

Minutes

NAFA® Board of Directors Meeting, May 2, 2023

Held via Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Board Members:

Emily-Rose Allred
Jonathan Bescher
Kathy Haney
Cindy Henderson
Meagan Langs
Emma Mak
Lynda Mantler
Jayne McQuillen
Dana Nichols

Executive Director:

Steve Corona

Guests:

Karen Oleson
Bonnie Szoka

Jayne called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm CST and introduced board members by roll call.

Appeal – Bonnie Szoka Suspension

Bonnie Szoka submitted her request to be reinstated by the NAFA board. She and her dogs were suspended for a 12-month period beginning May 1st, 2020, after which she was eligible to apply to the NAFA Board of Directors for reinstatement and her dogs were eligible if she provided proof of rabies vaccine.

Bonnie provided proof of rabies vaccine for her active dogs to the board prior to this meeting. The board verified the certificates provided prior to the meeting.

Jayne explained the procedure for addressing Bonnie's request for reinstatement. She will first have time to present her request to the board. Then board members may ask any questions.

The board will take the request under advisement and will notify Bonnie by email of their decision.

Bonnie: Would love to participate again. I have always been a big supporter of NAFA and have been playing flyball for over 20 years. Would like to get back to playing flyball.

Jayne: Asked the board for questions.

Steve: Asked for current affiliation with a club and what she is doing currently with regards to flyball.

Bonnie: I have 3 dogs that can play and a puppy. I take a class with the puppy and practice regularly with a local flyball club and have played U-FLI on and off in the past couple years. I am still involved with flyball and would love to support NAFA again.

Dana: My understanding is that part of the suspension had to do with being able to provide proof of vaccine at an event if there is dog bite or something along those lines. Are you on a plan where you keep your dogs up to date on vaccinations?

Bonnie: Yes, my dogs have always been up to date and all recently got their 3-year vaccines except for the puppy that received a 1-year vaccine.

Dana: Do you keep copies when you travel?

Bonnie: Yes, I keep digital copies.

Emma: You recently stated they have always been up to date. Can you explain that?

Bonnie: My dogs have always been up to date on vaccines. I lived in Ohio most of my life and in Ohio it is legal to provide your own rabies vaccines and therefore, didn't have a vet provided certificate and wasn't required to have a certificate. I moved to NY about 8 years ago

Dana: You didn't have paperwork for the (rabies vaccination) bottles?

Bonnie: I'm not great with paperwork, but now I am much better since I can maintain records digitally. I would keep the bottles for a long time. The dog that nipped the child was living with my ex-husband. He vaccinated the dog in Ohio. I picked her up and took her to CanAm. At that time the request was to provide information about vaccination. I called my ex-husband and he provided the date, details on the bottle. We provided that information. It wasn't until about 4 years later I was asked to provide a vet certificate for the vaccination. The certificate did not exist.

Emma: Why are you coming forward now rather than when this all happened?

Bonnie: COVID, mother-in-law died and had to deal with that, started a different job, about a year went by when flyball wasn't even on my mind. It wasn't until this past summer that I got more involved in flyball again.

I was very active, I have started 5 NAFA teams and played flyball for over 20 years, hosted tournaments. I am anxious to get back to it.

Jayne thanked Bonnie for attending.

Jayne thanked Dana for putting the agenda together while she was traveling.

Jayne took the board into executive session at 7:17pm.

The board left executive session at 7:59 pm.

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On May 1, 2020 Bonnie Szoka was suspended by then Executive Director, Neil Flood. As part of the suspension, he indicated that she could apply for to the board for reinstatement after her 12-month suspension. The board received her request for reinstatement, reviewed/verified the documentation in support of it, ran a public record background check, and questioned her and ultimately granted her petition to reinstate her as a member in good standing.

The dogs that we received documentation for were removed from the Disciplinary Committee Report.

Cindy moved to reinstate Bonnie as she has provided the appropriate documentation. Dana seconded.

Emma Mak - Yes

Jonathan Bescher - Yes

Kathy Haney - Yes

Emily-Rose Allred - No

Dana Nichols - Yes

Lynda Mantler - Yes

Meagan Langs - Yes

Cindy Henderson - Yes

Officer's Reports

Chair's Comments:

No formal report.

Potential dates for future board meetings will be sent.

Executive Director's Comments:

No formal report.

Treasurer's Report:

- Copies of the balance sheet and profit and loss were sent to board members. The P & L shows year over year comparison. Full year last year vs part year this year which is the reason for some negative numbers on there.
- The finance committee met and worked on updating the GL codes. Thank you to Karen for getting the information moved over.
- Reminder: CanAm expenses and revenues cross over our fiscal year with most expenses occurring in the beginning of NAFA's fiscal year.
- Dana: In past years, we did include the P & L and balance sheet in the minutes. Because we are a non-profit, we might consider doing this.
- Cindy: We don't have a budget and we should do a much better job of having a budget for the year, so we understand what our spending is going to be. The same for CanAm.
- Dana: Crystal Cappel can do a budget that updates as we go along through the year, so it will show an up to date comparison.
- Cindy: Is willing to start on the budget based on what the financials show for prior years and have something to report for the next meeting.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the March 7, 2023 board meeting have been approved and published.

Election Committee:

Nothing to report.

Standing Committee Reports

Judges Committee:

1. The committee has received a couple more novice judge applications from people wanting to enter the judge training. It is nice to see more people enter the program.

2. a. Randy Dillman - Apprentice to Provisional

Jon moved to promote Randy from apprentice to provisional based on the judges committee recommendation. Dana seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

b. Stephen Miller - Provisional to Approved

Jon moved to promote Stephen from provisional to approved based on the judges committee recommendation. Lynda seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

Rules Committee:

1. Request from Kristin Montoya regarding reducing to 3 from 4, the number of teams required for regular racing to count for regional points.

Discussion: You can, in fact, still qualify for regional champion even if some events have less than 4 regular teams racing, regional points can still be awarded. As long as a club enters 4 tournaments that count toward regional points then the club is eligible for regional champion.

The committee would like to know if there is interest in reducing the number of teams required for an event to qualify for regional points. Multiple board members indicated they are not interested in a change at this time. We should let Kristin know the rules have changed in the last few years and explain the options that are available with tournaments having 3 regular teams still qualifying for regional points.

2. Clarification regarding using Temporary Measurement as initial Permanent Measurement

4.4 (c) (ii) The owner can choose to re-measure a dog under the age of 24 months for their Temporary Measurement multiple times.

The rules indicate that once the dog is 24 months old, The Temporary Measurement may be used as the Initial Measurement towards a Permanent Measurement. As part of that discussion, board members indicated we needed further clarification in the rules to specify which Temporary Measurement is used when multiple Temporary Measurements occur (meaning the dog is measured more than once before 24 months). There was discussion that only the most recent measurement is counted as the Temporary Measurement.

Dana moved to modify 4.4 (c) (ii) to:

(ii) The owner can choose to re-measure a dog under the age of 24 months for their Temporary Measurement multiple times. Any re-measure will replace the prior Temporary Measurement.

Lynda seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.

3. As per rules committee recommendations, Dana moved to adopt the modifications to 4.4 (e); adding a title "Recording of Measurements" and add (f) to clarify transitioning from a temporary to Permanent Measurement with an example.

(f) Transitioning from Temporary Measurement to Permanent Measurement. Once a dog is 24 months old, the Temporary Measurement may or may not be used as the Initial Measurement towards a Permanent

Measurement at the discretion of the dog's owner. For example, a dog receives a 16-inch Temporary Measurement. After 24 months of age, the dog obtains a 15-inch measurement and then a 16-inch measurement. The dog will then have two matching measurements for a 16-inch Permanent Measurement. However, the owner may continue to measure until the dog obtains its first two matching measurements after 24 months of age. So, if the dog measured 15 inches for its fourth measurement, its Permanent Measurement would be updated to 15 inches.

Emma seconded the motion. Dana amended her motion to add in the additional verbiage. Emma seconded.

Discussion: The wording being added now will conflict with (iv)

(iv) Additional measurements will not be recorded for any purpose other than judge training/certification, the OIR process, or if an owner selects to not use a Temporary Measurement as their dog's Initial Measurement towards a Permanent Measurement.

Jon indicated that a dog that might qualify to get a 4th measurement should be measured at the next event where they are used as a height dog. That they should not be allowed to wait a period of time before obtaining the final (4th) measure.

There was discussion regarding removing the Temporary measure from being used as an Initial Measure. Kathy noted that there is no difference between allowing a dog to do OIR and a dog that has a Temporary Measurement and then decides later not to use the Temporary Measurement for the initial measure.

