

## USATF Ozark Executive Committee Meeting

January 9, 2024

### Minutes

The USATF Ozark Association Executive Committee meeting was held on the ZOOM platform. President Carlos Ross presided. Secretary, Eileen Morris was in attendance. Additional attendees included Bob Nichols, Jayne Jackson, John Morris, Ed Rowold, Peggy Rowold, Earsene Andrews, Nick Barron and Andrew Scott. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:40 P. M.

Minutes were provided in advance. A motion to accept the minutes made by Bob and seconded by Ed was approved.

The full agenda was then approved on a motion by Angie and seconded by Bob.

Treasurer, John Morris, reported a bank balance of \$29,770.49 as of December 31, 2023. Expenses totaling \$2,037.90 included \$509 -XC meet timing; \$59.95 – XC sanction; \$750 to clubs for sanction assistance; and \$150 - XC officials' stipends at \$25 each. The \$3176 Grow to Impact funds remaining have been allocated for the purchase of an "OWL", indoor implements and deposits for facility and timing services for the Indoor Championship meet. Currently there are outstanding checks totaling \$682. Income included: \$636 – USATF "membership deposits from USATF; Region 9 sanction reimbursement and a small amount from Stripe for the XC totaling \$911. Bob's motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Earsene, was approved.

Eileen reported 383 youth memberships and 132 adult memberships currently. She presented a month-by-month report of 2023 showing 216 Youth and 230 Adult memberships taken from monthly accounting reports and noting the increases and possible reasons for them. She reported 20 club memberships since November 1, which already had surpassed 2023 club numbers and that already four had been applied for and approved since January 1. Bob's motion to accept the report, seconded by John was approved.

Ed Rowold, Officials Chair, shared that there have been certified officials serving at the indoor meets and commented that there had been no protests. It was noted that we did not meet the accreditation minimum number on October 31. Eileen confirmed that we might have had the minimum, but several had an expiration of Safe Sport or Background Screening. She reported that efforts to begin certifying new officials had been delayed, explaining that new certifications completed in the last year of an Olympiad would be valid through the entire next Olympiad and that the costs saved from not needing recertification only months later might be helpful to those interested. Arrangements for a meeting for prospective officials were in progress. Ed then briefly explained the timeline for recertification. A question regarding what and how many background screenings were required for coaches who were also officials was addressed. There was also a brief discussion of what consequences there may be for an official who had not recertified for some time. Bob's motion to accept the report, seconded by Angie, was approved.

Race Walk Chair, Bob Nichols noted that there were no Race Walk events to report but the club was meeting in late January or early February and would include determining the 2024 schedule. He stated that it will be similar to previous years including a race in April, several in May, six in June and July, the August Duet and the Fall series in October. Eileen's motion to approve his report, seconded by Ed, was approved.

Peggy Rowold, Adult Sports Chair, had nothing to report. Andrew Scott did share that Garth Robinson, in the Open/Masters category, broke a 60M record at one of the recent Indoor meets being held at Principia and may attempt another record in the 200M at an upcoming meet.

Karen Chism, Youth Chair, was not present. Andrew Scott did report that the indoor meets were going well and that there were four more meets on the schedule: Principia meets January 21 & 28 and two meets he believed were being hosted by Dashers and Scorpions on February 4 and 18, respectively. He continued by reminding us of the Association Indoor Championships which will be Youth, Open and Masters and is scheduled for February 25, noting it will need sanctioning. He informed us that he and Karen were working together to get all the information needed to have it up on athletic.net for registration. A motion by Bob to accept the report, seconded by John, was approved.

Communication Chair, Jayne Jackson, asked that full information of events be forwarded to her, and she would respond ASAP. Bob's motion to accept her report was seconded by Eileen and approved.

In Old business, a discussion took place regarding the vacant positions and inactive chairs on the Adult Sports Council as well as the concern about the need for a Campaign Manager and the delay in accepting Andy Amsden for the position. Several members expressed frustration with the delay in appointing new adult sport committee chairs and the Campaign Manager even after brief bios were provided. President, Carlos Ross, expressed his need to meet those nominated. It was agreed that decisions and appointments would be made by the next Executive Committee meeting.

It was then noted that delegates' reports expected to be submitted by January 9 along with travel receipts were late. Several shared that theirs were prepared and would be forwarded ASAP. All were reminded that stipend checks would be forwarded when reports received.

Eileen reported that the 2023 Grow to Impact report had been filed and that the 2024 proposals from Ozark were due January 15 which left no time to form a committee to make proposals. Among the possible initiatives were scholarships for Coaches Education which generated a brief discussion of the procedures and possible changes. Eileen reminded others that we have been assured that changes can be made when found needed to produce the "increased membership" desired. Bob made a motion, seconded by John, that she be allowed to submit proposals from a list of initiatives she shared. The motion was approved.

The following 2024 Association Championship dates were identified: Association Outdoor JO T&F Chmps. – June 14&15; JO, Open & Masters XC – November 11. Open and Masters LDR will need further discussion. It was noted that the Gumbo Flats Pumpkin races were an expensive sanction, but it might be difficult to find clubs hosting races which would meet USATF requirements for a championship and that the Gumbo Flats event provided an opportunity for multiple sanctioned championships at one event.

The Mid-Year meeting date of March 17 was accepted on a motion by Bob, seconded by John and approved. There was discussion of a change in St. Louis County library weeknight hours, similar to city libraries, which may further limit use for some of our meetings. All were asked to assist in locating alternative meeting space.

With no further business to discuss, Bob made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by John and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary