

TABERNACLE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Come Play with TAA!

Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2017

Lynne Hedden called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

In attendance were: Lynne Hedden, Pete Damiri, Rodney Haines, Dave Curtis, Lori Graff, Matt Robertson, Mike Taylor, Gerri Scott, David Kempes, Jeff Avery, Kenny Hill, and Tom Hedden.

The following board members were unable to attend: Ron Bjorklund (excused – professional), Ginger Evans (excused), Brenda Bryan (excused).

The minutes of January 31, 2017 were reviewed and accepted.

Program Reports:

Basketball: Ron Bjorklund – Basketball Director – In Ron's absence, Lynne provided the basketball program report. The regular season has concluded and teams from grades 3 through 6 are heading to the playoffs. TAA is hosting the high school rec playoffs at Seneca HS.

Baseball: Rodney Haines – Baseball Director – The registration deadline has passed but the online form will be left open for a few more days. There were 42 sign ups during the last four days of registration. Currently there are 106 players registered for TAA Baseball. Each level from T-Ball to Majors will have multiple teams. Unfortunately only two players registered at the Babe Ruth level. Opening Day for Baseball and Softball is set for Saturday, April 8th at 10 am at the Patty Bowker field. Rodney asked Pete Damiri to serve as the emcee and secure a singer for the National Anthem. Pete agreed to both. Games are planned to begin immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony. Team pictures for Baseball and Softball are set for Monday, April 10th at OMS. Rodney noted he needs about \$1,000 to fix the gator that is used for field maintenance. Field Clean Up Day was suggested for Saturday, March 18th but Rodney was unsure of his availability.

Softball: Lynne Hedden – Softball Director (interim) – Registration is closed. There will be one team at each level and possibly two teams at the 6th-8th grade level. The Pinelands Pirettes travel softball program has teams at the 10u, 12u and 14u levels. They are looking to form an 8u team to play tournament softball throughout Burlington County. Tabernacle manages the 12u Pirettes team. Softball will join Baseball for Opening Day on April 8th.

Wrestling: Lori Graff – Wrestling Director – The season is complete. The program participated in the Grapevine Tournament this past weekend and had two 8th graders place first in the Best of the Best category. The Duel Team went undefeated for the season. The annual banquet is set for March 8th at Seneca HS. The annual clothing drive went well and raised nearly \$1,000 for the program.

Track and Field: Matt Robertson – Track and Field Director – Registration is ongoing. So far, registrations are light. A volunteer at the meeting from Southampton offered to distribute flyers in the Southampton schools and stores and business in the area. The season will start in a few weeks and Matt is finalizing uniform orders.

Soccer: Dave Curtis – Soccer Director – A flyer was produced and sent to TES for inclusion in their Kindergarten packet for Mini-Munchkin registration. Registration will begin in May. Dave expressed a concern that there may be a shortage of teams for the upcoming season as Mt. Laurel will not be participating for the second straight year, and more towns are leaving rec for travel programs.

Volleyball: Brenda Bryan – Nothing to report

Public Relations: Pete Damiri – PR Director – The Tabernacle Sun published articles on baseball, softball, and track and field registration as well as the Sean Clegg scholarship fund. Plans are to submit a press release on the Chad Adams scholarship in the coming week.

After narrowing down suggestions for the TAA tag line, Pete distributed a list of the top five suggestions to everyone at the meeting and asked for a vote. The tag line with the most votes was: “Come Play with TAA!” Now with the tag line established, Lynne will work to enlist volunteer support to design a TAA logo. Once a logo is created, an evergreen (or generic) flyer can incorporate the tag line and be used to promote all TAA programs.

New Business:

Guest Kenny Hill raised concern about the drafting process in the basketball and baseball programs. He mentioned that his two sons have dropped out of TAA because of being on consecutive, no-win seasons. He suggested TAA re-examine draft policies for its sports and work to improve the process to ensure a more balanced distribution of players. As the issue was being discussed, various program directors noted they do strive to draft players in a fair and equitable manner and often rely on the coaches to help accurately evaluate player talent. Two softball coaches at the meeting stated they collaborated last year to divide the players between them and had very good results.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.