Cindy: The reason for Temporary Measurement is because the dogs are growing. Due to that, we shouldn't be using a Temporary Measurement and Initial Measurement. Dogs should be allowed to be measured as many times as they want before 24 months and then start with a clean slate at 24 months and they should go through the measuring process like everyone else.

Dana: If we do change to this direction, then we should make it effective October 1. Some competitors have been relying on the rules as currently written.

Dana withdrew her motion.

This issue is being sent back to the rules committee: Removing the Temporary measure as an Initial Measurement. It will give 2 alternatives, one which does use the Temporary Measurement as an Initial Measurement and one that does not.

Finance Committee:

Report included with Treasurer's Report

Nominating Committee:

Nothing to report.

Marketing Committee:

1. Online Store. Lynda: getting the store up and running is time sensitive. Lynda is going to work on this. Meagan will assist.

Emily-Rose: Looked at some different print options and will email them out to the group.

2. NAFA Facebook Page. Meagan: One of the things discussed in the joint Marketing/Communications meeting was to set up an event under the NAFA Facebook page for CanAm instead of a separate CanAm page.

Cindy moved to transition from the NAFA CanAm FB page and information, using instead an Event under the main NAFA page.

Emily-Rose seconded.

Discussion: Steve: We have thousands of people on this page.

Meagan: We can re-share the information. Phase out the information for the CanAm page and reshare info from the NAFA page to the CanAm page.

There are 1800 followers on the NAFA CanAm Flyball Classic page. There are about 4000 on the main NAFA page.

We are splitting our audience by having 2 different places to visit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Cindy will coordinate with Steve to create the event on the NAFA page.

3. 40th Anniversary Logo. Cindy discussed logo concepts and presented logos submitted by Keira Chin, former RD, captain of the B.A.R.K. flyball team, graphic artist in region 13. She's looking for feedback from us so that she can work on some further concepts for us to consider.

Jon: Where will this be used? Social media, merchandise in the store, logo on shirts.

Steve: Suggested that some of the stars be maple leaves.

4. Iron Dog Patch. Steve: Kim Davis is getting a lot of requests for an Iron Dog Patch. She asked if there would be interest in an Iron Dog patch. She wants to know if the board wants a contest for the design.

Lynda: Marketing has a mock-up which was presented. There was support in using the mock-up that we already have for Iron Dog patch.

Meagan asked who will be taking care of the patches.

Meagan moved to order Iron Dog patches, make them \$10 and have Annie send them out to RDs. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Iron Dog Patches are referred back to the marketing committee and the ED to determine how to distribute.

5. Flyball Slogan/Tag Line. Cindy: Marketing/Communications committees discussed having a slogan/tagline contest for NAFA. AKC feels it would be beneficial from a marketing perspective. With the NAFA Apparel and Junior Handler pin design contests coming up, the general consensus is to not add any more contests at this time and to continue to discuss within the committees. The marketing/communications committees have reviewed some suggestions. Discussion followed about what happens if the slogan becomes dated quickly.

Disciplinary Committee:

| Disciplinary Committee Report: | | | Effective Date |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|----------------|
| Terry Griffin | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | 09/21/2022 |
| Whisper, 110704 | Suspension | Administrative excusal | 05/01/2020 |
| Prank, 140408 | Suspension | Administrative excusal | 05/05/2020 |
| Ripple, 120746 | Suspension | Administrative excusal | 05/05/2020 |
| Daisy, 120612 | Suspension | Administrative excusal | 05/01/2020 |
| Torch, 100047 | Suspension | Administrative excusal | 05/01/2020 |
| Marion Brinkman | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | Indefinitely |
| Mike Mattos | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | Indefinitely |
| Janet Nelson Morris | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | 1998 |
| Dave Mueller | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | 1998 |
| Cheryl Mueller | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | 1998 |
| Jennifer Nelson | Suspension | Conduct prejudicial to the sport of NAFA flyball | 1998 |

- Review Panel

No new excusals since last meeting.

On Appeal: Matrix 110357, Wilson 230079

Special Committee Reports:

Technology Committee:

1. Heat Tracker Update. Sale of old trackers. There were 7 requests for the 7 heat trackers available for purchase. Total sale \$2100 which will help toward the purchase of the new heat trackers and monitors. The new monitors have been purchased and some of them were tested at the Sweet Tea Classic tournament.

2. Light Trees. Dana: Light trees are aging out, having difficulty with them, having to keep them plugged in. Has there been a plan put in place to determine what the new light trees will cost and when we can start to replace them?

Jon: No, the committee needs to get together with Dave Thomas and the finance committee. It has not been determined if this is the direction that the EJS will go in and if so, what happens with maintenance as something could happen to Dave.

Dana: The light trees are no longer available from FarmTek so we will need to go somewhere else. We are in a circumstance of limited suppliers for the light trees. It is concerning that we don't have a plan in place to replace them. Worried that we end up in a position where we don't have lights.

Jayne: Thought we were there, but were waiting for Dave.

Cindy: We need documentation so that someone else can build and maintain the systems. Need to commission Dave for specifications for the equipment so we can hire someone to be our supplier.

Steve: Dave does not wish to be the long-term supplier of EJS systems.

Jon: Dave has been working on procuring parts. He needs the go-ahead to order the parts.

Cindy: Need to have a meeting with Dave to nail down the design, build at least one and tweak as needed, get the instructions and then we need to find a supplier and get a long-term solution.

Dana: Can we task this back to Technology and Finance? Suggested that Jonathan be added as co-chair of Technology, so that Jon can move forward.

Dana moved to approve Jon as co-chair of the Technology Committee with Dale Smith. Cindy seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

Jon will get pricing for a light tree. Cindy will work on a draft budget and will include a line item for this and bring to the finance committee before presenting to the board.

CanAm Steering Committee:

1. Judges picture and bios. Five of the 7 bios have been received. Steve will follow to obtain the remaining 2 bios. The bios can be posted on the blog and on the new CanAm event page on the NAFA Facebook page. Dede Crough did a good job of preparing the bios for the blog. Steve will ask if she will do it again.

2. Flyball in a Box. A list of required supplies has been compiled. Steve will send the list to AKC and hopefully they will take provide the supplies needed to put together the ring. AKC is pursuing the purchase of red and blue matting.

3. Invitational. Bill Ellis, AKC is looking at a site in AZ, moving us west. The biggest issue is that it is outdoors in a large park, The Great Lawn next to the State Farm Stadium in Glendale. Nothing has been signed, we have not committed. Weather should be temperate (January or February). There are other issues to deal with like running outdoors on grass, distance for team travel, etc. Comments about not getting faster teams if it is run on grass and/or outside. Mats could be put down in the parking lot, though it is not as nice visually and for photographing. People may not be happy about running on grass. Concerns are: slipping on grass, the grass getting torn up by the box and the footing of the dogs. Comments about ESPN wanting fast teams. The same very fast teams may not take part, but still would get competitive teams. The invitational is a promotional event for NAFA and the general public would appreciate competitive racing among 16 second teams. We want all 8 teams to be about the same speed. A specific date has not been chosen but it will be in January or February. Jayne suggested that an actual tournament could be held adjacent to the event making it an event for more people and dogs. Perhaps a practice area could be set up as there will be teams that have not had grass to run on since the fall.

4. Fall Creek Pavilion. Steve has been talking with John Rasmussen, NAFA's contact at Indiana State Fairgrounds. They are at the point where they are ready for a site visit at the new Fall Creek Pavilion. They are flexible with their schedule. The next step is identifying the core group to visit. It will be set it up for late May or early June.

5. CanAm Docent/Ambassador. Steve suggested having someone who is very experienced with CanAm being available to talk to competitors who have questions at CanAm.

Lynda: The last couple of years we talked about this. Lynda made it a point to get the names of teams that had not attended before in order to talk with them. Though she was doing other jobs as well, the contact was well received. Steve would like to do it on a volunteer basis. Some type of recognition would be nice and make them identifiable. Also, make this known on social media. Emily-Rose offered to take video walk throughs beforehand. This would be especially useful because of the new venue.

6. Vendor/Sponsor Update: Jon talked to Purina, hopefully they will come back and talk to him about sponsoring.

Ruffland Kennels will have a booth at the event.

Invitational Selection Committee:

No report

NAFA Blog Committee:

No report

Old Business:

New Business:

Steve: Karen requested that the information for insurance submission be updated in the rulebook. Steve has approved those changes and they will be updated.

Jon moved to adjourn. Lynda/Emma seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.