

Committee Name:	Championship Interview Committee for SPIRE Institute	Session #:	1	Report #:	1
Committee Chair:	Jeff Roddin	Vice Chair:	Sandi Rousseau		
Minutes recorded by:	Jeff Roddin	Date/time of meeting:	August 14, 2012, 12:30pm EDT		

Motions Passed:

1. None

Number of committee members present:	8	Absent:	n/a	Number of other delegates present:	0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):	Jeff Roddin, Tyler Blessing, Debbie Cavanaugh, Barry Fasbender, Jack Groselle, Patty Nardozi, Ed Saltzman, Chris Stevenson				
Bidders in Attendance:	Jeff Pacini (Greater Cleveland Sports Commission), Jeff Orloff (SPIRE Institute C.O.O), Jim Bocci (SPIRE Institute Aquatics Director)				

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Introductions: Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Purpose of the Meeting: Jeff Roddin explained the purpose of the call as an opportunity for committee members to ask questions that were left unexplained in the bid or that needed further explanation as well as for bidders to ask any questions that they might have. It was explained that the Championship Committee now selects the host for each national championship meet. The committee has similar calls with all of the bidders and then has a full committee conference call to discuss the bids and then ultimately select the winning bidders.

Question/Answer Session:

Possible 2015 Consideration: Jeff Roddin explained the committee has the ability to award Nationals up to three years out (2015) and not just for 2014. Jeff asked SPIRE about their availability to host in 2014 vs 2015. SPIRE said they would prefer to host sooner rather than later, but they would indeed be interested and flexible to host in either 2014 or 2015.

Short Course Yards vs Long Course Meters: While SPIRE's bid is for both courses, it was felt the warm up space (6 25y lanes) makes SPIRE a better candidate for Long Course than Short Course Nationals.

Dates: While the Long Course bid is for Sept 12-14, 2014 SPIRE said their dates are flexible and they could host anytime in August or even late July. 2014 Worlds are in Montreal (driving distance from SPIRE) August 3-9 and IGLA is August 9-16 in Cleveland. That is why SPIRE selected Sept dates to stay clear of both of those meets.

Officials: Ed asked if there would be a problem getting enough officials. SPIRE assured us that wouldn't be a problem as they pull from officials from not just the greater Cleveland area but Pennsylvania and Indiana. The pool is brand new (less than a year old) but has already hosted small masters meets and NCAA meets. They have numerous meets lined up for the coming year.

Hotels/Location: Tyler asked about nearby hotels. SPIRE said there are approximately 1200 hotel rooms within 20 minutes (there is also more detailed info in the actual bid). While SPIRE is not in a major city center it is close to several airports (Cleveland and Pittsburg plus Akron-Canton regional airport). There are no traffic issues getting around the area. The nearby hotels range from economy to high end (Quail Hollow). While there are food choices closeby the facility, SPIRE has a cafeteria just steps away from the pool with a huge range of food choices. The only issue is swimmers can't show up in their bathing suit! They plan to have separate hospitality for volunteers, officials, etc. SPIRE also has a banquet room available for 700 people if an in house social is desired.

Shuttle: Ed asked if there would be a shuttle. SPIRE said they weren't planning on it but could work with the two larger hotels to provide shuttle service to/from those hotels.

Pool Measurement: SPIRE has an updated pool certification that has been accepted by USA-S that they will forward to us.

Volunteer Support: SPIRE has 25 full time employees on staff plus a volunteer group of over 100 people.

Local Masters Benefit: SPIRE said if awarded Long Course Nationals they would share 50% of net profits (up to \$5k) with local masters.

Summary/Analysis: It was noted that this is a fantastic state of the art facility. Strengths include 10 lanes of competition in a brand new Myrtha pool (just like Omaha!) and a gourmet cafeteria with an extensive nutritional menu. Weaknesses include warm up space and proximity to hotels as well as scheduling challenges surrounding August 2014. While it was felt many swimmers doing IGLA would not do this meet (and vice versa) it was also felt it would not be diplomatic to plant our premier summer pool event immediately adjacent to IGLA forcing some to possibly choose one over the other.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM Eastern Time
