



**CANADIAN CEREBRAL PALSY SPORTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
7:00pm EST
via ZOOM**

Present:

CCPSA Board members: Suzanne Winterflood, Alana Aird, Steve Dukovich, José Malo, Alexander Ferreira-Silva, Megan Muscat, Aidan Godin, Sarah Nixon-Suggitt, Kevin Shaw

CCPSA Staff: Peter Leyser, Jennifer Larson

Boccia Canada Council: Adam Dukovich (Chair, Athletes' Council), Eileen Bartlett (Chair, Participation & Development Committee), Jane Blaine (Chair, High Performance Committee)

Other: Marc-Antoine Goupil (Athlete), Hanif Mawji (Athlete), Josh Gautier (Athlete), Lorette Dupuis (Head Classification), Marinella Dobrescu (Referee), Kim Morgan (Coach), Michael Chapman (Athletics Ontario Official), Shane Powell

1. Call to order/ Roll Call – 7:03 pm

- Alana (Chair) welcomed everyone and highlighted the Vision and Mission of CCPSA
- Meeting began with Paris Paralympic video the Organization produced and a media interview with Lance Cryderman prior to Paris
- Noted the meeting will be conducted in English, but if anyone requires any clarification in French, José or Alex will translate
- Roll call completed

2. Declaration of votes:

- Voting members are the CCPSA Board of Directors: José Malo, Steve Dukovich, Alexandre Ferreira-Silva, Suzanne Winterflood, Alana Aird, Sarah Nixon-Suggitt, Kevin Shaw, Megan Muscat, Aidan Godin
- Noted we have quorum
- Chair encouraged participation from others attending, including bringing forward any questions and comments

3. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to Approve Agenda: *Aidan Godin*. Seconded: *José Malo*. All in favour. Motion carried.



4. Approval of Minutes from the Annual General Meeting on September 14, 2023:

Motion to Approve Minutes from the Annual General Meeting on September 14, 2023:
Megan Muscat. Seconded: Steve Dukovich. All in favour. Motion carried.

5. Reports:

President (Alana Aird, Vice-President on behalf of Suzanne Winterflood)

- Thanked all the board members, committee members, staff, volunteers, and particularly the athletes, for a fantastic year.
- Athletes and coaches have had numerous successes at international boccia competitions despite extremely challenging circumstances when a fire at INS Montreal left the team without a National Training Centre.
- Additionally, the 2024 Canadian Boccia Championships had to relocate, which meant that alternative options had to be explored and dealt with in a very timely manner.
- National Sport Organizations continue to face funding issues – there is an approximately 30% funding gap as the Government of Canada funding has remained the same since 2005.
- CCPSA staff, athletes, coaches and volunteers demonstrated extraordinary adaptability and resilience to address all these challenges and find meaningful solutions.
- The past year, there has been a continued focus of the Board to ensure best practices from Canadian Sport Governance Code including athlete representation, equity, diversity and inclusion.
- 2023 AGM welcomed Kevin Shaw, Megan Muscat, and Aidan Godin to Board
- In collaboration with Wheelchair Rugby Canada, and Wheelchair Basketball Canada, we hosted a webinar series presented by Will Russell, Sport Law, focusing on Governance in Sport. In addition to providing the Boards and Executive Directors/CEO's a unique professional development opportunity, this was a great example of collaboration amongst para sport and capitalizing on economies of scale.
- Looking forward to 2024/2025:
- Establishing a variety of board governance committees as recommended under the Canadian Sport Governance Code;
- Engaging an EDI consultant to review CCPSA practices and policies and support to CCPSA in its efforts to advance equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Reviewing and amending CCPSA's by-law based on the recommendations in the Canadian Sport Governance Code
- Noted six Committees established and encouraged people to come forward and be part of



- Executive Director (Peter Leyser)

- Noted financial challenges National Sport Organizations are facing, majority projecting deficit budgets
- Canadian Olympic Committee and Canadian Paralympic Committee ask in budget 2024 for \$104 million, in part to offset no increase to core funding since 2025. Unfortunately, no new funding materialized.
- Relationship strengthened this year with Minister of Sport and Physical Activity including visit to our office from Minister Qualtrough in February 2024 and playing boccia with local players
- Budget 2024 did include \$35 million over five years for Athlete Assistance Program. CCPSA formally requested to ensure there was an increase to supplemental funding for high support athletes. Letter was co-signed by CPC, CPC Athletes Council, AthletesCAN, and Wheelchair Rugby Canada. Request was 31% increase indexed to inflation since the last increase in 2012 for high support need athletes/boccia players.

