

## **USAI Board Meeting April 3, 2024**

The meeting had been scheduled to convene in person at Ghislaine Darden's home. We transitioned to a hybrid model for those who chose to meet on Zoom due to inclement weather.

Participants: Lynn Fryer, Marty Perzan, Jewel Daney, Barbara Bender, Liz Roesener, Elaine Callahan, Thomas Distefano, Jon Higerson, Nadyne Trindade, Chris Townley, Celine Clark

A welcome was extended to new Board members and comments were provided about the role and work of the Board by Barbara Bender. The focus of the comments highlighted the Board's responsibility to each other and the pool community including the need for confidentiality and professionalism.

The Board meeting minutes from March 13, 2024, were accepted without edits.

The Annual Meeting minutes from March 20, 2024, were accepted without edits.

### Membership Report and 2024 rates

Providing historical background, Jewel reminded us that the pool was founded by Rutgers employees for the purposes of serving the Rutgers community. Rutgers affiliation, including the Medical School and the Theological Seminary, has always been a requirement for membership. The "sponsored affiliate" category was developed to enable non-Rutgers people to try the pool and, perhaps, join as full members in the future if they should ever become Rutgers employees. The cap of 20 affiliates is less than 10% of the members. At this time, we have 248 members.

When considering rates for the upcoming season, Jewel surveyed the rates of other clubs in our area. It is clear that all of our rates are lower than other pools. Membership in USAI is defined as those having paid a bond (much like buying into a co-op). Bond money must not be touched except for paying the delinquent fees of inactive members.

To achieve financial success for this season, we will need to have at least twenty new members and increase our fees. An assessment may also have to be considered if we don't have the funds to operate. Balancing the pros and cons of rate hikes, we ultimately decided to charge \$795 for a family, \$595 for a couple, and \$410 for single memberships.

All agreed that expanding activities may increase the number of members. Granting permissions, for the right price, to outside group rentals will also be considered.

A suggestion was made about the possibility of getting financial support from businesses. At the same time, we recognized that as a 501 c7, we are not a charity and donors will not have tax benefits when supporting USAI.

### Facilities

Marty reported that he received the quote of @\$9,000 for power washing and painting the pool with some repairs. The Frank Reale painting estimate was more than \$10,000 less than the other quotes we received. The Board endorsed moving forward with the project.

Marty suggested that we try to pay the painter's bill in segments including upon agreement, at the start and finally the conclusion of the project.

The day before the painting starts, we will get volunteers to help clean the pool.

In the past, we have used Clearwater, then Todd Harris, now Frank Reale for painting. Who will open the pool? The Todd Harris company will still be used to open the pool.

Additional work will be needed on the base of the diving board. While structurally sound, it will benefit from modest refurbishing.

### Clean-up Day

Thomas volunteered to organize the day which is typically the first weekend in May. The dates for this year will be May 4 with a rain date of May 11.

### Bylaws

Members of the Board should study the bylaws as we consider two changes. The first change would be to require Trustee attendance at Board meetings. After three unexcused absences, Board members would be relieved of their duties. Additionally, the month for the selection of new Trustees is being considered from March to October.

### Election of New Officers

The new officers were selected via acclamation: Jewel Daney, President; Marty Perzan, Vice President; Ghislaine Darden, Treasurer; Barbara Bender, Secretary; Thomas Distefano, Communications.

We will need to consider the position of Social Chair at the next meeting.

### Financial Update

Ghislaine noted that she will review the chart of accounts, resurrect the finance committee and work with the officers to hire a new bookkeeper.

**Next meeting: MAY 15, 6:30**