

<b>Eagan Athletic Association - Board Meeting Minutes</b>			
<b>Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:30 p.m.</b>			
<b>Eagan City Hall, Eagan Room</b>			
President, J.J. Kirby	X	Director of Basketball, Troy Tatting Proxy: Emily Rusham	X
Vice President, Dan Sagstetter	X	Director of Cross Country, Ben Weidenfeld	X
Treasurer, Megan Brewster		Director of Football, Dallas West	X
Administrative Officer, OPEN		Director of Lacrosse, Jason Oberhamer	
Director of Business Development, OPEN		Director of Soccer, Mike Langley	X
Director of Facilities, Todd Wrucke	X	Director of Softball, T.J. Fletcher	X
Director of Program Initiatives, OPEN		Director of Track, T.J. Rice	X
Director of Marketing, Elizabeth Kmety	X	Director of Rugby, Darryl Sanders	X
Director of Sport Programs, OPEN		Director of Volleyball, Annette Scribner	X
Director of Web Strategies and Social Media, OPEN		Director of Wrestling, Katie Rowekamp	X
At-Large, Matt Lilleboe	X	Director of Baseball, Bryan Walz	X
At-Large, OPEN		Director of Ultimate Frisbee, Alicia Carr	X
Financial Assistant, Briana Klaus		Guests: Mike Ramirez, City of Eagan	X
Business Interface Rep, Heather Lorentz	X	Guests: Amy Dearborn, Travel/JO Volleyball, Nick McCollum	X
Administrative Assistant, Erikka Anderson		Public Attendees: none	

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, January 25, 2024

X – indicates attendance

Meeting was called to order by J.J. Kirby at 6:30 p.m.

### **City of Eagan Update** – Mike Ramirez

- Field Space/BCBS
  - Issues continue with field space. Engaged with BCBS about spring use, but not hopeful. Will try to preserve fields through June.
  - Due to the timeline of BCBS sale issues and environmental concerns could possibly be on a season-by-season agreement.
  - The city is working on internal plans and asking questions about space and usage at other fields if cannot secure space at the fourteen fields at BCBS.
  - Some space was obtained at Bridle Ridge and could consider Mobile 5 v 5 fields. Considerations for utilizing other spaces for pop up fields.
  - Currently working on tournaments and spring/summer field usage for all sports.
- Construction Updates
  - Goat Hill construction starts mid-July, will go offline July 15<sup>th</sup> for parking upgrades.
  - Goat Hills fields will probably not be available for other field improvements due to parking lot inaccessibility. Please talk to Mike if you have questions.
  - NV Athletic parks 1 and 4 may be unavailable for building improvements.
- Fee Updates
  - The fee schedule approved by the council was dispersed. IH program fees increase by \$2 per player. The purpose is to provide a service but not lose money and continue to provide adequate field maintenance.
  - City would like resident vs non-resident data from each sport utilizing city space. Please send Mike the data percentage only. 75% considered resident but likely EAA as a whole will be charged the resident rate.
- Other
  - Andi Galatowitsch is retiring March 4<sup>th</sup> transitioning to Ashely Blix.

### **Approval of Minutes**

TJ Fletcher motioned to approve the September 28, 2023 meeting minutes and Dan Sagstetter seconded the motion. Dan Sagstetter motioned to approved the December 8, 2023 board meeting minutes and TJ Fletcher seconded. Both motions were carried. The minutes will be posted on the EAA website.

### **Program Updates**

#### **Baseball** – Bryan Walz

- Registrations are open for summer programs and tournaments, numbers are good.
- Spring and Summer Tournaments each have 5/7 age groups full.
- Off season age group training is wrapping up with mixed reviews. Older players attended less whereas a lot of younger kids showed up. Looking into how to focus on younger kids going forward.

#### **Basketball Update** – Emily Rusham

- In House 4-6 program is underway.
- LH starts in February (4 Saturdays ~110 kids) HS players are helping along with a couple parents.

- Travel – 8<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed the Timberwolves Experience.
- Mid-season surveys went out with relatively positive feedback.
- Board meeting in January expressed concerns about paid coaches, and processes. Board discussed past practices and committed to looking at communication for next year.
- In February may make a motion for a particular group to get a discount due to coach issue/gap.
- Brainerd tournament will be held in February.

### **Cross Country – Ben Weidenfeld**

- Currently going through equipment.
- Summer Miles registration will open in March.

### **Football – Dallas West**

- Year end meeting held with SSYFL.
- 12 associations are participating with two on probationary status.
- Continue momentum from last year with focus on sportsmanship and safety.
- Board met early January put together framework and next meeting will focus on budget and looking for board help/volunteers.
- Will have a parent meeting prior to the season.
- Discussions regarding paid coach for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade – 1 coach per level.
- Technology upgrade – program looking into field camera sticks.
- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade flag participation declining exponentially – operating committee proposing eliminate 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade flag football. Would free up one field for use by others.
- Motion to approve removing 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade flag football program made by TJ Rice, seconded Matt Lilleboe. Program will operate without this program going forward.
- Vikings Partnership
  - Dan mentioned a meeting with the Vikings he and JJ Kirby attended. Vikings seemed to focus on girls' flag football. EAA could put together a plan and pitch it to them if want to pursue a partnership. Could play into a solution for flag football or field space in general.
  - Dan will reach out to Rosemount to inquire how their girls flag programs run and how/why it is successful.
  - If EAA can connect with the Vikings, it could drive interest in flag football and help with field space shortages.

### **Lacrosse – Jason Oberhamer - ABSENT**

- No update given.

### **Rugby – Darryl Sanders**

- Secured indoor facilities/calendar, registrations are open, parent meetings in the works and working MYAR on policies and procedural changes.
- New MYAR board implemented changes and teams may leave and join WI. Impact to Eagan would be minimal.

### **Soccer – Mike Langley**

- Registration open for spring, numbers are good.

- Fields are a big concern.
- Partnering with EV could be a solution for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade fields.
- 14/20 fields are at BCBS and about half the kids are PreK/K level.

### **Softball** – T.J. Fletcher

- Summer registrations are open. Fastpitch numbers are better than expected. 8U/10U teams have ~80 registered.
- May need to reach out to area communities if do not have enough players at 14U.
- Player evaluations occur in February.
- Indoor practices begin in April.
- In House numbers – too early to tell.
- Many new board members are coming on and will delegate some of the duties to them.

### **Track Update** – T.J. Rice

- Over 400 signups, on pace if not ahead of last year.
- Contracts will be signed next week.
- Lisa stepping off as meet manager, new person stepping in.
- Board meeting next week.
- May update logo and will align with any new EAA branding.
- New high jump pits needed at EHS, looking for ways to help – concessions, donations.
- Working on medals and gift card purchases/donations.

### **Ultimate Frisbee** – Alicia Carr

- Registrations are open, getting organized for the season.

### **Volleyball Update** – Annette Scribner

- JO started at the end of November and runs through mid-April, rostered one team at each level - 12, 13, 14's.
- Travel not in season. Will soon be setting up gym space for tryouts beginning of August.
- Registering for spring in house now, season starts early April.
- Parent meeting/recruiting night March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Travel coach last year had to resign 2/3 way through travel season due to possible coach infraction and has offered to coach for spring, and coaches other sports. Do they allow him to coach again, are there stipulations?
  - Program will wait and see how many coaches they have and will not ask him to coach unless they are short on coaches.
  - If this person is needed as a coach, it is suggested program get a small committee together to review infraction, meet with him and gauge interest in coaching under probationary provisions.
  - Was mentioned that EAA Coaches Code of Conduct may need to be updated. JJ will look it over.

### **Wrestling** – Katie Rowekamp

- Second session underway with a couple athletes qualified for state.
- Trying to rework budget for next year as Wrestling room being charged for space and is

eating up all the budget (as of 2021).

- Zack Hansen, Sandy Setter and Amy Billings will all have a conversation about these charges and JJ will reach out to EHS.

### **Administrative Business**

- Executive Committee — J.J. Kirby
  - Board Restructuring
    - Bylaws amended and distributed. Results of the voting in December, just a review of the changes.
    - Director of Business Development candidate - Nick McCollum
      - Familiar with Sponsorships, sales and partnerships background.
      - Would handle all 3<sup>rd</sup> party relationships, Dicks, Sports Star etc.
      - Help sports with fundraising/sponsorship.
      - Motion to elect NickMcCallum as Director of Business Development was made by Dan Sagstetter, seconded by TJ Fletcher. Motion carried.
  - Audit Update – J.J. Kirby
    - No update
  - Sports Star contract – Matt Lilleboe
    - EAA agreement expired at the end of 2023.
    - Changes: Two-year term instead of one (through 2025), shipping and handling to be paid for out of the 17% rebate. Anything left over will be the rebate EAA receives. Lower costs for families by offering no shipping charges.
  - Dick's Gift Cards update – Dan Sagstetter
    - Submitted request to Dick's, increased requested amount.
    - \$1100 in cash to cover tax, \$1000 AD Star credits, \$2750 in gift cards.
    - Will reconnect with them beginning of February if do not hear back.
  - Eagan APRC meeting review
    - Dan, JJ, Mike and Todd attended.
    - Reconnecting with Eagan Parks and Rec.
    - Sensitive to storage, fields, indoor space needs.
    - Early-stage plans to renovate ECC, likely won't affect gyms.
    - Another meeting in February to roll out preliminary plan.
  - Multi-Sport Athlete Policy
    - Policy put in place to give a roadmap for figuring out what to do with kids doing more than one sport same one season.
    - Motion may by Matt Lilleboe to enact the Multi-Sport Athlete Policy as proposed. Motion was seconded Dallas Westmotion. Motion carried.
    - Policy will be put on website under policies, and also on the newsreel.
    - Sports should also place a copy of this policy on their website and/or discuss at parent meetings.
- Finance Committee — J.J. Kirby
  - Administration Budget (Action)
    - Proposal to decrease admin fee from \$25 to \$20, sports decide what to do with that money. Could potentially run at this amount for at least five years or more.
    - Motion to approve 2024 Admin Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee was made by TJ Fletcher and seconded by TJ Rice. Motion carried.

- Marketing & Technology Committee — Elizabeth Kmety
  - January 2024 Meeting Recap
    - Will meet Tuesday's before EAA Board meeting in 2024.
    - Identify focus items – unification of EAA brand.
    - Continue discussions on how to measure marketing impact.
    - Brand guide for EAA – working on new mission statement.
    - EAA Marketing events – which ones to do in 2024 and how to staff them.
    - Work on more consistency on how emails look in terms of who sent them.
  - District 196 Flyers/Ads
    - Print and digital formats are coming out this spring.
  - Website Update
    - Specs submitted to SE for main website and will have a mockup first week of February.
- Open Air (all)
  - Background checks
    - Concern that some sports that have governing bodies outside of EAA require a different background check and will not accept EAA's. Many coaches have to do multiple checks.
    - Is it possible to ask SE how we can better connect with other governing bodies so that background checks are not duplicated.
    - Everyone who has a background check through outside entity email Heather and she will inquire about this is SE.
  - Sheds - Todd Wrucke is meeting with prior Facilities Director, Greg Byrne for a tour of EAA sheds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm by J.J. Kirby.

**Reminders:**

<b>Marketing Committee</b> 7:00 p.m. Zoom (3rd Monday, Odd Months)	<b>Finance Committee</b> 7:00p.m. City Hall (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, Odd Months)	<b>EAA Board</b> 6:30 p.m. City Hall (last Thursday, Odd Months)
March 12	March 11	March 21

**Committee Assignments:**

Finance		Marketing	
Chair	J.J. Kirby (President, <b>Chair</b> )	Chair	Elizabeth Kmety (Director of Marketing, <b>Chair</b> )
Vice Chair	Megan Brewster (Treasurer, <b>Vice Chair</b> )	Vice Chair	Dan Sagstetter (Vice President, <b>Vice Chair</b> )
	Bryan Walz (Director of Baseball)		T.J. Fletcher (Director of Softball)
	Dallas West (Director of Football)		Annette Scribner (Director of Volleyball)

	Todd Wrucke (Director of Facilities)		Darryl Sanders (Director of Rugby)
	Troy Tatting (Director of Basketball)		T.J. Rice (Director of Track & Field)
	Alicia Carr (Director of Ultimate Frisbee)		Mike Langley (Director of Soccer)
	Katie Rowekamp (Director of Wrestling)		Ben Weidenfeld (Director of Cross Country)
	Matt Lilleboe (At Large)		Jason Oberhammer (Director of Lacrosse)
			Nick McCallum (Director of Business Development)