



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes
Special Board Meeting
October 17, 2022 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom

In attendance:

President	Sara Gaum
Treasurer	Jeff Warner
Communications Director	Shannon Brown
Cedar Rapids Curling Club	Lon Peper
Chicago Curling Club	Adam Miller
St. Louis Curling Club	Steve Young
Waltham Curling Club	Jane and Larry Vahle
Windy City Curling	Eric Reithel

Meeting Called to order at 7:34 PM by President Sara Gaum

One Agenda Item – USA Curling CEO Jeff Plush’s involvement in the recent National Women’s Soccer League Misconduct Allegations

Materials provided to board members before the meeting:

[Yates Report](#)

[GNCC Statement Regarding Jeff Plush](#)

[USA Curling Statements](#)

[USA Curling DEI Task Force Statement](#)

[USA Curling SafeSport Handbook](#) (updated Feb 2022)

Discussion:

Legal vs ethical issue – Do we as a board have all the evidence regarding Jeff Plush’s actions to decide about his time as the NWSL Commissioner? Do we feel USA Curling leadership appropriately responded to the Yates Report? Were we provided with enough information to have confidence that Jeff Plush was and actively is working to prevent abusive behavior and misconduct?

Our discussion focused on the lack of transparency provided by USA Curling leadership (e.g., lack of details regarding the internal investigation), the impact of this situation on our regional curlers (specifically women-identifying curlers and juniors), and how the handling of USA Curling SafeSport reporting is impacted by this loss in confidence.

MCA Vote

*Seven voting members of the MCA Board were present (quorum reached)

Vote 1: Should the MCA write a statement to address this situation? **(Yay: 6, Nay 1)**

- In agreement that the statement would be directed at USA Curling Board of Directors with the expectation that curlers within the Midwest Curling Association will read the statement

Vote 2: Request in the statement that USAC release specific details (e.g., investigation timeline, agency employed) regarding how they came to their conclusions regarding Jeff Plush **(Yay: 7, Nay 0)**

Vote 3: Note in the statement that if answers are not provided, due to our lack of confidence in USA Curling leadership, we request Jeff Plush be dismissed from the organization. **(Yay: 7, Nay 0)**

Vote 4: Include a reference in the statement that addresses how an individual's confidence in SafeSport reporting via USA Curling may have been impacted. **(7 Yay)**

Future Actions

- Sara Gaum will draft a statement based on discussion and vote, then the statement will be shared with all MCA Board Members for feedback and review. Once finalized, the statement will be released to the regional membership and shared via social media channels and the MCA website.

MCA Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM by President Sara Gaum.