief discussion of the impact of ratings fees on the past year's financials and the coming year's budget.

President Hoffpauir then called on Hal Terrie, Chair of the US Open Committee, to summarize the committee's work to improve the US Open into the future to ensure participation.

Mr. Terrie summarized the discussions that took place at the workshop on the previous day, including changes to the dates on which the tournament can be scheduled, the event's space requirements for sites, the possibility of adding a Grand Prix event, the requirement of a certain level of illumination in the playing halls as part of the contract and the general desire to keep the invitationals linked to the US Open rather than splitting them.

The floor was then opened for questions regarding the US Open. There were brief discussions that included the trend of players preferring the 6-day schedule, factors affecting the geographical locations of the event, the affect of the shortening of the school year on the attendance of young people, hotel costs, time controls, and the combinations of the US Open with the Invitationals and the Delegates Meeting.

President Hoffpauir then thanked the US Open Committee for its hard work and the people who had participated in the discussion. He encouraged people to continue thinking about the issues raised.

The next agenda item was the format of the Executive Board meetings for the coming year. President Hoffpauir thanked his fellow board members for their patience with the adjusted meeting style during the pandemic when all meetings were held via Zoom.com rather than in-person and were held monthly rather than quarterly. For the coming 2021-2022 board, three in-person board meetings have been budgeted for December.

He elaborated that the board has regular topics that they cover at different times of year for their in-person meetings.

- In the November/December time frame, the board reviews the US Chess mission, goals and objectives, as well as preliminary budget discussions.
- In the February/March time frame, we dive more deeply into the budget and planning for the next fiscal year.
- Then May the meeting focuses on preparations for the coming Delegates Meeting.

Going forward, President Hoffpauir recommended that the board continue meeting via Zoom monthly between the in-person meetings and also to more strictly limit the length of the Zoom meetings.

Vice President Bauer added that the board does vote regularly electronically. However, if the board is not in unanimous agreement regarding the motion, it must be voted on at a live meeting. This is another reason to continue with the monthly Zoom board meetings.

The next in-person board meeting is being planned for December in conjunction with the K-12 Nationals.

President Hoffpauir thanked the committee volunteers for the time they put in over the past year and encouraged other US Chess members to get involved in committees, remarking that it is a good introduction to the governance process. He pointed to the loss of key committee chairs over the past year as another reason that the organization would like to see more people stepping up to be involved in the organization's governance.

Vice President Bauer mentioned that there have been discussions about soliciting the interest of members via a form on the website, reiterating the need to bring in new faces.

Board member David Day also encouraged those at the meeting specifically to get involved in a committee since their presence already indicated a greater interest in matters of governance than the average person.

Audience member Maureen Grimaud suggested using Zoom for training or opportunity sessions. She saw this as a way to include more people who are not in urban areas.

President Hoffpauir affirmed that the board was in general agreement with that idea and that a concern of the board was to have more regional representation on committees.

Vice President Bauer mentioned that there have been the beginnings of discussion about holding the US Open committee workshops online as a way of giving their work more exposure and inviting more participation from membership.

President Hoffpauir added that the idea of holding the annual workshops on Zoom was given a test drive this year by the TDCC because its chairs were not able to travel to the annual meeting. He reported that it worked well with a lot of good discussion and good attendance.

President Hoffpauir then thanked Mike Nolan for being willing to step into his former role of parliamentarian on short notice with the untimely passing of his successor Ken Ballou in the spring of 2021.

President Hoffpauir opened the floor for questions. There was a brief discussion of what would be needed for the US Open to be tournament at which people could achieve norms for FIDE.

Mike Nietman on behalf of the National Invitationals committee asked about when the Ashley Tournament would be launched. Executive Director Meyer indicated that it would not be launched until after current contracts or unless current contracts were altered. She added that 2025 is the first opening to do things differently based on current contracts.

The meeting adjourned.