**DRAFT MINUTES, ZOOM MEETING, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

**TRISATE WHEELCHAIR & AMBULTORY ATHLETICS**

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The meeting was called to order by Caitlin Goerlich, Chair, at 7:05pm

Attendance: Ken Brucato, Darla Clayton, Janet Connolly, Jimmy Cuevas, Phil Galli, Caitlin Goerlich, John Guimares, Gerry Herman, Gwena Herman, Joan Karpuk, Arielle Rausin, Joan Wheeler, Trisha Yurochko

Excused: Laura Caligiuri, Ryan Chalmers, Danny Martin, Pat Redden

**Review/Approval of Minutes (10/11/23):** Caitlin asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes and if there were any changes. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Jimmy to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Trisha reported that the balance in the checking account was $12,293.71. Last bill paid out was for the Move United insurance and was paid in December 2023 in the amount of $3272.50. She also reported that an amount of $824.28 needed to be paid to Paul Kolterjahn for the purchase of additional powerlifting equipment: pound and kilo weights, a bar, and collars for the bar. Most of the items were purchased on MarketPlace. A couple of items were purchased from a regular vendor as they would be considered specialty items. Trisha reported that she had set up a business account with Amazon and had ordered a wheelchair scale for a total of $351.84. As a reminder the board approved $1500 towards the purchase of these items. A new bench was ordered from Eagle Sports, an approved vendor, and is funded by a grant from Endless Highway, a foundation from Rochester, NY. Phil mentioned that Endless Highway would need to be considered as a sponsor for the powerlifting event at the Tri-State Meet, as that was one of the reasons we received the grant. John mentioned that there are different sponsor levels for the meet, but they would be included. A motion was made by Ken and seconded by Phil to accept the report.

A secondary part of the discussion during the treasurer’s report was about the high cost of insurance from Move United. At this point the only meet that really uses the coverage is the Tri-State Games. Insurance coverage for the Tri-State Swim Meet, the Invitational and the Bennett Meet are covered by the respective hospitals. Archery does add significantly to the cost and as a result many of the other regional competitions no longer offer archery. John has reached out to USATF, USA Archery and USA Powerlifting for sanctioning information and to see if less expensive insurance could be provided by those entities for the meet.

Also discussed was the fact that new field equipment and other supplies for the meets may need to be purchased this year. However, in 2025 we will need to purchase new 700G javelins as the specs on those are changing. Any other new equipment purchase is currently unknown. Trisha and Paul did a complete inventory and found that some of the implements and tapes have seen better days. The issue will be to see if the implements pass the weights and measure test, and do we have enough implements for the number of anticipated athletes? So, with that said some new equipment may need to be purchased this year.

**Old Business:**

Welcome to new board members: Gwena & Gerry Herman, Bennett Blazers, Baltimore, MD; Janet Connolly and Joan Karpuk from HSC & HSC Waves, Newington, CT; and Arielle Rausin, Achilles International, NYC. Phil also mentioned that he had asked Joe Walsh, New England Adapted Sports, Boston, MA if he would join the board but he declined as he is already on the Move United board and felt there could be a conflict but wanted to be part of a team advisory role which is great.

Trisha mentioned that with the additional powerlifting equipment she and Paul would be willing to travel to Connecticut, Maryland, New York or PA for powerlifting clinics or host one here in NJ. Janet mentioned that they have just started a strength and conditioning program and will encourage the appropriate athletes, to try it out as a part of an overall health and wellness program. Jimmy mentioned that he thought the local VA hospitals might be interested and offered to reach out to his contact.

There was also discussion of how to pay for the insurance coverage, especially for the Tri-State Games. Suggested that maybe an organization would do that and then would be listed as a sponsor of the Tri-State Games.

**New Business:**

2024 Meets

Caitlin reported for Laura on the Regional Swim Meet and the Invitational Meet. Unfortunately, for the swim meet, March 2 at Rutgers, classification will not be held. No classifiers were assigned. The information packet is out and registration is open until February 17. Gwena mentioned that the Loyola swim meet will have classification and is March 25. The Invitational is still scheduled for May 4 at Rahway River Park but full, confirming confirmation has not yet been received. All of the required paperwork is in.

John reported that he has confirmation but no contract for the use of Rahway River Park for the Tri-State Regional Games. If the county does not grant permission John has already reached out to Rutgers and they are willing to work with Tri-State on the meet, but nothing is confirmed yet. We may be able to grow parts of the Tri-State Games if we can get the veterans involved.

Blue Foundry Bank

John brought up that the Blue Foundry Bank Charitable Foundation does have grants available. He does not have the time to pursue but wondered if someone else could and a suggested grant request could be to cover our insurance costs. Apparently, there are three different categories for grant applications, but we need to sign up first to become an applicant. The Blue Foundry Bank is located at 1101 Morris Ave, The Shoppes at Vermella, Union, NJ. If someone would like to research this and report back to the group that would be great.

Team Discussion

The Bennett meet is track only. Joan remarked that her swimmers don’t like the Rutgers pool as the walls are too high.

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Yurocchko