

USATF Ozark Executive Committee
April 16, 2024
Minutes

A “hybrid” meeting of the USATF Ozark Association Executive Committee was held at the home of John and Eileen Morris and on the ZOOM platform. President Carlos Ross presided, and Secretary Eileen Morris was present. Also attending the meeting were John Morris, Bob Nichols, Earsene Andrews, Peggy Rowold and Ed Rowold.

It was established that there was a quorum present, and the meeting was called to order at 7:17 P.M. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Minutes of the February meeting which had been published and made available. Except for a spelling correction noted (P6, 4th line should be “of” rather than “pf”), they were approved to be accepted on a motion by Bob Nichols and seconded by John Morris.

Treasurer, John Morris, reviewed the first quarter financial report. Ozark’s bank balance as of March 31 was \$26,203.42 with one outstanding check of \$250. Fund balances were: Youth – (\$3,635.28); Adult - \$1,853.07; Special - \$3448; Bid - \$500.00; and General - \$23,787.63. There was discussion regarding the \$2500 amount received for the Indoor championships and how and by whom the amount was determined. That discussion led to the concern that given it was an association championship, the executive committee should have received a full accounting of all income and expenses for the benefit of those planning future meets, as well as determining the association’s overall budget. It was also agreed that we should establish a policy requiring a detailed report of all income and expenses within a specific time following any championship meet. Acknowledging that any further expenses or income for the Indoor championships would be noted in the next quarter’s report, the motion to accept the report by Peggy and seconded by Eileen was approved.

Eileen reported that to date Membership was 744, 34 clubs were registered and there have been 34 sanctions approved. Bob’s motion to accept the report was seconded by John and approved.

Jayne Jackson, Communication Chair, was not present but Eileen shared that Jayne reported that all the meets she knew were sanctioned had been listed. She requested to be kept informed of others. She also asked for photos from Ozark events to be used for the website rather than the stock photos which automatically populate. There was a discussion of possible news articles about the recent record-breaking accomplishments of Myrle Mensey and Garth Robinson.

Ed Rowold, Official Committee Chair, reported that the committee’s meeting was held on April 7 at which time he announced that a nominating committee will be appointed to put forward a slate of nominees for the offices of Chair, Vice- Chair for Training, Vice-Chair for Rules, Vice-chair for Awards and Secretary to serve during the 2025-2029 Olympiad. It was noted that Rules Reviews for recertification were planned to be online by August 1 and that recertification for the new Olympiad will begin on November 1. Eileen reported that seven people attended the “New Officials Intro” meeting held on March 30. Bob’s motion to accept the report was seconded by Peggy and approved.

Chair of Adult Sports Council, Peggy Rowold, explained that she was working with Youth Chair, Karen Searcy-Chism to locate a facility for a possible joint JO, Open and Masters Outdoor Track and Field Championship event. It had been reported by Andrew Scott, that both Maryville and Missouri Baptist universities were being investigated but each lacked a venue for one or another event. Eileen shared that she requested cost information from SLU but had yet to have a reply. She also reported that the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce was again holding the Gumbo Flats Pumpkin races. She noted that they had already published a registration form which may need to have some additions as it is to be sanctioned but it was unclear whether they were planning on applying for the sanction or expected us to do so again. It was recommended that other planned races be researched to determine if they would cost less for us to sanction. Peggy confirmed that the Open & Master XC Championship is planned for

November 10 at Principia and is to be combined with the JO XC Championship to share costs. Bob's motion to accept the report was seconded by John and approved.

Bob Nichols, RW Chair, then reviewed the planned series for the year which included the Spring Fling, the May Series, Summer Series, the August Duet and the Fall Series. He recommended that a 3K rather than a 5K be held at the Outdoor Championships to avoid the possibility of any particularly slow participants causing the race to take too much time on the track. He would then change the planned 3K Championship in the Fall Series to a 5K. Eileen's motion to accept the report was seconded by Peggy and approved.

Ed Cockrell, Para Athletics Chair, was not present but Eileen shared a conversation with him regarding his comments at the Mid-Year meeting on equity for "paras" not only as athletes but as officials. She suggested to him that he consider officiating at one or more USATF sanctioned club meets, and he was receptive to the idea. She noted that while there may be few para-athletes interested in officiating, Ed may have contact with those and encourage them to consider doing so.

Under old business, John asked if others had a takeaway from reviewing the annual financial report at the Mid-Year meeting. He expressed his concern that we could no longer run any unprofitable events. He believes that to have a more profitable event there must be exceptional planning. The dates must get up on the calendar to encourage those possibly interested to save the date. He also suggested that revenues might be increased through advertising and sponsorships. Carlos agreed and suggested he might work with John to consider possibilities of sponsorships.

Eileen then reminded those present of one of the proposed initiatives for the 2024 Grow to Impact funds. She suggested clubs holding USATF sanctioned meets might find parents willing to serve at a recruiting tent for 2-3-hour shifts. She also recommended that information be gotten regarding the possibility of having a tent at state HS championships and suggested that given limited personnel to serve we may have to concentrate on the Missouri State meets.

Ed inquired about photos from past Open and Master events. A discussion began regarding photography at our events and John shared information Karen gave regarding a photographer who would be at all of our events. It was agreed that she should be contacted for more details.

There was no new business other than to discuss the date of the next meeting, currently May 14, which may need to be changed. It would be looked into, and a notice sent confirming the date.

A motion was made by Earsene to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Peggy and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary