

USATF Ozark Executive Committee Meeting

November 14, 2023

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 Andrew Scott, Ed Rowold, Bob Nichols, Karen Searcy-Chism, Peggy Rowold, Ed Cockrell, Angie Miller, Earsene Andrews, Nick Barron and Denise McField. The agenda was approved, and the meeting was called to order at 7:38 P.M.

The minutes were provided in advance. A motion by Bob Nichol and seconded by Earsene Andrews to accept them as presented was approved.

The treasurer, John Morris, was unable to attend. Eileen Morris presented the following information. The bank balance as of October 31 was \$31,002.39 included the following: Adult fund -\$2210.60; Youth Fund – (4448.50); Special Fund - \$2170.00; Bid fund - \$500.00; Grow to Impact of aprx. \$3,900.00 and General Fund – 25,565.43. It was noted that there were outstanding checks of \$750 and known expenditures or upcoming expenses including payment of the XC timing fee and stipends for the USATF Annual Meeting, still to be determined but estimated at about \$9,000. A motion by Bob was seconded by Ed Rowold to accept the report was approved.

Eileen then reported Membership to be at 507, including 261 Youth and 246 Adults. This does not meet the minimum required but is an improvement. To date there have been 50 sanctions approved and 19 clubs which meet the minimum required of Ozark for accreditation. A motion by Ed Cockrell, seconded by Bob, to accept the report was approved.

The Officials' Committee chair, Ed. Rowold, reported that the number of officials remained at 33 fully certified, under our required accreditation minimum, but 13 others could be fully certified if completed or updated all requirements. He reported annual dues of \$20 could now be submitted and asked for that to be done by January 2024. He pointed out that there were a number of officials who had served at the recent Association Race Walk and XC Championships and that there were upcoming meets which will be needing officials, particularly the indoor meets being planned. To a query by Carlos of communication of the annual dues request, Bob pointed out that Eileen had sent out the specific information to officials. Eileen's motion, seconded by Bob, to accept Ed's report was approved.

Communications chair, Jayne Jackson, began her report which led to a discussion of the policy of events needing to be sanctioned to be posted on Ozark's "Events" list, similar to National's requirement. Also discussed was how our events could be publicized or marketed on our website prior to sanctioning. This was of particular concern regarding the youth meets for which there had already been a schedule established and Jane noted the PDF available on the Youth page. Eileen, referencing Association's Manual, described National's reason for requiring sanctioning before listing on the national calendar and confirmed that it was certainly permissible for flyers or announcements to be posted on specific pages of our site and possibly even on an opening banner giving direction to a page with information of "upcoming" events. Jayne asked that information of such events be sent to her as soon as possible to at least be able to construct a "placeholder". She explained that when she enters an event on the "Event" list it is her goal to provide a link that gets users as close to the specific information needed as possible. Peggy asked what the status was of approving Andy Amsden as our Campaign Manager. Carlos asked that the topic be tabled until our next meeting which is hoped to be in-person. Eileen's motion, seconded by Bob to accept the Communications report was approved.

Sports Committee reports began with Bob Nichols, Race Walk chair, sharing that the RW season had concluded. He took the opportunity to compliment RW officials at the final race, particularly Ed and Peggy, who assisted with lap scoring and timing, making the results legal for a young man from Kentucky who took part attempting to qualify for the Melrose Games. He announced that the RW club will meet in January to determine events to be held in 2024. Peggy's motion, seconded by Earsene to accept the report was approved.

Peggy, reporting for the Adult Sports Council, informed us that there were two adults who took part in the recent XC Championships. Those adults were Nick Barron and Emma Whatley. We were all reminded that several of the upcoming indoor meets, including the Association Championships would include Open & Masters levels as well as Youth. Bob requested that event times of the meets be made available to make it easier to secure officials, particularly for Race Walk. Jayne agreed to secure the information and get it added to the PDF on the website. Peggy requested that stipends of \$20 or \$25 be paid to several XC officials. Angie asked for clarification if the stipends would be across the board for other meets. Peggy stated that at this time she was only requesting these due to the great distance several traveled. A motion by Bob, seconded by Nick to accept the report including a stipend of \$25 to be paid officials of the XC Championships willing to accept was approved.

Karen Searcy-Chism, Youth Committee chair, reported that the XC Championships, although low participation, were a success. She noted that the three youth athletes who competed were all from Ultimate Speed Academy track club. She also noted that Andrew "went live" with the race and that pictures and information would be posted on Instagram so that people know that we exist and that there are ongoing events. Karen noted that Principia College would be the venue for the upcoming indoor meets. Andrew then took the opportunity to point out that Principia College, where this year's XC race took place, would be the home of the Ozark XC Championships for the next four years. The 2024 Championships were scheduled for November 10. A motion to accept the report, made by Andrew and seconded by Ed was approved.

Ed Cockrell, chair for Para Athletics, stated that he learned that Para events are not sanctioned by USATF and that Para has their own governing body. He would like to work to "bridge the gap". Bob explained that if a meet is sanctioned by another governing body it will not be sanctioned by USATF. Ed continued expressing his concern that if a para-athlete participated in a USATF event his mark could be used for qualifying for a Para meet. He believes that if we have "inclusion", para events in our meets, the better we will look. He also offered his assistance to any para-athlete who needs help with placement or just advice suggesting that they should be directed to contact him. Bob's motion, seconded by Eileen to accept the report was approved.

A discussion of setting a schedule of association championships and other meetings included Eileen pointing out that guidelines in the Association Manual state that championship dates should be set at the beginning of the calendar year. Carlos also asked attendees to consider the best date for our Mid-Year Association meeting. It was agreed that these two dates will be discussed and determined at the January Executive Committee meeting.

Eileen then presented the status of our Grow to Impact initiatives and made several recommendations. Since it did not look like current initiatives would be using all of the 2023 funds, she suggested the purchase of an OWL to enhance ZOOM meetings. Doing so was supported by Bob. There were no objections. She reminded attendees that use of a significant portion to assist with deposits for facilities and timing and additional sanction fee assistance might also be made. Ed Cockrell agreed to investigate costs of required equipment to host a Run, Jump, Throw event. She reminded us that the funds needed to be expended by December 31 of this year for Ozark to be eligible for an additional \$5000 in 2024. Bob's motion to accept the report was seconded by Peggy and approved.

A vote was then taken to determine the amount of stipend to offer Ozark delegates for expenses to attend the USATF Annual Meeting in Orlando. Suggestions of \$1000, \$1100 and \$1250 were made and discussed. A stipend of \$1100 per delegate was approved. A motion was then made by Carlos that an \$1100 stipend be paid each delegate after submission of receipts totaling at least \$1100 for lodging, transportation, reasonable meal costs and registration fee were received in addition to the delegate's reports of meetings attended being submitted no later than January 9, 2024, the date of the next Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary