

# USSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

---

Saturday, December 1, 2007  
9:00 am – 10:00 am  
The Sonnenalp - Vail, CO

---

## USSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ATTENDANCE

Dexter Paine – Chair

### Foundation

John Bucksbaum, Treasurer

Andy Daly

Jeanne Jackson, Vice Chair

Kipp Nelson

David Pottruck - absent

Hank Tauber

### Sport Representatives

Alpine Representative: Bob Dart - teleconference

Snowboard Representative: Mike Mallon - teleconference

Freestyle Representative: Glenn Eddy - teleconference

Cross Country Representative: Jon Engen - teleconference

Jumping/Nordic Combined Representative: Chuck Heckert - absent

Disabled Representative: Steve Raymond - absent

### Athletes

Alpine Athlete: Andre Horton

Snowboard Athlete: Lisa Kosglow

Freestyle Athlete: Mariano Ferrario - teleconference

Cross Country Athlete: TBD due to resignation

Jumping/Nordic Combined Athlete: Ryan Heckman

Disabled Athlete: Clay Fox - teleconference

### CEO

Bill Marolt

### At-Large

Greg Boester - absent

### Ex-Officio/Non Voting

USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative: Nina Kemppel - teleconference

NSAA President/Chair: Michael Berry

SIA President/Chair: David Ingemie

FIS Representative: Bill Marolt

USOC Representative: Bill Marolt

### Honorary

Dr. Bud Little - absent

Dr. Leland Sosman - absent

### USSA

Bill Marolt

Dick Coe

Mark Lampe

Dale Schoon

Ted Morris

Alex Natt

Janine Alfano

Kelly Nielsen

1. **Chairman's Welcome: Dexter Paine**

Paine called the USSA board of directors' meeting to order.

2. **USSA Agenda Approval: Dexter Paine**

Paine asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

**Motion #1: To approve the USSA Board of Directors' meeting agenda.**

M/S/C – Andy Daly/Bob Dart - approved by acclamation

3. **USSA Meeting Minutes' Approval: Dexter Paine**

Paine said that the board meeting minutes had been attached from the May meeting. He asked for comments and there were none so he asked for a motion to approve the USSA meeting minutes.

**Motion #2: To approve the USSA Board of Directors' meeting minutes from May 2007.**

M/S/C – Andy Daly/Andre Horton - approved by acclamation

4. **Chairman's Report: Dexter Paine**

Paine apologized to those in the meeting who had attended the earlier trustee meeting as this would be a repetition to them but he felt it was worthwhile going over it. He said that if he looked over the last six months for this organization, the things that were accomplished were just incredible. As everyone knew, ground was broken on the Center of Excellence. He stated that the project was on plan and on budget. The enthusiasm from the staff and the athletes and the rest of the constituents was greater than before ground was broken. He said that in discussions with people about how it would impact the organization in generations to come, it would have tremendous impact, which was very exciting.

The second was the organization, driven by Bill Marolt, made huge efforts to improve the early on-snow training with Copper, Keystone and Lake Placid. Similar discussions were underway with Vail. He said the early on-snow training, combined with better programs in the Southern Hemisphere, would allow all the teams to be in better shape for early-season races. The early-season results had been terrific. Snowboarding had a number of podiums in the first races in the Southern Hemisphere. Nordic combined – yesterday a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and today 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and Andy Newell was 4<sup>th</sup>. It was just incredible what was happening in those programs, he said. On the alpine side, there were good results with Steve Nyman 2<sup>nd</sup> yesterday and a number of podiums and the only bad news was that due to the snow, the super G had been postponed to Monday. The competitiveness of the team was at an all-time high. What was particularly exciting was on how many fronts athletic success was being achieved. He emphasized how many young athletes were achieving athletic success.

Finally, financially, he said that the organization had never been in better shape. This would be an incredible year in terms of sponsorship, in terms of dollars into the athletic programs and for a year mid-Olympic cycle, it was exciting to be able to continue to fund the athletic programs at the current level. He congratulated Mark Lampe and his staff on the financial side and Ted Morris and his staff on the revenue side.

