

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Committee Name: | Championship Committee Interview for: North Charleston, SC | Session #: 4 | Report #: 1 |
| Committee Chair: | Jim Clemmons | Vice Chair: | Erin Moro |
| Minutes recorded by: | Ed Saltzman | Date/time of meeting: | July 9, 2019 1:00pm EDT |

Actions Requiring Approval:

1. None

Motions Passed:

1. None

| | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| Number of committee members present: 10 | Absent: 9 | Number of other delegates present: 1 |
| Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Jim Clemmons (chair); Erin Moro (vice chair); Ed Saltzman; Barry Fasbender; Cheryl Kupan; Sandi Rousseau; Jeff Strahota; Natalie Taylor; Ken Halbrecht; Jay Eckert (Ex-O) | | |
| Nat'l Office members present: Onshalee Promchitmant | | |
| North Charleston Representatives present: Doug Fetchen (Meet Director); Brenda Rindge (Asst. Meet Director) | | |

Minutes

The conference call was called to order at 1:00pm, EDT

Jim thanked the participants in advance of the discussion for attending. He gave a brief overview of how the call would proceed and then he asked each member of the Championship Committee to introduce themselves and give a little background on themselves. The representatives from North Charleston then introduced themselves.

The floor was turned over to the bid representatives to give an overview of their bid and to present their case for selection.

Bid Dates: Host recommending a 5 day format.

- Proposed Dates – August 4-8, 2021
- Alternate Dates – August 11-15, 2021

Strong Points:

- Charleston named one of the best vacation destinations in several polls. There are plenty of places and activities outside the meet; including golf, beaches, etc. If there is any interest; the organizing committee will look into making a golf package available to accompanying family of swimmers, or swimmers during their off time.
- The City of North Charleston has a large budget for sports and recreation and is fully dedicated to making this event a success and creating an environment to foster future tourism. Part of the city's support will include:
 - No pool rental charges
 - No charge for Lifeguards
 - No charge for Safety Marshalls
 - Additional use of 20 paid employees to serve as support staff at no charge
 - They would like to move the event social from the pool to the North Charleston Coliseum to showcase the facility, which is close to one of the hotel clusters recommended for the meet
- The Palmetto Masters have a seven (7) lane, 50M pool at a hotel that they use. They would like to make this location available for warm-up or practice for meet swimmers who would like to warm-up in a less crowded venue. The hours would be 5AM – 2PM each day. The pool is 1 mile from the meet hotels and only 15-20 minutes to the meet venue.
- The host committee also plans to offer a stroke clinic with a 2020 Olympian at the above pool; followed by the Olympian participating in the meet and doing a meet and greet with meet attendees.

- Close proximity from the airport to the hotels and the hotels to the venue. Large number of low cost hotel options.
- The venue shares a parking lot with the largest high school in South Carolina. The H.S. will be used for auxiliary space for support functions, like Registration, Check-in, Relay sign-up, Help Desk, Awards, etc. Attendees will park in the lot; go into the school to check in; walk across the parking lot – past the vendor village (tented area) and enter the venue through the back entrance; providing easy traffic flow and maximum exposure for USMS Sponsors/Vendors.

Bathrooms:

The bid document did not accurately portray the number of bathrooms within the facility. Adding in the five (5) Family Bathrooms; the bathrooms in the spectator areas (12 Women’s Toilets and 4 Men’s Toilets and 4 Men’s urinals); three (3) more bathrooms in the area of the Computer Room and First Aid Station brings the total to 42. The City of North Charleston has an air conditioned, \$70,000 bathroom trailer that will be parked onsite that will add 7 additional toilets; bringing the onsite total to 49. Additional facilities may also be made available at the school.

Transportation:

There are 20 flights per day from Atlanta and Charlotte, into the Charleston airport.

Facility Experience:

The facility is under construction, and therefore has no history. It is currently scheduled to be completed by December 2019, with programming to start in January 2020. There will be several large meets (i.e. Charleston Summer League Championships – 800+ swimmers) that will be held in the facility prior to the USMS Nationals. These events will be used as test events in preparation for the 2021 USMS Summer Nationals.

Officials:

The organizers have already had commitments from the South Carolina LSC Officials to support the meet.

Volunteers:

Through donations to various non-profit groups, they will staff the meet with (3) H.S. Teams, USA Swim Club members, Charleston Summer League teams, City of North Charleston employees and Palmetto Masters members. They also have a relationship with the North Charleston CVB, which has a large base of retired volunteers that regularly work events at the Coliseum and other venues.

Deck Space / Spectator Space:

The bleachers / spectator area has a capacity for 1,000 seats.

The temporary, on deck bleachers can hold 300 people.

With the building lobby being freed up by relocating the vendor village to a tented area outside; the lobby will be made available for people to bring folding chairs to relax between events. The lobby runs the full length of the building.

Q&A by Committee Members:

1. Sandi inquired about the plans for any possible profits that may be derived from the meet. *Doug explained the relationship with the city of North Charleston and their large Sports and Recreation budget; and how they distribute funds to various learn to Swim programs. Some of the profit from the meet would go to supplement funding for growth of the Learn to Swim programs and some to foster growing Masters & Kids swim programs.*
2. Barry asked what impact summer thunderstorm might have on the event. *Doug explained that the pool is grounded and therefore, there should be no impact on the operation of the meet. Part of suggesting a five day format combined with a 10 lane pool; was to finish competition early each day and get people out, to explore all that Charleston has to offer. This can also serve as a contingency plan for any delays that might be encountered.*
3. Jay explained that USMS has a new Beer sponsor and inquired about the possibility of serving alcohol at the venue – probably in a Beer Garden setting, much like Greensboro had. *Doug thinks that this probably won’t be a problem since the Aquatic Center is owned by the City of North Charleston and they regular have events at several of their other parks and venues where alcohol is served. He will check on it and get back to us with an answer.*

4. Jay also discussed the fact that USMS streams their National Championships over the internet. The requirements for streaming include good WiFi and an elevated platform with a good vantage point to film from. ***Doug replied that since the building was under construction; he should be able to work with the contractor to put infrastructure in place during construction without much impact on the facility budget and timeline. The Charleston Summer League meet, that will be run in advance of the USMS Nationals, is regularly broadcast over the local affiliate and will therefore serve as a proof of concept.***

The conference call ended at 2:05 PM EDT.

Summary/Analysis: Strengths of the bid include: New 10 Lane, state of the art pool, with 8 lanes of 25 yard water for warm up / cool down. The warm up lanes will also have starting blocks that can be used to practice starts during the normal warm up period – dedicating the 50M pool to just warm up. They have a great, enthusiastic volunteer group with a lot of government support that translates into facilities and services that will be provided, at no cost, to the host organization; thus reducing their budget constraints. Five day meet format in a 10 lane pool means shorter days. A great destination for swimmers and families that offers a multitude of low cost hotel options, plenty of dining and attractions – plus a beach.

Concerns: A facility with no proven track record and a meet director with no large meet experience – both which will be addressed in the year and a half leading up to the meet.