
SUBJECT: Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting, Tuesday, July 9, 2024

1. **Purpose.** This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Open Session Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. All times listed are Eastern U.S.
2. President Bauer called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM. Executive Director (ED) Ranae Bartlett started the Zoom recording.
 - a. President Bauer called the roll and the following board members responded:
 - Randy Bauer (IA), President
 - Kevin Pryor (FL), Vice President (VP Pryor was not present for the Roll Call, but joined at 8:34 PM while the EB was in Closed Session)
 - Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President (VP) for Finance
 - Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
 - David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large (present and on travel, dialed in by phone)
 - John Fernandez (MO), Member-at-Large
 - Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Member-at-Large
 - Leila D'Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large
 - Ranae Bartlett (AL), Executive Director
 - b. President Bauer asked the members present whether they had any new conflicts of interest to disclose. There were none.
3. **Finance and Operations Report.** VP Finance Chuck Unruh gave a summary of the organization's financial status. He began his summary by noting that US Chess is a "small business" whose income depends on membership, event-generated revenue, and donations from generous members of the Federation. He noted that the Spring of 2024 has seen a trend where event expenses were unusually larger than the revenues being generated, commenting that the primary risk US Chess faces for its events is attendance. As an example, he cited the Pan American Youth (PAY) as a multi-million-dollar expenditure where it does not look like income will match expectations and result in a loss of approximately 18% of US Chess's \$5.5M net worth. He characterized this as a huge loss to the organization, but we are fortunate to have a strong Reserve Fund. Affordable event insurance does not cover us from attendance shortfalls. He continued his report by noting that all other parts of our organization are doing well financially—our investments, payroll, and membership—but our ability to perform accurate event forecasting has become very troublesome especially after the post-COVID surge in event attendance followed by what appears to be a trend of decreased attendance.
4. The Executive Board went into Closed Session at 8:18 PM.
5. The EB reconvened in Open Session at 10:19 PM. There were two (2) motions that emerged from the EB's Closed Session and were read into the record by the Secretary then voted upon at the request of the President.

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- a. **EB24-097 – BOARD:** The Executive Board moves to recognize the US Chess Safe Play Advisory Group as “Committee of the Year” for 2023-24 in recognition of the group’s work throughout the past US Chess fiscal year. **PASSED 8-0.**
 - b. **EB24-098 – BOARD:** Having reviewed the Safe Play report in the case of Eppel vs. Walker, the Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Thomas Walker (US Chess ID 17075091) effective July 10, 2024, for six (6) months for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), subparagraph B (Bullying) and subparagraph D (Harassment) of the Safe Play Policy. However, in view of the fact that Mr. Walker is actively working with a professional therapist and has already experienced several months of suspension from participation in local events to help manage his behavior, the Executive Board further moves to set aside the membership suspension for six (6) months through January 10, 2025. During the period of probation, should Mr. Walker have another incident where his behavior interrupts a US Chess sanctioned event, then the Executive Board may remove the probation and suspend Mr. Walker’s US Chess membership for at least six (6) months beginning the date the Executive Board votes to remove the probation. **PASSED 8-0.**
6. With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board moved to adjourn at 10:23 PM.

Prepared by: Mike Hoffpauir, EB Secretary