He stated that there had been a lot of changes on the staff. He said that it was always worth talking about some of the challenges. The bad news was that the organization lost some

terrific people. The good news was that a good job was done in replacing those people – a lot of internal hires who stepped up and, he added, looking in from the outside, we'd seen no disruption in plans and focus. He congratulated all the people who had been added to the staff this year and had done an incredible job.

5. **Executive/Nomination Screening Committee Report: Alex Natt**

Natt said that he hoped that everyone had participated during the entire conference call. The Foundation re-nominated several members and, as part of the process, the USSA board needed to accept the recommendation of the re-nominations, which he listed: Bill Bindley II, Jeanne Jackson, Doug Mackenzie, Cindy Nelson, Tiger Shaw to the active board of the Foundation and Robert O'Block and Stew Turley to the emeritus board of the Foundation. He asked for a motion.

**Motion #3: To approve the Foundation board nominations as presented.**

M/S/C – Andy Daly/Bob Dart - approved by acclamation

One informational item, he stated, was as the athlete members of the board knew, athlete elections were underway and at the May meeting there would potentially be seated some new athletes.

Natt stated that he wished to thank the athletes who had participated in the last few years. He said that the group had been great and he joked that Ryan Heckman, due to his "advancing age," was no longer considered an athlete under the USOC guidelines and therefore would not be able to sit as an athlete. He thanked Ryan for his assistance and hoped that he would continue to be active in the Foundation or USSA going forward. Heckman replied with his thanks and stated that it had been a pleasure.

Paine said he wished to second Natt's comments. Paine said that Ryan had done a terrific job and, as chair, having a good relationship with Ryan had been incredibly important and he was an integral part of this board coming together with a terrific working relationship with the athletes. He thanked Ryan and said that he, personally, appreciated the time and energy that Ryan had expended into the job. Heckman thanked Paine and stated that it had been an honor to serve.

Bill Marolt stated that he wished to make a few comments on what the athletes were doing. He said that he was delighted with the success of all the programs but what was happening with the Nordic teams with Nordic combined and sprint were the result of conscious decisions and strategies developed to build those programs. It was fulfilling to see how the plans for preparation and the renewed focus on leadership with the staff and what was being done in sport science and medicine were all making a huge difference to the athletes.

As we moved down the road, Marolt said, the plans would become more specific, more definitive and would raise the bar. He said that he firmly believed we would get there. He reiterated that he was delighted with the current level of success. He said that there had just been a meeting with the board of trustees of the Foundation, who were a tremendous group who provided unbelievable support to enable what the organization was able to do athletically. He specifically attributed what was being done with the Olympic hospitality programs as driving the incremental athletic opportunities for the organization. He said that this was a really good place to be in terms of this organization and its direction and where it would end up.

6. **FIS Report: Bill Marolt**

Bill Marolt segued to the FIS report. He stated that the USSA was a part of the FIS family. He said that we clearly had our responsibilities and challenges that we faced with the FIS as we did with any organization. As he looked at his presentation on television and marketing rights, he commented that these were the topics of conversation every time the board got together - how to best manage television and marketing rights. The good news here, he said, was that essentially the TV rights for the events had been centralized through a company called Infront, a Swiss based company. He said the company now had a partner with whom “we could sit down and develop plans on how to best promote and sell our sports. At a time when we were being challenged with growth and by our corporate partners to deliver value, this was where the organization needed to be.” With skiing and snowboarding there were industry concerns that value be delivered. At the FIS, another organization made up of ski industry-specifically, would look at plans and programs that would manifest in greater value to stakeholders.

Kipp Nelson stated that Jake Burton Carpenter had mentioned earlier about slopestyle. He agreed that skier halfpipe was one of the more exciting events, but it was interesting that the slopestyle event was the event in the freeride world that was capturing a lot of attention. He reiterated that in snowboarding slopestyle could be an important event to look at going forward and that the same could be said in skiing.

Nelson explained that one of the things that was occurring in the freestyle world was the fusing of snowboarding and skiing so when we mentioned adding an event such as slopestyle to snowboarding, we should then consider adding it to skiing.

