

Minutes

AVA Board of Directors (BOD) Electronic Board Meeting (EBM)
November 19, 2019

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. EST by President David Bonewitz.
2. All were present except for the Northeast Region RD. The DRD attended for Northwest Region. Representing the National Office (NO) as a non-voting member was Executive Director Henry Rosales. Also participating was the DRD from Southwest Region. A quorum was declared, and David thanked Vice President Nancy Wittenberg for chairing the October meeting.
3. Minutes of the October 22, 2019, EBM were approved as corrected.
4. Discussion on potential IVV Olympiad Bid for 2023
 - a. Korea won the bid for the 2021 Olympiad, and their team was present at the 2019 Olympiad in Provence. If AVA bids on 2023, the statement of intent is due in December, though the final bid is not due till May 2020.
 - b. The question of where to host a U.S. Olympiad is still to be decided. One advantage of this year's Olympiad was that Provence was medium-sized and offered a lot in the community. Options for the U.S. include hosting in conjunction with the U.S. FreedomWalk Festival (USFWF) or with the Texas Trail Roundup (TTR). In Arlington, Virginia, (USFWF), there is a lot of competition in October with other national events. San Antonio, Texas, (TTR) may provide more of a small town feel and culture.
 - c. There is also a question of when to host. In the past, Susan Medlin (TTR and SW DRD) offered to host an International Marching League (IML) Annual General Meeting with the TTR, but the IML declined, citing "tax" reasons. David Bonewitz noted a similar objection to an offer to host an IVV Congress. John McClellan (SE RD) stated we should avoid dates that conflict with other major events that attract international walkers.
 - d. Continuing the discussion of timing, David suggested hosting the Olympiad in conjunction with an AVA biennial meeting and having the AVA business meeting over two days before the Olympiad starts, so people don't have to travel twice. We would need to resolve the timing issue with choosing a 2023 biennial meeting location, since the selection is currently scheduled for 2021, and the Olympiad bid is due in 2020. David said AVA bylaws allow a special meeting of the membership that could be used to decide on the 2023 location. Henry said AVA could have a membership meeting during an Olympiad but not a Convention with all the workshops. David agreed, but we could still have the social events. We would have to inform the membership that due to special circumstances there would be a meeting but not a Convention.
 - e. In other discussion, John McClellan said we should consider who was on the committee from the previous bid when forming a 2023 committee. Also, Butch Spaulding (NC RD) asked what the cost would be. Henry (ED) has been trying to collect information, but there is no mechanism for an after-action report for Olympiads, so he doesn't expect much. Nancy (VP) said we can look at what it costs to put on a convention and extrapolate. She also asked how many people normally attend, John (SE RD) answered 3000-4000. Koblenk had 2500, but there was an IML conflict. Lucy Yother (SC RD) asked if there would be a conflict between the 2021 IML in Wonju, Korea, and the Olympiad in Seoul, which would force walkers to choose one event.

f. Henry will keep digging for numbers, but he sees no problem submitting a letter of intent, since we can always withdraw. An Olympiad shouldn't hurt the AVA unless it's poorly planned and executed. Also, if we can't get buy-in from the local venue in terms of grants, then we should not go there.

Motion: Submit a letter of intent to host the 2023 Olympiad. Motion by VP, seconded by PA RD.

Discussion:

John asked who would be in charge? David responded that as an operational issue, Henry would supervise. Susan Medlin (National Programs) would also be involved.

Vote: 9 Yes, 3 No

Motion passed. The President will submit the letter of intent.

5. Discussion of invitation for meeting of IVV Presidium in U.S.

David asked if the ED had comments on inviting the Presidium, as we are trying to improve the relationship between AVA and IVV. The Presidium involves a business meeting of the four officers of the IVV, and they meet periodically in different locations. The last time AVA offered to host, only a couple of people said they would come. The advice was to pick an event of some significance and invite them to attend. Cost would be perhaps a social. Another consideration is that Canada will bid to hold the next IVV Congress in that country. Henry will follow up to see how the Presidium schedules its meetings will see if we can offer a good event such as USFWF, TTR, or Crazy Horse at a time that fits their schedule.

6. Feedback on new AVA Logo

a. David has received mixed feedback on the new logo. Bob Buzolich (MA RD) provided feedback from the Indiana Volkssport Association and commented that on the video, the first eight seconds seemed out of focus. Henry said he would investigate. Henry is also looking to host the video on another site besides YouTube. Nancy noted no bad comments from several meetings and said some clubs had already added the new logo to their websites. In the current TAW, David's President's Message noted the new logo was designed to attract people who are not currently volkssporters.

b. John McClellan (SE RD) urged clubs to target businesses that support their clubs and suggested creating a window cling to put on business windows. Also, he suggested clubs ask supporting businesses to add the logo to their websites. Similarly, walk boxes should carry "America's Walking Club." David said the publicity committee should investigate.

c. Susan Medlin (SW DRD) added that little individual efforts make a difference. She wears her patch jacket and gets interest from the curious.

d. The Secretary noted the gray-scale black/white logo does not seem to print well. Henry will refer to Hector. The NW DRD stated in Chat that we should not hesitate to go back to Mass Media with feedback. He also suggested we ask for raster graphics in addition to .jpeg files

7. Discussion on Bylaws changes

Henry has received only a few sets of comments. He added that requests to ask for more from the attorneys are driving up costs. Deadline for comments is Friday, November 29.

8. Other topics

a. Mike Green (AT RD): An issue arose with the website such that RDs can't currently approve events, and this may also affect state associations. He has isolated the problem to one section of code, but it will take time to work it out. Clubs can edit, but RDs can't edit or approve.

b. John McClellan (SE RD): Expressed concern about hacks and phishing in our system, noting an e-mail that purported to be from a volunteer and contained a link that was almost certainly malicious. Advice was not to click on anything. He also suggested we move to accounts with usernames and passwords, but David noted nothing keeps the bad guys from signing up from accounts.

c. David Bonewitz (President) announced that Chris Zegelin had resigned as chair of the IT committee, though he would continue to work on issues he was already working on. Mike Green added that one impact was that we had planned to have single-form participation entry by the end of this quarter, but that would now get pushed back. RDs should tell clubs they may have to continue participation reports the old way. However, IF the single form is available, it will be obvious.

d. Henry (ED): Starting Point books have been shipped, and most stamps have gone out. Henry asks the BOD's patience to confer with Mike Green on the issue of Chris's resignation and the way forward.

e. Bob Buzolich (MA RD): Next month will be six months since Madison got the go-ahead on the 2021 convention. When will we start getting updates? David will meet with Henry after TTR, and we will have our July 2020 in-person meeting in Madison. Henry says Jerry Wilson is working with local groups on walks and putting together a committee. The National Office is negotiating with hotels to get the best deal. Henry suggested other states in the region offer to help Jerry on the committee.

f. David thanked everyone for continued active participation.

9. Adjourned at 11:07 a.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Miner
AVA Secretary