

Committee Name:	Championship Committee Interview w/ SPIRE Summer, 2021	Session #: 1	Report #: 1
Committee Chair:	Jim Clemmons	Vice Chair:	Erin Moro
Minutes recorded by:	Pete Tarnapoll	Date/time of meeting:	July 11, 2019 2 PM EST

Motions Passed:

1. None

Number of committee members present: 9	Absent: 10	Number of others present: 2
Committee members present: Jim Clemmons (Chair), Linda Irish Bostic, Barry Fasbender, Robert Heath, Cheryl Kupan, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jeff Strahota, Pete Tarnapoll		
Others in attendance from bidder: Josh Ptak, Jeff Orloff (SPIRE); Mike Mulhall, Matt Jones, Monica Gustin (Greater Cleveland Sports Commission)		
Others in attendance: Jay Eckert (National Office), Onshalee Promchitmart (National Office)		

Minutes:

Jim Clemmons called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

Introductions: Committee members, guests and members of the USMS national office introduced themselves.

Purpose of meeting: Jim thanked everyone for making the call and helping with the bid evaluation. He explained the purpose of the call was for committee members to ask questions that were left unexplained in the bid or that needed further explanation, and for the bidder to ask any questions that it might have.

SPIRE commented that it took feedback from its past Masters Summer Nationals and other events since 2015 to better its overall operations/practices and to better its bid application versus last year and in 2015.

Questions & Answer Session:

- Jim Clemmons: Why don't you take us through any facility upgrades made during the past four years and if any others will be made prior to Summer 2021.** We have made mostly equipment enhancements, such as to our timing/scoreboard communication capabilities and backstroke ledges. As a relatively new and one of the preeminent facilities (we're one of only three FINA training sites in the world and the only in the US), we haven't had the need to other upgrades since hosting USMS four years ago. There has been new growth in the area with two new hotels opening in Geneva and Madison. A third one will be opening this month and a Fairfield Inn by Marriott will break ground soon one exit up. We expect one more new hotel to be opened by the event time. Additionally, the community no longer is skeptical about what SPIRE can bring to it and it has upgraded its support tremendously.
- Jim Clemmons: What qualifications make you a FINA training site?** Pool facility itself, nutritional advantages, medical facilities and schooling capabilities through partnership with The Cleveland Clinic, and the staff
- Ed Saltzman: For 2015 USMS had to bring in officials to work the meet, has your situation changed since then?** USA officials chair has done a very good job in bringing in new officials, which impacts our ability to run a national level meet in the region. Many of our officials, since 2015, have become more comfortable committing to a national/high-level meet because they've had numerous experiences in doing so since then.
- Ed Saltzman: Has your parking lot been paved yet?** It is something we are working diligently on right now, but we are not in a position to confirm that it will be at this time. **Is it for \$10 a day or for the entire meet?** Per day.
- Sandi Rousseau: We understand that SPIRE may be for sale. Can you speak to that?** It is not SPIRE

that is for sale. Rather, the land and building are for sale. But SPIRE has a long-term lease and that will stay the same if, in fact, there was a sale of the land and/or building.

- F. **Cheryl Kupan: I see you only have a 6-lane warm-up/down pool. Are there any plans for supplementing that?** We have talked to other facilities for wake-up swims, etc. **How far away would those be?** 4 Pools within a 20-minute distance with 4, 8, or 6 lane pools. **Have you used any of those pools for other events?** They are always made available, but we cannot attest to whether swimmers take advantage of them. But, swimmers primarily use our facility, in our experience. By way example of the entire facility's ability to handle a large meet with the size of secondary pool we have, we had a 1,400-swimmer short course meet in November and it ran smoothly with only the 6-lane warm-up/down pool.
- G. **Jay Eckert: Can you remind me of the dimensions of the reward area?** Upstairs is 32' x 50 meters. With the SPIRE Fuel area right there, SPIRE has the ability to move things around to accommodate however many vendor locations USMS would need.
- H. **Jay Eckert: Looking to have the beer garden be a bigger part of the atmosphere this time around due to new beer sponsor.** We understand what that means for funding a meet like this and we can easily accommodate the garden and your new sponsor.
- I. **Jim Clemmons: You had a pretty good concessionaire in 2015. Are they still there?** We do concessions internally, so yes. Since 2015 we have taken concessions up a bit and we're flexible enough that we can provide just about anything that USMS might request.
- J. **Sandy Rousseau: You would consider VIP via concessions voucher?** Sure. We want to do whatever will get people walking out saying they had the best possible experience. So, yes. In fact, we had the NCAA outdoor T&F championship here this year and they requested just that.
- K. **Jay Eckert outlined the changes in merchandise concessions since 2015.** SPIRE had no concerns in this regard, citing whatever works for USMS is what SPIRE wants to accommodate.
- L. **Sandy Rousseau: (to Josh Ptak) Are you the organizational president?** I'm the aquatics facilities director. Either Jeff Orloff (COO) or Ron Clutter (CEO) would fulfill the role your asking about for SPIRE.
- M. **Ed Saltzman: I notice you have a line item for a social. What were you thinking about in this area?** In 2015 we planned for a wine tasting and we put that in on-site. We have a variety of different options that we can explore, especially with our relationships with the R&R HOF and other facilities. We think we have to wait until the year of the event to determine what would be considered, based upon schedules and timing. We have had great success with familiarization tours via buses and would love to put together some packages like these, separate from socials.
- N. **Jim Clemmons: SPIRE do you have any questions of USMS?** No. Just excited to be considered again and we're ready to execute.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:48 PM