He stated that there were almost too many events, different types of competition, to support financially these days so the board should be aware of the trends occurring among the participants of the sport. He said that he would share his view that slopestyle needed to be watched since the kids were very focused on it these days and should be kept in mind as to where we were headed with the IOC and the FIS in terms of staying in the forefront of what kids were actually doing.

7. **USOC Report: Bill Marolt**

Marolt stated that, again, USSA was a partner with the USOC and from time to time we spoke of our partners as they, but that we needed to speak of our partners as we, he said. In both cases, with the FIS and the USOC, there were tremendous advantages. To look at the first point, USOC funding, as we went along, we had competed for USOC funds and had grown that side of the budget significantly so those were incremental dollars much like the Olympic hospitality programs that were bottom line and went directly to athlete support.

He confirmed that the USSA had good staff-to-staff relationships with the USOC. He said that could be challenging at times but, looking down the road, the goal was to develop a stronger partnership with the USOC much in the same way as the FIS to influence the direction in which the organizations were headed.

One of the things we were excited about, he said, was the potential for an Olympic television network, which had some traction but now, for whatever reason, had slowed down. Looking at broadcast opportunities, particularly in television, the best way for Olympic sport to promote and provide content to its stakeholders was through our own network, he stated. With summer and winter sports, there could be 12-month viewing opportunities. He said that this was high on Peter Ueberroth’s target list and that, while he could not provide a time when this might happen, it was a priority.

Marolt said that the organization worked with many individuals at the USOC. One of the closest relationships was with the staff in the sports performance partnership area. USSA worked with this staff on budget allocation and programming. To get them to better understand USSA's process, they were invited to Park City to sit in on the planning meetings, which was beneficial because they witnessed how the USSA conducts its business and helped to develop closer relationships so the idea of working staff to staff and developing strong partnerships was there.

The Association of Chief Executives was a relatively new organization started in the last 18 months. This was started due to frustrations within the NGBs that they needed to do better on focused efforts to work with the USOC. To date, this had been more of an information gathering type of organization. Hopefully, down the road, it would become more impactful in focusing the direction on what we were attempting to do as NGBs with the USOC.

Finally, the IOC had the idea of developing a Youth Olympics. The thought being that there would be a 2012 Youth Olympics in winter sport. USSA believed, he said, that this was an opportunity. An ideal location would be Lake Placid. The people in Lake Placid were enthusiastic about this so there would be the opportunity to develop a plan and bid on this. It would serve the development of USSA's programs to a high level. He stated that the USSA would also be going back to an existing Olympic venue, which in terms of facilities, they already existed and were ready for use.

A question was asked whether the USSA would have to put money into that effort or would all the costs be picked up by the USOC. Marolt replied that it would require developing an organizing committee and doing it very similarly to the regular Olympics. The direction from the IOC was that they did not want to get into a huge investment of facilities. It would be predicated on using what you had and making it a good athletic event, which made economic sense.

Paine thanked Marolt for his reports and moved on to the sport committee reports. Paine said that the majority of sport committee chairmen were on the phone and asked that they speak up to be heard.

## **8. Sport Committee Reports/Action Items:**

Alpine Sport Committee: Dart apologized that he could not be there in person but when you got the snow, you had to work to get it ready for the guests and that was what he was doing.

Dart stated that alpine did not have action items but had two items on which they wanted to report. One was that in the spring, the FIS changed the equipment requirements, which were planned to be adopted into the USSA racing requirements for the 08/09 season, but the FIS had delayed that decision and so USSA also delayed this to the 09/10 season.

The other things discussed included how to keep athletes interested and provide them racing opportunities. In the fall alpine executive committee meeting, the masters sent a proposal to the committee and the committee agreed to a one-year trial.

This season, if you were a USSA alpine competitor member or alpine student member, ages 18-22, you could participate in alpine masters' events without a master's license, but you could not participate in the national or regional championships without being a master's member. So, he said, we would be trying this out. He commented that it had been a tough start to the season but mother nature was now helping and, "Go USA in Beaver Creek," which concluded his report.

Cross Country Sport Committee: Jon Engen commented that he wanted to say thank you for all the compliments that cross country had received.

He had one action item relating to cross country awards that he needed to have ratified which had been approved by the awards committee. These were awards that were handed out during the season and Alex Natt suggested having all three ratified as a group. Natt asked him to provide background to whom these were being awarded and why. Engen provided the following short text on the three awards:

1. Roger Weston Award honors the top high school boys' and girls' cross country ski teams competing at USSA Junior Olympics to recognize the valuable contribution from high school skiing to the development of cross country ski racing across the USA.
2. The USSA Junior Olympic Club Team Awards recognize the top boys', girls' and combined boys & girls' club teams competing at the USSA Junior Olympics to recognize the importance of outstanding clubs to the development of a strong national ski program.
3. The Tony Wise Award is presented annually to the winner of the women's overall SuperTour title.

He stated that these were awarded and furnished by others and therefore did not represent cost to USSA.

Paine asked for a motion to approve the awards as stated.

**Motion #4: To approve the Cross Country awards as described.**

M/S/C – Jeanne Jackson/Andy Daly - approved by acclamation

Engen said that there had been one thing that bothered him in the past, which was his sport's lack of participation outside of the actual USSA cross country sports committee. He reported that they had taken some solid steps to inform the group of the need to be involved. He said that they had gotten together a small initial group, called the *Friends of Cross Country*, to explore initiatives in participation and fundraising, etc. and that this group would work under the auspices of the Foundation. It was clear to him that more participation was needed from the cross country ranks into the greater USSA - to have the sport have greater participation for the overall health of the organization. He was very serious about this and was happy that the Foundation was working on some of the ideas that they were proposing.

Other than that, he reported that the team size was at its largest in many years. He said that a lot of good work was taking place around the country. Besides the results mentioned earlier, he said that the sprint opening race in Sweden was won by one of our athletes. He said that he was looking forward to new World Cup races in No. America in Alberta in 2008 and he said they were working seriously toward the Olympics, which would be at sea level for the first time in many, many years in 2010.

Engen asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Disabled Sport Committee: No report.

Jumping/Nordic Combined Sport Committee: No report.

Freestyle Sport Committee: No report.

Snowboard Sport Committee: Mike Mallon stated that they were off to a good start for the season. Most of the snowboard teams had gotten solid early-season training. The freestyle team spent the last part of the summer in New Zealand and competing in the first World Cup competition of the season. He congratulated Lindsey Jacobellis and Claire Bidez who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the alpine side, Adam Smith, on new equipment, posted a 3<sup>rd</sup>.

No major action items, he said, only a couple of items to report. On the competition side, the *Grand Prix* had moved into an invitation format. The response had been well received by the community. The *Revolution Tour* was being used as a level of qualification to the *Grand Prix*, which helped to establish a clearer route from grass roots for USASA, to the *Revolution Tour* and then to the *Grand Prix*. The *Revolution Tour* continued to exceed expectations. He said that it was the mid-level Tour, which combined slopestyle, boardercross and halfpipe events. All of the events were sold out. Right now there were only a few spots available for women in boardercross. Halfpipe and slopestyle had wait lists for over 50 athletes.

Mallon said that these were a valuable resource in the pipeline that continued to grow. He said that these would be revisited in the spring to see how to better accommodate all the athletes. When there were so many athletes at that level wanting the opportunity to participate and were qualified at that level and we provided the only events, that concern had to be addressed.

He mentioned that he was in and out of the trustee meeting and he wished to comment on slopestyle. As a sport and in the sport committee, he thought that a good job was being done in putting slopestyle in front of the FIS and it was working its way into FIS events. In the *Revolution Tour*, USSA was representing it positively and positioning it within the FIS so that down the road, slopestyle would be moving to a higher level, perhaps including the Olympics. The FIS points list right now was dominated by the US riders, he said. It would be important to get the support of the other nations and get them to host regional level FIS slopestyle, which would help to support putting slopestyle on the map.

