**DRAFT MINUTES, ZOOM MEETING, OCTOBER 11, 2023**

**TRISATE WHEELCHAIR & AMBULTORY ATHLETICS**

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The meeting was called to order by Caitlin Goerlich, Chair, at 7:10pm

Attendance: Ryan Chalmers, Jimmy Cuevas, Phil Galli, Caitlin Goerlich, John Guimares, Danny Martin, Joan Wheeler, Trisha Yurochko

Excused: Ken Brucato, Laura Caligiuri, Darla Clayton, Pat Redden

**Review/Approval of Minutes (6/21/23:** Caitlin asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes and if there were any changes. A motion was made by Phil Galli and seconded by Joan Wheeler to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Trisha reported that the balance in the checking account was $15,496.21. Trisha also reported that TSWAA paid out a total of $4568.07 for the Tri-State Games. This included the $2750 for insurance coverage from Move United, Phil’s travel expenses and Paul Kolterjahn’s expenses for tape, paint etc. Phil made a motion to accept the report and John seconded.

**Old Business:**

*The Hartford Grant:* Caitlin reported that we did not receive the Hartford Grant and no real reasons as to why other than there were many grant requests. We will try again and it could be that we are more of a “one off situation” where we are not a team but an organization that helps teams.

*Additional Board Representation:* Jimmy reported that John Hamre is not interested and suggested Arielle Rausin who is with Achilles in NYC. Ryan reached out to Arielle and she is interested. Trisha said that HSC/Waves are interested but not sure whether the rep would be Janet Connolly or Joan Karpuk or even both. She also reached out to Gwena and Gerry Herman, Bennett Blazers, and they are interested. Jimmy suggested that we reach out to Jennifer Demby, coach of the VI team to see if she would be interested in being a part of the board. A standard letter inviting them to join the board will be developed and sent to the above. The letter would state that it is a three year commitment beginning on 1/1/2024. Phil made the motion to expand our current board to include representatives from our expanding service area: New York City, Connecticut and Maryland. Trisha seconded the motion.

*Insurance:* The question is, “Is Move United insurance coverage the best deal for us?” Caitlin and Darla reached out to other insurance companies and when they saw the sports (especially archery) that we participate in at the meets we need coverage for, the companies did not want to provide coverage. There was at least one company that possibly would have provided the coverage but their service area did not include NJ. Caitlin was going to reach out again to one of the companies that she spoke with to re-emphasize that all the sports listed on our website are not the ones that we participate in – they are merely some of the sports that individuals can participate in through other organizations. John was going to reach out to Matt Kelly to see about Union County covering the insurance for archery. Phil suggested that perhaps Children’s Specialized and/or the CSH Foundation would cover the cost of the insurance for the Tri-State Games since the hospital already covers the insurance for the Swim and Invitational meets. Trisha will reach out to Laura to see if she can find anything out. The hospital would then be listed as a sponsor of the Tri-State Games.

**New Business:**

*Endless Highway:* Ryan explained that Endless Highway is a local foundation in Rochester that was interested in expanding their reach and impact. Ryan reached out to them and Ryan then asked Phil and Trisha to join the conversation. After several meetings with Endless Highway, they agreed to support us with a grant. They selected to purchase table tennis tables which was one of the lowest ranking items on our wish list. Discussion followed and it was determined that our priority right now should be upgrading our powerlifting equipment so that we can run a legal level 2 competition and run a couple of clinics for interested teams. We would create a banner naming Endless Highway as the sponsor for the powerlifting event at the Tri-State Games and at the clinics. Trisha, with the help of Paul Kolterjahn, will put together a list of the desired equipment which will be submitted to Endless Highway. Phil and Ryan will also be involved in this process. The equipment we are looking for right now would be: another full set of weights preferably kilo but can use pound, 2 Olympic bars, fill in the weights that we don’t have in our current set, another set of legal straps, refurbish an old bench. As a reminder we need the second set of weights and bench for the Tri-State Games because we typically have enough lifters where we need to have a warm-up bench (that’s a good thing) and we are hoping to continue to grow the sport and the event.

*Team Discussion and Team Advisory Board:* Need to have more input from the teams and with the addition of the aforementioned individuals we would have good team representation to really find out what the teams want and need to help them grow.

*Social Media Presence:* We do have a Facebook page but no one owns it and it really has to have things posted on a regular basis. John mentioned that FB is about people and we are considered more of a business because when we post it is currently about a meet or event. We really need a dedicated person or persons who would take on this role and keep whatever social media presence we decide on up to date and relevant. Suggestions for the owner of the project: a current or post athlete; maybe a parent who has the time, experience and interest. This is something we all need to think about and talk to possible candidates about.

*Exciting News:* John brought up that there are five athletes with Tri-State ties that are on the ParaPanAm team….. Jason, Miquel, Aubrey, Katarina, Madison. Very exciting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Yurocchko