

# TABERNACLE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Come Play with TAA!

### Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2017

(March meeting postponed to 4/4/17)

Lynne Hedden called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

In attendance were: Lynne Hedden, Ron Bjorklund, Pete Damiri, Rodney Haines, Mike Taylor, and Matt Robertson.

Unable to attend were: Dave Curtis, Lori Graff, Ginger Evans, Brenda Bryan, and Mark Lemire.

The minutes of February 28, 2017 were reviewed and accepted.

#### **Program Reports:**

**Basketball: Ron Bjorkland – Basketball Director** – Ron gave his final report for the basketball program for 2017. For revenue: the clinics increased 20% from 2016 and Clinician Matt Robertson did a fantastic job bringing new passion to both the 3-8 skills clinic and Future Stars clinic; Boys 3rd grade – 8th grade increased 12% from last year; Girls 3rd grade – 8th grade decreased 41% from last year; Grades 5/6 and 7/8 realized greatest decreases; Boys HS decreased 23% from last year; Net income for the year is approximately \$2,000, down 47% from 2016.

For program activity, Ron reported that 171 children participated in clinics and league play in 2016-2017 - this compares to 189 participants in 2015-2016; based on the lower registration numbers for Girls 5-8 levels, it is anticipated that total registrations will shrink again for the 2017-2018 season; and there were no major issues with coaches, players or fans during this season.

In terms of tournament play, TAA had team representation in the Medford Lakes President's Day Tournament for Boys and Girls 5th and 6th grade, and the March Madness Tournament for Boys and Girls 4th grade. The 6th grade Boys team coached by Dave Burgess and 6th grade Girls team coached by Tim Wilson advanced to the championship game and finished in second place. TAA hosted the Boys High School division of the Pinelands Championship tournament. Unfortunately, no Tabernacle teams advanced to the championship game. Ron expressed congratulations to our 5th/6th grade Girls team coached by Mike Orth for winning the Pinelands Division Championship.

Ron concluded his report by noting he is continuing the search for a new basketball director.

**Track and Field: Matt Robertson – Track and Field Director** – Matt reported that registration is up to 32 children so far. They are looking forward to their first meet at Shawnee. Since numbers are light, Matt plans to ask Shawnee if they can combine ages in certain races to allow for TAA participation. Matt will verify if TAA needs to provide a certificate of insurance at this and other scheduled meets. TAA plans to host two meets for the season, with the first scheduled for the last Saturday in April. Matt is coordinating a volunteer effort where program participants will be asked to make bagged lunches for the poor and Matt will deliver them to a facility in Philadelphia.

**Softball: Lynne Hedden – Softball Director (interim)** – Lynne reported the winter softball clinics just concluded and were a big success. She found a charity that offers recycled headbands and gave them to all of the girls who participated in the clinics. The recent coaches' clinic was well received. There are eight teams registered for the season and the schedule is posted to the IMAA softball website. Each team has a minimum 12-game season. They had a successful field clean-up day and pitcher/catcher clinics will begin on Monday nights.

Lynne announced that plans are underway for TAA Softball and the Seneca HS Softball program to team up and participate in the Go For the Goal charity event on May 9th to raise money for pediatric cancer. The event involves the purchase of gold shoelaces worn by the players with TAA Softball teams attending the Seneca HS varsity game.

Discussion then focused on the expected placement a defibrillator at the Prickett's Mill softball/soccer complex which was provided to TAA by the Tabernacle Rescue Squad. Currently there is another defibrillator placed inside the snack stand at the Patty Bowker complex. However, without having a secure and locked building like the snack stand, discussion focused on determining the most appropriate location for the defibrillator at Prickett's Mill. Concerns were raised about properly securing the device yet still having emergency access to use it as well as questions over proper training for coaches for this unit and the one stored at Patty Bowker.

**Baseball: Rodney Haines – Baseball Director** – Rodney reported that total program registration is now at 116 participants. This includes four T-ball teams, one team at Rookie, and two teams each at Slugger, Minors, and Majors. There is no team at the Babe Ruth level this year and the Pinelands Rebels - 14U TSE team decided to play elsewhere. The schedules are set playing games with STRA, IMAA and Pemberton. Opening Day is set for Saturday, April 8 at 10am with a Majors game to follow. Other teams will scrimmage and the season will begin on Tuesday. Tree work has begun to cut back branches at the complex.

**Wrestling: Lori Graff – Wrestling Director** – Not in attendance and no report submitted.

**Soccer: Dave Curtis – Soccer Director** – Not in attendance and no report submitted.

**Volleyball: Brenda Bryan** – Not in attendance and no report submitted.

**Public Relations: Pete Damiri – PR Director** – Pete will serve as emcee and he reviewed and confirmed the details around the Opening Day ceremony. He contacted a graphic designer to provide an estimated cost to create a logo and produce a promotional flyer for all of the TAA sports programs. Pete reported that unfortunately no one applied for the TAA Baseball/Sean Clegg scholarship fund, despite widespread promotion. Plans are to continue promoting the general TAA scholarship fund/Chad Adams award. Discussion continued about possibly restructuring the Sean Clegg college scholarship for 12<sup>th</sup> grades to an award presented to graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders at OMS. This possible change was suggested due to the continuing decline of high school applicants, the connection TAA still has with students in middle school (as opposed to 12<sup>th</sup> graders), and previous OMS-supported events with the Clegg family. Lynne stated she would discuss this option with OMS principal Susan Grosser.

### **New Business:**

As a way to show appreciation to the ongoing volunteer support from all TAA coaches, Lynne suggested a possible coaches' night for a basketball shoot around/pick-up game in the gym. She mentioned this had been done in the past and coaches appreciated the time to socialize and hang out. Other suggestions included a variety of social activities including a larger picnic-type event at the Patty Bowker field.

The TAA Facebook page now has 69 likes. To help increase more engagement, Pete asked if we could link the page onto our website homepage. Lynne said she would investigate.

Mike raised the issue that we have more than 20 website urls belonging to TAA and suggested we pair down the list to save on renewal costs. Discussion continued about possibly just maintaining the main url, tabsports.org, and eliminating all other addresses. Mike said he will circulate a list of all the urls so directors can review and determine which ones they would like to keep.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.