One additional note, from the FIS, they released some Olympic selection information that would affect us going into the 2010 Games. The team size increased for snowboarding, which was good, but there were some new restrictions added that would limit how we accomplished team selections. Essentially, staff was realigning its strategy to make sure that they were securing all of the quota spots this year. This would be evaluated over the next year and a half to ensure the best use of the Olympic quota. That was his report.

Paine asked if anyone had questions of the sport committee heads. No questions, so he thanked them for calling in.

## **9. Judicial/Legal Committee Reports: Alex Natt**

Natt stated that, for the Judicial Committee report, there were no actions over the summer, which was due largely in part to the work of the staff reaching out to individuals and resolving issues. Walt Evans was instrumental in these efforts and Natt thanked him and his staff for their good work.

On the legal side, there were two pending lawsuits. One of which he had reported on for several years. It was the Bjorgung closed head injury matter, and USSA continued to be well represented by local Pennsylvania counsel Hugh Emory on this matter. Mr. Emory prevailed on summary judgment in federal court about two months ago and the matter was now on for appeal for a second time. Natt thanked Emory for his continuing excellent efforts in behalf of USSA.

The second case was Hilliman vs. USSA, FIS and USOC. This was a lawsuit filed by a team athlete who broke her femur in China two years ago. That matter was still very preliminary. It was being litigated in the federal court in Buffalo, her home jurisdiction. It was well defended by counsel. There was a mandatory mediation recently but the case did not settle.

On the good news front, Natt updated the Board on the status of the Berry v. Park City and FIS case being defended by Gordon Strachan was defending on behalf of Powdr Corp and

Park City Mountain Resort. Natt reminded the Board that he had reported on this matter in December 2006 and told the Board that the matter was before the Utah Supreme Court for a decision on whether or not skier cross was an abnormally dangerous activity and therefore one could not utilize a liability waiver to insulate oneself from liability. Also Mr. Berry was challenging the ability of one to use a liability waiver at all in the State of Utah, which had become of some concern in recent years because the Utah Supreme Court had said in the recent Hawkins v Peart decision that parents could not waive the prospective liability rights of their minor children. Natt said that the conventional wisdom was that the holding in Hawkins was limited to its facts because the Supreme Court did not want to set up a regime where parents and children were potentially at odds.

Natt reported that in recent days the Utah Supreme Court denied the Berry plaintiff's attempt to expand the Hawkins holding. A unanimous Utah Supreme Court denied the plaintiff's challenge to the ability of competitive sport organizers to insulate themselves from liability by using competition specific waivers. The Court also held that skiercross was not abnormally dangerous and that even if it were, those who choose to participate in those types of activities can not claim damages flowing from participation. Natt said it was a significant victory in that there has been a trend in some jurisdictions against upholding liability waivers. Notwithstanding the Supreme Court's holding, the case would now proceed to trial against FIS and against Powdr Corp.

Gordon Strachan commented that the 26 year old ski racer was seriously injured, a paraplegic, and was very well represented by the former deputy attorney general of the United States. This was a course designed by the FIS for a World Cup event a week later, so if the accident had occurred a week later, the USSA might be a party. Park City Mountain Resort had a waiver in its favor so it prevailed on summary judgment at the trial court level and was affirmed by a unanimous Utah Supreme Court. Gordon noted that as both Hank Tauber and Bill Marolt knew, that for 20 years Barry Bunshoft, Alex Natt and Gordon had been trying to get the FIS to have athletes sign liability waivers in the United States, and only recently did the FIS agree to amend the Athlete's Declaration to accomplish that. In the case at bar, FIS was not named on a waiver, and as a result the case will be tried against them on a negligent design theory.

Paine thanked Alex and Gordon for their comments.

**10. Audit Committee: Greg Boester**

Mark Lampe reported that there was no update from the last meeting.

**11. USSA Athletes' Council Report: Ryan Heckman**

Heckman stated in jest that it was initially tough dealing with not being an athlete, and now he couldn't even be a retired athlete. He appreciated Paine's comments and stated that the Athletes' Council had made a lot of progress over the last few years largely due to Bill and his staff's support for programs that the Athletes' Council had proposed.

