



**Board Meeting Notes – DRAFT
Monday, May 15, 2023 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Apple Valley Community Center**

Attendees:

Board: Jason Petti, Doug Beddies, Jen Borgstrom, Mark Espena, Peter Beaumont (soccer), Jude Miron (representing basketball), Mary Coleman

Programs: Gerri Laska (Volleyball), Cory Kellum (Lacrosse)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

Secretary Vacancy

The EVAA bylaws state that the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary must serve at least one year on the EVAA board prior to serving in these roles as it ensures that these members learn how the board operates prior to serving. However, as the EVAA board may have difficulty recruiting volunteers based on these parameters, it was proposed to amend the bylaws to also include those who have served a minimum of two years on an EVAA sport board.

MOTION: To amend the bylaws as it pertains to the offices of the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer as follows:

Candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer must have served a minimum of one (1) year on the Board, or a minimum of two (2) years on an EVAA sport board.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

MOTION: To approve Mary Coleman as the new secretary.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Minutes Approval

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the March 2023 EVAA Board meeting.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Apple Valley Referendum Update

Both items on the ballot for the Apple Valley referendum passed. The city conducted a survey and discovered that the majority of respondents wanted the tax increase to replace new trails, resources, and equipment; the aquatic center was also an area that respondents would like to see improved.

Eagan Partnership

As it has been difficult to be in contact with leadership from EAA, it was suggested that EAA leaders attend an EVAA board meeting to help solidify a partnership. A board meeting would be a better venue for all to ask questions and to have an open dialogue to brainstorm, discuss any challenges, and discover solutions. In addition, VAA has a new president which may also allow for further partnerships in the future.



EVHS/EVAA Coaching Alliance

The first coaching alliance event was well attended, and received positive feedback from those who attended. It was debated whether to include hockey in the future, but ultimately decided against it as it is not an EVAA sport and has its own governance. EVAA will hold these coaching alliance events again in the future as it was such a success.

Coaching Shortage

There is a universal coaching shortage across all sports. Many sports now pay for coaches, and some use the DIBS system. A potential solution is not to have one main coach, but rather have a few coaches to help lighten the load, especially as children may play multiple sports and a family with multiple children may not be able to commit to coach one sport full time. Having coaches indicate their availability during registration could help align coaches that have conflicts but that still want to volunteer as part of a coaching team.

It was suggested to pair coach training for sports with similar or complementary skills, especially if a parent is hesitant to coach an unfamiliar sport but may have knowledge in one with similar skills. If the coach shortage continues, EVAA could partner with the booster clubs to help raise funds to pay for coaches in the future.

Avario Discussion

Soccer is currently the only sport that uses Avario, as there has been some hesitancy getting all the sports to implement it. To ensure consistency across all the EVAA sports, Avario will be used by all sports in the future with the help of the facilities director.

Hope Fieldhouse

A bill of collection will be sent to Hope Fieldhouse to obtain the funds that are owed to EVAA according to our agreement with them.

EVAA/Rip Tide Swimming Summer Program

The registration for this summer program will be through SportsEngine, though this summer program will not insured through EVAA; Rip Tide will assume the liability.

Trap Team

Registration for trap will be through EVAA, but similar to lacrosse and hockey, an additional external registration will be needed. As only those 12 and older are allowed, it needs to be clear on the registration that this is not just for grades 6 and up; exact birthdates needs to be included to ensure this rule is strictly enforced. There will be both spring and fall seasons for trap.

Marketing Update

A youth baseball event was just successfully completed. Future marketing events include repeating the sports sampler (August for indoor sports and January for outdoor sports), as it was so successful, and all programs are expected to participate. EVAA will also have a spot in the Apple Valley Freedom Days Parade. Ideally, all EVAA programs will be represented in the parade in order to showcase all the sports.



Program Updates

Football

Football registration is opening early so athletes can get their gear before the camp starts. Children that participate in flag football are encouraged to try tackle football; though it should be clear that tackle football is not trying to “steal” these young athletes; it’s just another opportunity to try a different sport.

Softball

Softball is going well. Fall Fusion is growing and they may have more teams than in the past.

Lacrosse

Lacrosse has approximately doubled since last new, with many new players. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the coaches, and the option to rent the equipment has been very well received by parents.

Basketball

The season is about to close; the next tryouts will be in August at Hope Fieldhouse.

Volleyball

There is a new head coach who will partner in clinics and training sessions, in addition to a clinic in partnership with Gustavus. The in-house volleyball season is about to end, and fall registration will open soon. A survey that was sent out to parents resulted in positive feedback for the volleyball program, though one improvement would be to bring back the coupon for Dick’s Sporting Goods.

An issue that has spread across multiple sports is the lack of adequate equipment storage, e.g. volleyball is currently sharing their storage space with skiing, and lacrosse doesn’t have easy access to their storage. Individual storage units can be expensive, and a new storage solution should be examined.

Soccer

Registrations for spring were fewer than anticipated by around 70 registrations. New for the spring season was the addition of middle school girls-only teams, as the fall parent survey indicated that there was interest in developing this new league. Prior to the start of the spring season, 2 parent Zoom sessions and 2 coach training sessions were held. The new referee scholarship/mentoring program kicked off this spring, and ~95% of all games already have referees assigned, so soccer doesn’t anticipate a referee shortage. One clinic with the high school athletes and coaches was held this season and another will be held on May 21 along with a coach appreciation event that will also serve as a mid-season training clinic.

Open Board Positions

After discussion, it was determined that the position of facilities director should be a paid position given time commitment and responsibilities involved. The nominations committee will seek potential candidates for all open board positions to ensure a fully operational board.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 8:34 p.m.