

Eagan Athletic Association - Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 30, 2020

President, J.J. Kirby	X		Director of Basketball, Clay Fandre	X
Vice President, T.J. Rice	X		Director of Cross Country, Tina Wrucke	X
Treasurer, Megan Brewster	X		Director of Football, Proxy – Nathan Hansen	X
Administrative Officer, Trudy Kenney	X		Director of Lacrosse	
Director of Facilities, Greg Byrne	X		Director of Soccer, Jonathan Weber	X
Director of Program Initiatives, Amanda Becker	X		Director of Softball, Jacki Stalboerger	X
Director of Marketing, Mary Beth Ruthford			Director of Track, Lisa Johnson	X
Director of Sport Program, Craig Pluff	X		Director of Rugby, Eric Curtin	X
At-Large, Shelly Higgins			Director of Volleyball, Beth Sagvold	X
Administrative Assistant, Heather Lorentz	X		Director of Wrestling, Lisa Jensen	X
Financial Assistant, Briana Klaus			Director of Baseball, Rob Emerson	X
			Director of Ultimate Frisbee, Alicia Carr	X
Guest: Jonathan Moore, City of Eagan	X			
Guest: Sandy Setter, EHS	X			

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. President, J.J. Kirby

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 28, 2020 board meeting were reviewed by all present. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Trudy Kenney and seconded by T.J. Rice. Motion passed. Minutes can now be posted on the EAA website.

City of Eagan Update – Jonathan Moore

- Park Maintenance has confirmed no fall field closures will occur.
- City feels they have a good grip on fall field scheduling. In discussions with football while baseball and softball are still up in the air. Lacrosse is wrapping up their field usage next week.
- Restrooms are now unlocked at most park areas and are cleaned three times daily. Portable toilets are also available and are cleaned weekly by the company that provides them.
- Current COVID regulations state 250 person max at any outdoor event, but could have more if spread out over multiple locations. Jonathan will double check on that.
- City signs regarding social distancing were posted this spring and have requested more to place at the busier fields and to replace missing/broken ones.
- City has not received a lot of complaint calls regarding social distancing.

EHS Funding Request – Sandy Setter

- Turf fields at the EHS stadium are moving along and project is running on time.
- 2nd field is also coming along and scheduled for completion mid to late October. This field will have lights and turf and will allow more options for use.
- Pressbox and scoreboard will be installed in August.
- Sandy's vision to fill in the pond behind the EHS gyms and build a multi-purpose facility with more gyms. (would require a bond referendum)
- Irrigation system for the baseball/softball fields is broken due to digging in the area. System is 25 years old and would cost more to fix than to replace. Cost is approximately \$150,000. Could EAA or some of its programs put some money toward the cost of replacement?
- J.J. will follow up with sport directors to see if anyone has the funds to help out.
- MSHSL will have a formal announcement on Tuesday, August 4th following the Governors announcement the previous week on return to school plans. It is likely the high school programs could see shortened seasons or fewer games. All seasons would be affected, not just fall.
- Youth sports may not be affected by any decision, and currently unsure about whether the district will open gyms for rental.

COVID-19 Preparedness/Update – J.J. Kirby

Players returned to the field in June. J.J. advised all sport programs to have their COVID 19 plan in place and determine how to best communicate if there is a positive case reported.

Baseball developed a well thought out plan and Rob will disperse to the group to use for their programs and tweak as needed.

EAA will continue to follow the authority of the Governor, CDC, MDOH and ISD 196 guidelines and provide updates as needed. EAA will continue to have an aligned front with the fall programs and the City of Eagan.

Baseball Update – Rob Emerson

Program was able to play approximately 12 games this summer. There have been a few tournaments as well. Rob feels Eagan is doing a much better job at implementing and executing COVID safety guidelines than other associations. 10U program was hit the hardest with low enrollment and had to drop a team.

Program has had three positive cases of COVID-19 and a few other close contact instances. The proper quarantine procedures were taken in all instances and the affected team has resumed play with a few weeks left in the season.

