

SPECIAL MEETING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 4TH, 2008
UW-WAUKESHA

RE: WALTER SCHROEDER AQUATIC CENTER, LTD REQUEST FOR MONEY FROM WISCONSIN SWIMMING, INC.

PRESENT: Drew Walden (General Chair), Cathie Marty (Safety Chair), Jeanne Drzewiecki (Administrative Chair), Laren Tiltmann (MFSC), Steve Keller (Age Group Chair), Karen Dionne (Disability Chair), Peter Healy (Finance Chair), Markie Healy (Athlete's Rep), Dave Anderson (WSAC/Senior Chair), Dave Westfahl (Tech Planning), Dave Joyce (Records Chair), George Geanon (Official's Chair), Carol Graham (Registration Chair), Paul Lewno (Treasurer), Dennis DuChene (BST), Laurie Carlson (WEST), Blaine Carlson (WEST).

Meeting was started at 6:15PM.

This meeting was called with the permission of the House of Delegates of Wisconsin Swimming, Inc (WSI) to discuss the request for money from Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center, LTD (WSAC) in the amount of \$250,000 over a 10-year period in order to purchase and repair the existing WSAC.

Drew started the meeting by discussing events that had happened in the Wisconsin Swimming, Inc. LSC (WSI) over the last week since our last meeting. Drew pointed out that as a Body we need to value the importance of keeping pools and not losing viable pools or clubs in the WSI LSC.

Peter Healy went over an email he had sent to the Board of Directors with points added from email input. He stressed the importance of getting something in writing as a guideline for future outside entities coming to WSI for money.

Blaine Carlson asked Dave Anderson if a feasibility study has been done for WSAC and specifically to see if they could continue to run the pool independently. Blaine was asking specifically about donations/contributions. Dave A. stated that no such study has been done although Dave would have access to the YMCA's records and he himself has a long history of what it would cost to annually run the pool.

Discussion regarding what the annual operations of the facility would be (heating, staffing, etc.) ensued. Dave A. stated that WSAC believes that they would be able to make their venture work and they were looking at a "break-even" plan.

Dave Anderson states that WSAC has put together a Business Plan for the WSAC Venture and he would be willing to work with a small group of the Executive Board to present the above specific numbers, but would not share the Business Plan with the general public. He pointed out that as a non-profit organization the public has a right to ask for these records, but WSAC has the right to withhold.

Drew Walden thought that a small committee comprising of past General Chairs (Dale Nickels, Jim Mohr, Patty Kramer and himself) could form this committee to go over the business plan of WSAC.

Dave Anderson was asked where WSAC is at right now with donations. He stated that as of February 4th date they were presently at \$1.14M but that they need to get to \$2M by their April 2008 deadline. Dave A. informed the body that Counsilman/Hunsaker (C/H) had come back with their final assessment of the pool. C/H's recommendation was to have the present bulkheads refurbished (@ approximately \$250,000 in cost) and replacement of \$2500 per block (x 16). The bulkheads would need to be shipped from New York. Dave Joyce pointed out that some fear is that the money given to

WSAC would be used to fund the swim club, but that the figures from Councilman/Hunsaker justify that the money is needed for maintenance.

Additional questions to Dave Anderson were:

- 1) As of right now, WSAC is looking at a 30 year old pool and in 10-years after WSI has contributed \$250,000 toward the upkeep they would then have a 40-year old pool. Would they come back to the LSC for more money?
- 2) As of April 1st, 2008 what would happen if the \$2M was not obtained? What would be the fate of the Aquatic Center – would it cease to exist? Would they demolish the pool?

Members present at the meeting also voiced their concerns regarding surrounding clubs and what the impact would be on their clubs. Some of these clubs are large in number and some are struggling.

Drew Walden received an independent study which showed that last year in the WSI LSC that 25% of the swims were held at the Schroeder Aquatic Center (this reflected all of the meets that were found in the SWIMS Database thru USA Swimming and not exclusive to USA Swimming sanctioned meets). Discussion regarding what would happen if WSAC ceased to exist – Would WSI be able to manage without an indoor long course facility? How would WSI manage a long course season without an indoor 50-meter facility?

Discussion then turned to where WSI would come up with the money to contribute. Drew Walden presented some numbers which he had worked with. Pat Lewno discussed that WSI has money in a CD which is an accumulated fund – not a yearly fund. WSI currently has the money now but that does not necessarily mean that we would have that money over the next 9 years. Dave Westfahl asked about the history of the funds (past 5 years).

Pat Lewno presented that the concept of the Splash Fee was originally to subsidize the host teams rental for State Championships – that money was then shifted to swim camps however historically camps have not even come close to using that money.

Pat Lewno will come up with a proposal that money not spent on camps be put into the travel fund.

Additional discussion regarding where the money would come from:

- 1) The LSC runs the 13/Over State Championship and that the money go directly to WSAC;
- 2) Schroeder runs the meet – LSC provides the timers – WSAC keep all proceeds from the meet;
- 3) Carol Graham suggested that WSI has not raised the club fees for many years – this would also be an idea for another revenue stream.
- 4) Raise the splash fee which was originally to be used to subsidize the paid volunteers/positions within the LSC to a grant or budget item.

Peter Healy discussed that he did not feel comfortable with budgeting yearly where the money would come from – he would like a 10-year outlook.

George Geanon made a motion:

- 1) Adopt a special committee of past General Chairs to have WSAC provide their business plan for the Special Committee to review and;
- 2) The Special Committee would then report back to the Board of Directors (at a closed meeting) for the Board to then come up with two drafts to be reviewed and okayed by Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center, LTD and then presented to the House of Delegates.

- 3) Determine how the money would be distributed to WSAC - \$25,000 outright per year x 10 years or \$10-15K per year with Schroeder hosting a meet and being able to keep all proceeds of that meet;
- 4) Develop a policy of distribution of funds to future outside entities; and
- 5) Develop strategic planning committee (point of clarification by Dave Joyce – would this be a different committee or would this fall under Tech Planning’s jurisdiction?).

The above motion was seconded by Pat Lewno with the agreement of George Geanon to remove #3-5 from his motion. George agreed.

As an action item – Points 3-4 were removed from the Motion (amended motion below) and also add Pat Lewno’s item regarding the use of Travel Fund or increase of the Splash Fund fee to use as money to gear towards the policy of distribution of funds to outside entities (Pat will develop a proposal to be presented at another meeting).

Amended Motion:

- 1) Adopt a special committee of past General Chairs to have Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center, LTD. provide their business plan for the Special Committee to review and;
- 2) The Special Committee would then report back to the Board of Directors (at a closed meeting) for the Board to then come up with two drafts to be reviewed and okayed by Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center, LTD and then presented to the House of Delegates.

Amended Motion seconded by Pat Lewno.

Count of hands:

- 11 - In Favor
- 1 – Opposed
- 1 – Abstention

Dave Anderson told the Board of Directors that he appreciates all of the time, effort and support that the body has shown WSAC.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Drzewiecki (Secretary Extraordinaire).