

## **Windy City FSC Board Meeting**

October 6th, 2019.

In attendance:

- Becky
- Max
- Karen
- Zoi
- Michael
- Valerie
- Meg
- Carol (via phone)
- Ryder

Call meeting to order, 5:33 PM.

Karen gave a recap about the Club Education Seminar she attended in Pleasant Prairie, WI last month. She found it very helpful and recommends other members consider attending next time. Topics covered included club governance, marketing/social media, financial best practices, etc.

Key takeaway: do a SWOT analysis for the club. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.) Have your board fill it out and plan for how to improve and how to address threats. Repeat it 6 months or a year later to see how much you've improved. Sent this to USFS and get a club excellence award!

Another takeaway: for "minutes," (like this right here), stick to a report of the overall actions, motions, and debates instead of an exact transcript. We will employ a "consent agenda" to quickly approve topics that do not require extensive debate, such as approving past minutes.

Moving forward, the minutes will be posted on our website so that our actions are transparent to the public. Additionally, we will post future meeting times and have our meetings be open to all club members.

### **Consent agenda tonight**

Approve the minutes from last meeting plus Laurie's last membership report as of Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Michael wondered why there appeared to be a decrease on the membership report this year. Meg clarified that there are still "rolling" members coming in, and that we are ahead of where we were at this time last year. We anticipate higher membership numbers than last season.

Karen motions to accept consent agenda, Carol seconds. All in favor.

Karen motions to elect Max as board member, Zoi seconds, all in favor.

Michael motions to accept Becky's resignation from Treasurer, Karen seconds, all in favor. Thank you, Becky, for your service to the club!

Becky motions to appoint Max as Treasurer, Zoi seconds, all in favor.

Max motions to accept Becky's resignation from the board, Michael seconds, all in favor.

Max motions to appoint Meg as Membership Chair, Michael seconds, all in favor.

### **Updated bylaws from Max**

Article 5, Section 2: “non-amateur” was changed to “eligible” but it should be “non-eligible.” Still to be resolved: changing voting rules. Before 2008, you had to be an adult AND a user of the ice dance contract. After 2008, any adult member over 18 can vote, but this was never officially changed in the bylaws. Since nobody currently has a contract right now, **how do we amend our bylaws?** We need to find an exception/loophole. **Max can reach out to Chuck** and look at non-profit laws as to how we can get around this issue. It does not appear to be a USFS requirement, just an old WCFSC rule.

Karen: what do we think about going down to 7 members?

Valerie: it's been a struggle to get members.

Carol, Michael and Meg agree.

Karen: We have exactly 7 right now, which is perfect.

Once we figure out how to amend the bylaws, we can go down to 7.

Max took out membership categories, now defined by the board. We need a policy on membership categories, and a policy on voting. For membership categories, we can start by looking at what we removed. We can change the policy in the future without tampering with the bylaws. That's why we removed it from the bylaws - so the policy can be flexible. Most of the categories are here, it's just the part about being a senior member AND contracted that screws this all up. There were NO contracts this year at all. **Max will check with Chuck and Linda.**

Meg confirms that Laurie says nobody bought a contract this year. The pricing makes it beneficial to do the punch card instead. It's not a big enough savings to do the contract, especially if you miss a session. \$25 out the window for a missed week.

Michael: I did three contracts when I first started, and I wanted to support the clubs. Ice time has escalated a lot since 2000. It's out of control now that we have to charge \$600+.

**Nominate Bev to write policies?** We can send our bylaws to USFS to have them review and assist us. Should we do that with our current ones? Maybe they can help us get around the contract issue. Max will send our “redlined” version to USFS for feedback now.

### **EntryEeze**

We each went around the room and listed pros/cons. Overall, we agreed that EntryEeze will be a helpful tool to streamline membership and test registration, allowing us to accept credit card payments and online submissions of forms for both membership and test sessions.

The Test Chair will manually input data into both EntryEeze and the official USFS website, but we found that it's worth the momentary hassle of inputting data twice to reap the benefits of online registration and eliminating checks and paperwork. Test takers no longer need to worry if their test forms arrive in the mail before the test is full – they will immediately be able to see online if the test is still open. The Test Chair would also be less reliant on the Membership Chair to access certain types of information.

Most, if not all, clubs in the area are using EntryEeze already and speak favorably about it. Skaters and parents report that they would be happy to pay a “convenience fee” to be able to register online, skipping checks and paper forms. Moving to EntryEeze seems logical and positive, fully joining the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (And for anyone who still wishes to pay by check, checks can be manually entered into EntryEeze.) Waivers and out-of-club forms are easily submitted

through EntryEeze as well. One central location for all paperwork from membership reports to financial reports, integrated forms, and payments, streamlining the experience for skaters, parents, and board members alike.

We noted that dance tests likely will still be processed through the mail because the Illinois dance council. Skokie Valley only does MITF and FS online, dance is still a paper form to get around the council issue. (DuPage FSC is not a member of the council and must be charged a fee to test dances.) Some clubs get around this by doing dance tests on a separate day. Max will talk to Ed Mann to get more details about this and see if we can figure out a work-around.

Karen motions in favor of adopting EntryEeze. Max seconds. Unanimous, all in favor! We then created an EntryEeze committee in charge of implementing EntryEeze, with a tentative plan to go live before our test session in January 2020. Val will head the EntryEeze committee; Meg, Max, and Karen will also be on the committee.

We deferred talking about long-term club strategy, and national skating month, until next meeting. The EntryEeze committee will arrange a meeting, and their progress will help dictate when our next full-board meeting will be (currently TBD).

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.