Eagan's main trainer at The Cages left for club ball and the program received a refund from that contract. Currently trying to re-negotiate contract with The Cages and find a new trainer.

Program considered moving all tryouts to the fall this year, but due to COVID that will not happen. Due to Cooperstown, only the 12U team will tryout this fall so they have ample time to fundraise for the trip.

Basketball Update – Clay Fandre

Travel registration is open and is too early to tell how registration numbers will end up. Current numbers are at 59 and 2019 had 257 total. Early registration ends on August 15th. Had a meeting to discuss tryouts and will form a subcommittee to get new ideas and not make past mistakes. Mention was made for the program to be more considerate of other sports during basketball tryouts. There has been a lot of conflict in the past with end of season tournaments for summer sports.

Tournament is scheduled for early November. Has attended AAU tournaments this summer and has learned a lot in terms of COVID safety procedures to implement etc. If the tournament is cancelled, will talk with neighboring associations about weeknight scrimmages.

Has not been able to secure an in-house director. Clay will be working with Jackie Boldt and Lakoda Will to fill that void. There are also a few other vacant positions to fill and will continue to reach out to parents.

Cross Country – Tina Wrucke

Registration is open through July 31st. So far there are 65 registrants, last year it was close to 100. Planning to put runners into Pods of 16 with two coaches, while keeping families together. Meets are still being discussed and they may have to split them up and do two instead of one. Tina feels she has been given enough time already to have two meets and shouldn't require any additional field time. Working through the details of chalk lines, mask requirements, line up spacing etc. Season starts August 10th.

Summer Virtual XC went well. There was good participation and saw a lot of kids outside of the program sign up. Overall was a lot of administrative work and not sure would do it again.

Football – Nathan Hansen

Registrations are closing soon. Tackle numbers are at 210 which is approximately 90% of last year. 3rd-5th grade has been revamped this season to follow the USA Football model. Program will follow MSHSL and SSYBL but if they cancel it doesn't mean EAA program will not practice and have in house scrimmages. As of right now the schedules are pushed back one week and could push back further if needed.

Lacrosse – Kristy Jelen (via email)

Youth Lacrosse Minnesota made the decision to cancel the season and league play on 6/15. On 6/19 the state opened sports and MDH provided more guidance. Program quickly opened registration to host lacrosse clinics for the month of July and hosted some local scrimmages. (This was done for girls and boys for ages 8U/10U/12U/14U). Approximately 70% of registrants carried over and signed up for clinics also. Program received positive feedback on the clinics

Program has outstanding stipend payments for the coaches (Megan and Jeff working together on this). Will have a board meeting in August to discuss the plan moving forward for lacrosse. Kristy and some others will be leaving and need to fill some positions.

Rugby – Eric Curtin

Program is in their off season. The high school boosters recently had a golf outing fundraiser that went well. Currently working on budget preparations to present at the finance committee in September. May be looking to tour in Scotland this spring depending on the COVID situation.

Soccer – Jonathan Weber

Have two interim DOC's to assist with various tasks including finding coaches, a permanent DOC, a Director of Player Development as well as assisting with tryouts. They will likely receive paid stipends and are still in negotiations. These paid positions have been posted online.

Currently have 18 committed coaches and eight more to be interviewed. Some may coach two teams.

Currently have the following open board positions: At-Large, Tournament Director, Field Director.

Brought in independent evaluators for tryouts this year to offer a fairer look at talent. Final commitment will be secured next week. Many more parents are club shopping this year. A lot of angst in the community and are trying to reach out and address concerns. Many more parents are club shopping this year.

Club is looking at a new software to streamline their processes and new training options for players.

Rec Program numbers are lower than last fall at around 600 registrants. Discussions taking place regarding social distancing guidelines and how to implement especially at BCBS where it's a tighter space.

Softball Update – Jacki Stalboerger

Program was able to have six teams this season. There were few games and some scrimmages. A few teams opted for the state tournament.