He said that they had reported in the spring on the number of accomplishments from the outreach programs, the Rookie program, the retired athlete or alumni program established last year. The web site launch was also a part of new opportunities to reach out to alumni and retired athletes to make them a bigger part of the program. Todd Wyant spent a lot of time on that.

"We were lucky to get *Ski Racing* to report on many of the initiatives that Todd had been working on," he reported. They had spent a large amount of time working with *Ski Racing*. He commented that the article underreported some of the things that were being done by the

Foundation; however, it did elevate or make the initiatives more visible to the ski community. He thanked the *Ski Racing* group for that.

One of the things from the spring meeting that the participants requested was to hold interim meetings between spring and winter board meetings and three of those took place telephonically. An offshoot of that would be beneficial to his successor, as they had documented all of the initiatives on which they were working, along with the action steps for each of those. So, as five of the seven athlete representatives would be rolling off the Athletes' Council, this would help from a continuity standpoint.

On the current initiatives, a USSA membership program had been established for alumni. He stated that this helped to move away from merely competition memberships to be more tailored to alumni and progress had been made on that front as well as making it more cost effective. This was an associate membership program that would be tailored to that particular distribution, he reported.

In addition, the Athletes' Council was developing an exit survey to solicit more constructive feedback from retired athletes – not just from an athletic standpoint but also from a variety of aspects.

One of the things that Todd Wyant had been pushing was to bring active athletes into the Athletes' Council. As programs were being rolled out, there were times when he needed to have better input from the people who were active and that process had begun.

The last thing to note was the turnover within the Athletes' Council which he had just mentioned. Five would be rolling off and the nomination and election processes were taking place and he reported that there was a great pool of athletes who were excited about joining the Council and he said they were appreciative of that.

In closing, he extended his thanks to Paine and Marolt for supporting the initiatives, which he said were not particularly sexy and did not result in medals, and he wanted to thank them from his heart. He said that being best in the world meant a lot of things to a lot of people and he appreciated their support for a lot of the things accomplished over the last few years. He said that it had been an honor to be a part of the organization again.

Paine said thanks again for his efforts. He said that he wanted to mention the comments that Lisa Kosglow had made at the Foundation meeting on behalf of the education program and what it had meant to her and the feedback that she had gotten from the program we ran for athletes for the Rookie Camp. She and Andre Horton were there and participated.

Paine reiterated that it was very important for the Foundation trustees to hear that kind of feedback. Everyone feels very good about what they are doing, he commented, but they feel incredibly good when they actually hear it first hand. Lisa talked about graduating in the spring and we'd all discussed how important that whole education piece was to our programs and having the best athletes we could possibly have and keeping them happy and he appreciated the athletes' interaction with the Foundation members. He said that there was now a significant endowment, some of which was earmarked directly for education, and they would focus on growing that as the organization moved forward.

Horton said that the large turnover on the Athletes' Council and thus the concern for losing continuity and the gains made building infrastructure within the Athletes' Council - it seemed that for every year that people were elected, there were several meetings of not really knowing what was going on. He hoped to have stronger incumbents and there were only two athletes eligible to return so he asked, and either somehow forgot how to get a hold of constituents prior to voting or at the time of voting, to figure out how to have the continuity with the people who had the ability to be elected again and he wasn't sure if there was a way to change the bylaws to ensure there wouldn't be such a massive turnover all at once.

Heckman said that it was a good point and he was unsure as to how often such a turnover happened. He suggested that a conference call be scheduled offline to discuss this.

Paine said that was a good point and he would be happy to be on a call on that front. The bylaws were pretty specific and we needed to be governed by the bylaws, however, having said that, whether education, or how the terms were worked up, he had not seen this kind of turnover and he said this was something that would have to be managed through. The question was could we do a better job to educate people before they came on so that there would not be lapses as the group was functioning incredibly well right now and it did take some time to get educated.

