

Committee Name:	Championship Committee Interview w/ Sarasota Summer, 2021	Session #: 1	Report #: 1
Committee Chair:	Jim Clemmons	Vice Chair:	Erin Moro
Minutes recorded by:	Pete Tarnapoll	Date/time of meeting:	July 9, 2019 12 PM EST

Motions Passed:

1. None

Number of committee members present: 11	Absent: 8	Number of others present: 2
Committee members present: Jim Clemmons (Chair), Barry Fasbender, Ken Halbrecht, Cheryl Kupan, Jeff Roddin, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jeff Strahota, Pete Tarnapoll, Natalie Taylor, Jillian Wilkins		
Others in attendance from bidder: Shelby Connett (Director of Sports for Visit Sarasota County, Brent Arckey (CEO & Head Coach of Sarasota Sharks)		
Others in attendance: Jay Eckert (National Office), Onshalee Promchitmart (National Office)		

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 PM by Jim Clemmons.

Introductions: Committee members and guests 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 as an opportunity for Sarasota to “sell” its bid to the championship committee, committee members to ask questions that were left unexplained in the bid or that needed further explanation, and the bidder to ask any questions that it might have.

Questions & Answer Session:

- Jim Clemmons: What’s your relationship with the Y and how has that changed since the original bid?**
Our agreement was always with the County, now it’s with the County and the Y. The Y didn’t want to run the facility any longer, so the Sharks run it now without the overhead the Y had. 100 Masters swimmers and 300 age-groupers. Facility is very healthy.
- Jim Clemmons: In original bid your proceeds were earmarked for the Y, where would the proceeds be earmarked now? They will go towards the operations of the facility. What about Masters programs/learn to swim?** Sharks currently run learn to swim up through Masters and they consider it to be part of “operations.”
- Cheryl Kupan: What are your contingency plans for thunderstorms and other inclement weather? How does your current relationship with Y impact this, if at all?** The Y is open to making everything work for the facility. If that is something that would strengthen the bid, they can formalize using the Y’s indoor facilities. Visit Sarasota is willing to put more into the budget to help offset any additional costs should there be any.
- Sandi Rousseau: How far is the Y from the main comp pool?** Approximately 100 yards.
- Ed Saltzman: Address a little bit about Arlington Park pool...would there be a shuttle back and forth?** Sarasota would be willing to work with Arlington Park for pre-training/warm-up/down. Jay Eckert: It’s about 15 minutes away and I wouldn’t recommend a shuttle, but Arlington Park could be communicated as an option for swimmers. It wouldn’t be an official part of the meet due to safety and other requirements that would be requires.
- Ed Saltzman: In your bid you talk about VIP food, but would swimmers also be able to walk up and purchase food at a concession?** We have an onsite kitchen that provides event concessions for all events.
- Cheryl Kupan: Hotel situation seemed to be a concern in previous conversations...expensive, not**

close...can you speak to updated hotel situation/rates? Sarasota County has added 1500-2000 new rooms in the past year. None are near the facility. Rather, they're in the in downtown corridor. That said, this new inventory has created more competitive pricing from hotels across the board...probably \$20-30 per room per night less than previously. Sarasota might look to implement a shuttle from hotels to the meet, perhaps at an additional fee: guaranteed at least once every hour, via multiple shuttles. Would be about a 15-20 minute drive from the pool to hotels.

- H. **Sandi Rousseau: Are you are willing to consider a 5-day format?** Yes, we are very flexible. USMS would simply have to tell us what is preferred.
- I. **Jim Clemmons: how does weather play into everything?** Generally speaking, if we have storms it's between 3-5 in the afternoon. However, our senior team, which practices from 2-4, has not been rained out this summer. Later in summer the chance of afternoon thunderstorms increases, however.
- J. **Jim Clemmons: Have you had the chance to look at the contract that was included in the bid packet and do you have any concerns.** Looks fine to Sarasota. Jay Eckert: Change in contract since last program: built in a 70%/30% split with host on merchandise via Greenlayer partner.
- K. **Ed Saltzman: Please discuss management of water temp.** We can easily keep the temperature at 79-82 degrees through chillers, etc.
- L. **Sandi Rousseau: We know you haven't hosted Nationals, but have hosted Pan Ams. Given that, do you have any concerns or things you would want/change?** No, things went smoothly and there is really nothing we would want to address. Cheryl Kupan: I attended Pan Ams/Y-nationals and they were fun meets and I can attest that the meets and social events were run very well.
- M. **Jay Eckert: We been putting on beer gardens at various sites, is alcohol now an option at the facility?** As long as there's someone else holding the liquor license USMS would be more than welcome to include a beer garden at the facility.
- N. **Jim Clemmons: In addition to the covered bleachers, what shade opportunities are there?** Since taking over the facility we have more flexibility. We would close our waterpark, which would give us more shaded areas, etc. Our grassy area allows for tents to be set up. And, a local tent company will cover the open section of bleachers for this meet. Typically, for a meet of 800-1100 people everyone can find shade at our facility.
- O. **Ed Saltzman. I remember during Pan Ams that parking was tight. Can you talk about parking?** Parking can be a little crowded at times, but Sarasota Masters will now have control of front and back lots, and there is overflow at the nearby shopping center, which is within a 1.4-mile of facility.
- P. **Jeff Roddin: You do have backstroke ledges?** Yes, a set of 8 and would be able to borrow another set of 8 from a local team in Orlando.
- Q. **Jim Clemmons: Is there an easy way to get meet info into the indoor pool so swimmers can keep track of the meet?** We can problem solve for that via apps or a monitor. Jay Eckert: as long as there's a reliable Internet connection we can handle pretty easily.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:47 PM