Fall registrations recently closed, seeing the most kids in fall ball since 2017. There will be two teams at 8U and 10U and one team at 12U and 14U. Will start first week in August and go approximately seven weeks. Players in their second year of the age group were given the opportunity to play up or at their level.

Stars club summer season went well. Tryouts are August 17/18th. Have hired three new coaches this year and will have an '05 and '07 team. Currently working on the new hire contracts.

Eagan held the National tournament this July with about half the usual teams attending. Opted for food trucks but would not likely do that again.

Track Update – Lisa Johnson

Program is current in their off season and has been working on their bylaws. Kathy Windels has submitted a preliminary copy of their bylaws to the Executive Committee for review and suggestions.

Ultimate Frisbee – Alicia Carr

Program is currently in their off season and is beginning to plan for next spring.

Volleyball Update – Beth Sagvold

Tryouts are scheduled for August 3rd at ECC. Numbers are high for travel. ISD 196 has stated they will not likely have their gyms open until end of September/early October. Program has time at in August at VMCC and may have to add additional time on weekends. Program needs approximately 40 hours per week to cover both travel and in-house gym needs. VMCC does not have availability in October due to league play. Have contacted ECC about space but will come at a significantly higher cost and is usually very limited.

Has been difficult to recruit coaches. Tryouts for travel will occur on two courts instead of three with approximately 35 players per court. Communications to parents will come out soon regarding tryout process.

Travel plays in the Northern Lights League and they have already stated they will not allow spectators at the games.

In house numbers are at about half of last year, with a few weeks left in registration.

Other ideas for gym space from the group included: renting space at Northern Lights, area churches with gyms, outside practices, Hope Fieldhouse and reaching out to neighboring communities for space.

Wrestling – Lisa Jensen

Currently in the off-season. Looking for a replacement director as Lisa would like to step down this year after 7 years in that role. Will put together a manual for the next incoming director. Considering mini camps for session 1 this upcoming season followed by a traditional session 2 season after January 1. Anticipating lower enrollment this season due to COVID. Will try to get more permanent parent volunteers rather ones who can only show up to one meet. Planning to reach out to other programs to see what they are doing for their seasons.

Wrestling mats needs replacing and has been working with the high school. EAA wrestling donated \$3,000 for this purchase, but they still need an additional \$6,000. If there is no wrestling season due to COVID, this purchase may be delayed until the following year.

Facilities Update – Greg Byrne

- No update given

Administrative Officer Update – Trudy Kenney

- No update given

Program Initiatives – Amanda Becker

- No update given

Finance Committee Meeting Update – Megan Brewster

The annual audit was completed by MMKR and the preliminary financial statements, statements of financial position and 990 form were presented. Audit was done remotely due to COVID. EAA received a clean audit opinion. The finance committee reviewed the documents and changes and recommended these documents to be put before the EAA Board of Directors for approval.

Megan asked the group to verify pages 7 and 8 for correct spelling of director names.

A motion was made by J.J. Kirby to approve the documents and was seconded by Jon Weber. Motion carried. Megan will contact MMKR and they will file the 990 form.

Marketing & Technology Update – Mary Beth Ruthford

- No update given.

Executive Committee Update – J.J. Kirby/Trudy Kenney

- Dick's Sporting Good Gift Cards
 - Program has only distributed one gift card so far due to COVID. Please consider anyone on your sport boards, parents, volunteers etc who have gone above and beyond and send Trudy a recommendation for a gift card at: officer@easports.org. If there are families in need you can also recommend them to receive a card to help with purchasing of equipment (cleats, shoes etc)
- New Director Orientation
 - Trudy and Amanda would like anyone who has not yet done the training to reach out and schedule a date to have the training.
- Bylaws Amendment
 - J.J. proposed the following amendments to the EAA bylaws:
 - Article V, Section 2: Persons serving on the Board of Directors shall have attained the age of eighteen (18). Board Members must reside within the City of Eagan and/or have a child attending a school within the City of Eagan. **The Board of Directors may waive, at its discretion and with a majority vote, the residence requirement for otherwise eligible Board of Directors candidates residing in**

neighboring communities. The Board of Directors shall consist of up to twenty-five (25) members, but in no case should it fall below a minimum of fifteen (15) members. The Board of Directors will include four (4) individuals who will serve as elected officers. Any other Board Members will be appointed by the elected officers and/or the full board. At no time can any Board of Director position be filled by Co-Directors (two individuals).