Natt stated that there was flexibility in the bylaws to address these issues by staggering terms. In some sense, this was controlled by the USOC's definition of athlete and the fact that if one had passed the ten year rule, as in Ryan's case, this was not something that happened often but could be addressed by staggering the terms to preserve the continuity that was needed to make that committee as effective as possible. He stated that it would be addressed and reported back to Paine so that this was not faced in the future because it did present a challenge.

Horton closed the discussion stating that he appreciated Ryan's chairmanship of the Athletes' Council, that he had done an excellent job in formulating policy and getting the group going.

#### **USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Report: Nina Kemppe!**

Kemppe! stated that the way the USOC dealt with turnover was to have an alternate, which might or might not help. The one thing that the USOC did to try to mitigate the turnover happening at once was to have an alternate who was invited to meetings and so, if there was turnover, the alternate could step in for the interim term to fill in or bridge any kind of gap so that was once suggestion that might be considered.

Kemppe! stated that the six major initiatives which had been worked on during the last six months were first, the Olympism effort, trying to get the athletes involved in giving back to the community scenarios. One of the things that they were trying to push in Torino was a really successful effort with the *Right to Play* organization. This organization collected money and distributed it in war-torn communities to promote sport and healthy lifestyle. They were teaming up with E-Bay for athletes to donate their paraphernalia and the money would be donated to that cause.

The second was that the USOC AAC was trying to define what it meant to be an Olympian. The AAC was developing a set of recommendations that would define what it meant for athletes to be considered an "US Olympian."

The third initiative that was being worked on was a USOC athlete web site where athletes could check such things as doping control test results' reporting and would have links back to other NGBs and other pertinent athlete sites. There would also be a link to John Ruger who was the USOC athlete ombudsman.

The fourth initiative would be that the AAC was working on something similar to what Todd was working on to develop a database by sport of athletes. This would include contact information with the purpose of increasing communication between athletes on a global basis and promoting potential opportunities for US athletes. The goal was to have representation on the IOC athlete board and the AAC had identified an athlete who was most likely to be elected to that board and provide representation on that board.

Finally, the American Arbitration Association was involved mostly with anti-doping cases but the AAC was working on making sure that cases were settled in a timely manner and that expenses would be covered by the association itself.

In closing, she said that it had been fun to work with Ryan and she hoped that he would continue to be involved.

Paine asked if there were any questions for Nina. He thanked Nina for representing the organization and that all the points of contact that the organization had in terms of how it was perceived as an organization and how successful we were with the USOC and others were also due to the great job that she and the other representatives of the organization did.

**12. Old Business: Dexter Paine**

Paine said he did not have any old business and asked if anyone did, which they did not.

**13. New Business: Dexter Paine**

Paine stated that he did not have any new business and that Dick Coe would speak briefly about the USSA membership dues. Coe stated that they had listened to the membership and there would be no member dues increases for 2008/09.

One thing that was done, generated from the meetings last year at this time, was to review having a membership that was a multi-sport membership. He commented that, after spending most of the summer going back and forth with the clubs and talking to everyone, there really wasn't a consensus as to whether that would be helpful to the athletes that we were attempting to get into the different sports.

Coe said there would be further discussion with Bob Dart and the club membership as to having a discounted membership for those athletes who wished to participate in other sports. He stated they would report back in the spring but it looked as though that would be the simplest way of taking care of this problem without generating another kind of membership and making the process more complex. He said that they were trying to make it easier and not harder for the competitors.

**14. 2008 Meeting Dates & Closing Remarks: Dexter Paine**

Paine stated that the last piece of business was the annual meeting, which was May 18. It was the culmination of meetings for that week and the meetings were back at the Yarrow this year. He looked forward to seeing everyone there. In closing, he stated that this meeting was terrific and that the USSA staff did an incredible job in putting together this event and he encouraged everyone to attend. It was a lot of fun but it was also really informative and he thanked all the staff for their work, it had been a terrific couple of days. He wished everyone a great winter and he hoped that all the athletes skied or rode fast and well.

**16. Adjournment: Dexter Paine**

Natt asked for a motion to adjourn. **Motion #5: To adjourn.**

M/S/C Andre Horton/Lisa Kosglow