

OPTA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Attendance: Bert Blackburn, Lori Cantelo, Emily Brown, Bill Drikos, Dominic Gitto, BJ Jackman, Ron Rowe and Jamie LeBlanc

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm by Bert Blackburn via conference call.

1. Approval of meeting minutes

Lori made a motion to accept the January 16th board of directors meeting minutes which was seconded by Ron. All in favour, minutes accepted.

2. Business arising from minutes

1. Website/Facebook/Twitter – See Appendix A – Emily's report
2. Ontario Council of Shooters – See Appendix A – Emily's report
3. New Shooter/OPTA promotions – See Appendix A – Emily's report
4. Strategic Plan

This was discussion of splitting up the goals to assign accountability for execution.

There was a discussion of how to generate sponsorship/advertising for this year's program. A team including Bill, Dominic, Ron and perhaps others was formed who would help lead this work. Discussion continued about how to go about this work and what would be needed. It was decided that a formal letter would be needed which Emily suggested she could create. A target list would also be needed to help the team coordinate face-to-face meetings where possible to maximize sponsorships secured. Jamie committed to send Bill a copy of last year's program.

5. 2020 Provincial Championship

Trophies – Lori presented a revised plan which included a significant spending reduction from previous years for further discussion/consideration by the board. After discussion a number of outcomes and decisions were made. Bert committed to contact Ray Kassamanian regarding interest in again sponsoring the new shooter trophies. The Two-shooter team trophy would be eliminated but the opportunity to compete for prize money was retained (is self-funded). Added money was eliminate saving \$1300. Lori to work with committee to finalize revised

trophy package proposal. Jamie to send final All-star list to trophy committee to allow purchase of team prizes/trophies.

Planning log – Jamie presented a draft planning log designed to track progress on items to be completed in advance of the championship. It was asked that those who have more experience preparing for the championship take a critical look at the listed items and related timelines to ensure they make sense, and nothing is missing. The intention is to track progress against these items in board meetings leading up to the event. A duties list for the event itself will be developed and reviewed in future meetings.

6. Vacant board position update

Lori informed the board that Richard Bootsveld has expressed interest in joining the Board in response to the recent email blast to the membership. Richard meets the qualification requirements. If approved he would initially fill the position to finish off the year until a vote at the AGM. Jamie moved. Dominic seconded. All in favour, motion accepted. Lori will let Richard know.

3. Monthly finances

1. Review of current year-to-date financial results – Jamie reviewed the year to date financial results and bank balances with the board. Nothing of significance was noted other than the second installment of OCS funding had been received and deposited.

4. New business

CUSF – winter competition - See Appendix A – Emily's report

5. Next meeting

Monday March 16th 7:30 pm via conference call.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Appendix A

Submitted by Emily Brown

This report represents updates since January 16, 2020

1. OPTA website

It has been a relatively quiet month on the website. Since the last meeting, I have uploaded 4 buy/sell ads, taken 8 down and made edits to 3 ads. There are currently 54 posts on the buy and sell page.

2. OPTA Facebook group page/Twitter

In the last month, the number of members of the OPTA Facebook group page has risen from 842 to 856, an increase of 14 new members. Posts this month have included notices about upcoming league shoots, shoot results from the league shoots, updates on shooting competitions in the US, political news which impacts shooters, and a shooter death notice.

3. Ontario Council of Shooters (OCS)

On behalf of the OCS, I attended an invitational meeting for Ontario Provincial Sporting Organizations, at the Skate Canada office in Mississauga. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the idea of having a single voice for PSOs to approach the government with concerns. The meeting was very well organized and began with introductions, where 30 of the possible 63 Ontario PSOs were represented. Each PSO was invited to provide the group with their challenges and opportunities. These were gathered and sorted into common themes and reviewed. A variety of next steps were presented which included calling for a meeting with the Minister, to a letter writing campaign and everything in between. I have asked that the power point from the event and the updated information be shared with attendees, and when it is I will share it with our board and that of the OCS. It was suggested that this group of PSOs and any others who want to participate, meet once a quarter. While the Ministry Symposiums offer and opportunity to meet other PSO representatives, they are often so rigorously scheduled so as not to provide much time to talk to many representatives, and certainly no time to talk to the group of PSO representatives all together.

Other information about this meeting:

Some of the challenges that were grouped together were:

3rd party funding (CAO, CSIO)

Quest for Gold (funding model, application, modernization...)

Government funding (provincial and federal)

Lack of sponsorship

Sport Plan

Administration/volunteer burnout

Hosting Model

One individual said that he was able to access money (\$20,000) from the community of Cornwall, by submitting a STEAM, Sport Tourism Economic Assessment Model (STEAM),

(<https://canadiansporttourism.com/steam.html>) report to evidence the positive economic impact of having their provincial championships in the community.

The organizer of this event suggested that we request a meeting with Steve Harlow, Assistant Deputy Minister.

Further actions suggested include:

Keeping pressure on sports consultants as they meet daily or weekly, so if we are all sending the same message, it will hit their radar and be discussed

- meet with MPPs
- have lobby days
- invite MPPs to attend events
- create a coalition of PSOs
- have a letter writing campaign
- apply to ask a question in the Legislature
- petitions
- media event
- social media callout
- demonstration

4. New Shooter/ OPTA promotions

I have spoken to Fred Pellegrino, who is the President of Taccom

(<https://www.taccomcanada.com/>), regarding having an OPTA booth at the fall 2020 show. For a 10 x 10 booth, the cost would be \$1200 and we would need electricity hookup. I said this was steep for our organization, as compared to the Sportsman's Show which cost about \$900 all in. There are a number of things that I have thought about to offset these costs, including selling branded merchandise, having a lottery organized and sell tickets, ask for individual club support and greater participation (pre-arranged new shooter events), or sharing the booth with the other sub-organizations of the Ontario Council of Shooters (trap, Olympic trap, skeet, rifle, handgun and black powder).

Canadian University Shooting Federation (CUSF)

The winter 2020 trap competition will be conducted similarly to the skeet competition as a satellite event that will consist of 100 targets for each shooter. Each shooter will shoot 4 rounds of 25 targets with 5 targets being shot from each station. In the event of a tie, a shootoff will determine the winner. The competition will run from March 20th until April 5th. The deadline to submit the scores is April 15th.

5. Other business

The Firearms Ban Policy Talk panel discussion took place on February 11, at Hart House, University of Toronto with Brian Lilley moderating. As part of the panel, representing the shooting sports, I found the discussion amongst the panelists and audience attendees, very significant in addressing misunderstandings, and to educate the general population. Other panelists included a former gang leader who created a community organization called the One by One Movement, the mother of a shooting victim, a criminal defense lawyer who works with

those charged with firearm offences and is a firearm owner and sport shooter, and a sporting arms and ammunition industry representative.