- Motion was made by Craig Pluff and seconded by Jon Weber to update Article V, Section 2 with the changes noted in RED. Motion carried.
 - Article V, Section 3: Adding Director of Ultimate Frisbee to the EAA Board of Directors to be elected on the EVEN year cycle.
 - Motion was made by Jon Weber and seconded by T.J. Rice. Motion carried.
- Misc. – J.J. Kirby
 - The Executive Committee, Amanda Becker, Craig Pluff and Greg Byrne have been actively involved in assisting soccer with program issues since June. Key departures have caused stress from parents and the general soccer community regarding tryouts, coaches and program transparency. A lot of effort has been given by EAA representatives to answer questions and address concerns.
 - Trudy reminded the group that it is imperative to maintain in good standing with our partners at the City of Eagan and ISD 196 and to be kind to our representatives there. Can be at risk of damaging these essential relationships and the EAA brand and in turn, effects all EAA sports.

Other/Open Air

- Adopt A Street – Trudy Kenney
 - City of Eagan has stated no clean up events can occur until August
 - Basketball was on schedule to do the spring cleanup but was cancelled due to COVID. They had submitted a request to the City for a street assignment, and EAA will have two locations – Twin Cities Outlet Mall area and Town Centre Drive.
- Sport Program Bylaws Update – J.J. Kirby
 - Reminder to all sports that an updated version of your bylaws is required and should be presented at the time you present your budget at the finance committee meeting. This rule went into effect at the May finance meeting. If you do not have your bylaws updated, your budget will not be approved.
 - Manual will look different depending on size of the sport but should include key duties, registration protocols, general order of operations, listing of board members and duties.
 - Recommended to use Google Drive to house all sports bylaws for easy reference and data retention.
 - Please email bylaws to the Executive Committee, Amanda Becker, Greg Byrne and Craig Pluff for review.
- Sport Star Photography - Megan Brewster
 - The current EAA contract with Sport Star Photo will expire on Dec. 31, 2020. This was a three year contract.
 - In 2019, EAA received a rebate of \$10,000

- Due to COVID, no pictures have been taken yet in 2020.
- Trudy suggested getting an updated quote for a renewal contract as well as a second quote from another company for comparison.
- Greg Byrne worked on the previous contract with Sport Star and will contact them again along with Valley Photo, which the high school uses.
- Outgoing Directors/Replacement – J.J. Kirby
 - EAA Board of Directors are elected for two-year terms on a rotating even/odd schedule. (With the exception of At-Large Directors, which are 1-year terms)
 - Directors can opt to renew their term or not. J.J. asked the group to start thinking about plans for next year and if planning to NOT return to let him know. He will be reaching out to the following directors set to renew on the EVEN year rotation: Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Coach Development (currently OPEN), Director of Sport Programs, Director of Web Strategy & Support (currently OPEN), Director of Cross Country, Director of Basketball, Director of Rugby, Director of Soccer, Director of Track and At-Large.
- Covid Clause
 - Heather Lorentz suggested EAA develop a general COVID clause to include in all coach and trainer contracts for consistency. It would include an out-clause if a sport was cancelled, or a season cut short due to COVID-19.
 - Jon Weber indicated he was already working with a lawyer on this for his program and would provide the feedback to the group to use.

Motion to adjourn was made by J.J. Kirby and seconded by Clay Fandre. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Upcoming Meetings

**Note that these meeting locations may change to video conference depending on the COVID19 restrictions at that time. You will be notified of any change.*

Finance Committee – Sept. 14th, 7pm Location TBD

Marketing/Technology Committee – TBD

Next EAA Board Meeting – Sept. 24th, 7pm Location TBD