****Presented from Pillars of 2022-2025 CCPSA Strategic Plan***

- i) Strengthen Leadership and Operational Effectiveness
 - Herb Torrance inducted into CCPSA Hall of Fame in November 2023 at Canadian Boccia Championships in Richmond, BC
 - Three recipients of Kabush Para Athlete Fund in 2023
 - 2024 recipients already announced: Kyle Scott (boccia), Maggie Slessor (racer), Lachlan Sandford (tennis)
- ii) Enhance Communication and Engagement
 - Continue process of converting PDF's ensuring documents meet accessibility standards on website
 - Increased media coverage of events this past year
 - 2023 Canadian Boccia Championships and 2024 Montreal World Boccia Cup streamed on CBC Gem
 - Increased coverage of boccia by CBC and CBC Gem during 2024 Paralympics
- iii) Develop and strengthen Sustainable Funding and Partnerships
 - Received \$86,000 from Community Sport for All Grant
 - Received \$60,000 over two years for gender equity and equity, diversity and inclusion work
 - 7.5% increase in fundraising revenue year-over-year
 - Approximately 13,500 donations this past year, with average donation of \$64
 - Thank you to funding partners: Government of Canada (Sport Canada); Own the Podium; Canadian Paralympic Committee; Coaching Association of Canada



iv) Safe Sport

- Second year that CCPSA was a Program Signatory to the Abuse Free Sport Program meaning any allegation of maltreatment defined in Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) goes through Office of the Sport Integrity Commission (OSIC) process
- New Consent form introduced for identified participants via an online centralized platform
- Safe Sport program will be moving from OSIC to CCES effective April 1, 2025, with implications to be determined
- New Independent Third Party: RS Legal for complaints not related to UCCMS. Information is available on website

Boccia Canada Council:

i) Athletes Council (Adam Dukovich):

- New members joined the Council in the past year
- New ideas considered to grow the game and reduce barriers to national sanctioned competitions
- To assist with communication, dedicated email established for Athletes' Council

ii) Participation & Development (Eileen Bartlett):

- Eight Provincial Partners
- Community Sport for All grant received which assisted with Try-it-event grants, school presentations, and production of Skill & Drill videos (shown during presentation)
- Increase in number of referees and coaches
- Developed "Boccia light" version of tracking app for Provincial Partners

iii) High Performance (Jane Blaine):

- Six medals at Parapan Am Games in Santiago, Chile, November 2023
- Updates to Boccia tracking app made this past year
- Support for Women Coach Mentorship Program
- Seven specialists working with the National Team i.e. physiotherapist, mental performance coach
- Fire at INS in March 2024
- Training camp in Bourges, France prior to Paralympics.
- Four athletes at Paris Paralympics (Alison Levine, Iulian Ciobanu, Lance Cryderman, Danik Allard). Alison Levine 5th place finish. Iulian beat eventual gold medalist Stephen McGuire of Great Britain in pool play. BC4 Pair close loss to Hong Kong in semi-finals. Loss to Thailand in bronze medal match.
- Josh Vander Vies (Co-Chef de Mission), Marie Hebert (Venue Manager) and Gary Vander Vies (Referee) were also in Paris



Treasurer (Alex Ferreira-Silva):

- No significant changes year-over-year
- Investment in one-year GIC, reduced overall cash as highlighted in Statement of Financial Position
- Expenses higher than previous year, resulting in small surplus of \$471 as highlighted in Statement of Operations
- Noted 2023-2024 Financial Statements were approved at the August 19 Board meeting

6. Elections:

- Board Nominations Material posted July 19, with a deadline to apply by August 18
- Four submissions, Nominations Committee interviewed two
- One candidate of interest that Committee is following up with

Director at Large (3 positions)

Motion to Elect Steve Dukovich in a Director at Large role for a two-year term through the 2026 AGM Alex Ferreira-Silva. Seconded: Aidan Godin. All in favour. Motion carried.

Motion to Elect Sarah Nixon-Suggitt in a Director at Large role for a two-year term through the 2026 AGM Steve Dukovich. Seconded: Alex Ferreira-Silva. All in favour. Motion carried.

Motion to Elect Alex Ferreira-Silva in a Treasurer role for a two-year term through the 2026 AGM Megan Muscat. Seconded: José Malo. All in favour. Motion carried.

7. Appointment of Auditors:

- This year marks 10th Audit with Parker, Prins, Lebano
- Request For Proposal sent out May 29
- Sent to six firms (google search and recommendations from other NSO's)
- Four responded, plus additional firm through NSO network – total of 5 proposals
- Audit & Finance Committee (Alex, Kevin, plus Peter & Diana) shortlisted to three firms
- Interviewed each firm (they presented proposal, followed by Q&A)
- Recommendation by Committee to stay with Parker, Prins, Lebano
- The additional costs (minimum \$5,000) does not equate to additional value
- Good relationship with PPL, they provide one-off assistance at no cost throughout the year
- To avoid complacency, we will ensure internal rotations i.e. continue to change Partner, Manager and Junior on the Audit every few years

~~Motion to Approve the Audit Firm of Parker, Prins, Lebano for the next three fiscal years audits: 2024-2025; 2025-2026; 2026-2027: Alex Ferreira Silva. Seconded: Suzanne Winterflood. All in favour. Motion carried.~~



8. New Business:

- Peter thanked everyone involved at every level including: Provincial Partners, Committees, Board, Athletes, Referees, Classifiers, Performance Partners, Integrated Support Team
- Peter also thanked the staff team: Diana Nunes, Jennifer Larson, Heather Bonas, Holly Janna, Mario Delisle, Cesar Nicolai, Ed Richardson, Simon Larouche.

9. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn AGM: *Alex Ferreira-Silva*. Seconded: *Suzanne Winterflood*. All in favour. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned – 8:20 pm EST.