

**Rheems Athletic Association  
Board Meeting – June 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 - Meeting Minutes  
Lucky Duck's Cafe, Elizabethtown, PA**

President Greg Laszakovits called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with the following board members in attendance:

Brian Bell (vice president), Michael Smith (secretary), Rick Knowlton (Volleyball commissioner), Kenny Burke (rugby co-commissioner), Jo Hershey (Rugby Co-commissioner), Wendi Grinell (softball co-commissioner), Roger Garber (softball co-commissioner), Heidi Vognetz (fundraising chairperson), Doni Keeports (soccer co-commissioner), and Doug Oberholser (soccer co-commissioner) were in attendance.

David Kase (Boys lacrosse, co-commissioner), Lea Taylor (Treasurer), were not in attendance.

- Special business/guests –

The following individuals were in attendance:

Paula Burke (Risk management/compliance), Inga Washington, Bob Muesser, and Keith Endy.

- Prior meeting minutes review and approval

Greg Laszakovits asked if there were any objections or revisions to the April meeting minutes. There were not. **Rick Knowlton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Doug Oberholser seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the board.**

- Finances – Lea Taylor

The March, April and May 2017 financials were at hand for approval. **Wendi Grinell made a motion to approve. Kenny Burke seconded the motion. Financials were approved unanimously.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Previous business - Action Items – April 2017

Dave Kase to nominate Don Hall as Boys Lacrosse Co-commissioner, for a board vote.

-Dave not in attendance at this meeting. **Closed – See Boys Lacrosse update later in minutes.**

2. Previous business - Action Items – August 2016

Greg Laszakovits to send out email and put on website tax exempt status.

\*\* In January of 2017, Greg has started working with Rob Cronin of Cronin Law to address this item. Been in touch, has not yet heard back. **Open - Carried forward on 6/11/2017.**

3. Previous business – Action Items – Aug 2016

Any Wenger Feeds invoicing required for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of the year?

***Invoice was received in October. Invoice was not paid as of 4/9 meeting.***

*Greg had emailed with Jamie Crowley and Barry Shaw of Wenger feeds, as of 4/9 meeting, to set up a meeting to catch up with RAA. Jamie Crowley is retiring and passing on responsibilities, including RAA liaison, to Linda Lownsbery.*

*Subsequent to 4/9 board meeting, on 4/17, Greg met with Wenger Feeds (Jamie Crowley).*

*Greg relayed that the meeting went well and that Wenger Feeds is very impressed with RAA program and the number of children and families that it serves in the community.*

**Greg updated item at 6/11/17 meeting. Invoices for 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of 2016 and 1<sup>st</sup> ½ of 2017 have now been paid. Item will be closed out.**

4. Previous business – Action Items – Feb 2017

Bob Meuser to hold an administrative website access training session in the coming months.

**Open – Carried forward on 6/11/2017 with updates-- Bob indicated that he will hold a training session for commissioners. Requirements: Facility with projector & WiFi.**

**Brian to set Doodle pole for availability of attendees. Dates to use are from 7/10 out.**

**Attendees told to bring laptop and examples or samples to use in training.**

5. Previous business – Action Items – Complete by Dec 2017

Review, and post to website, bylaws for any necessary updates/revisions. **Open - Carried forward on 6/11/2017. Bob/Brian to confirm if revisions are needed. Brian forwarded to Bob on 6/12/2017.**

6. Previous business – Action Items – Apr 2017

Discussion regarding concussion training and clearances for all sports.

See Notes at number 7 below under new and ongoing business. **Open – Carried forward on 4/9/2017. Item settled/resolved at 6/11/2017. Board discussed and reached a consensus agreement on concussion training frequency that the governing body of each sport sets the rule on training frequency, but that individuals must be certified at least annually.**

**A motion was made on this by Brian Bell, which was seconded by Kenny Burke. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion. Item is CLOSED.**

• **New and Ongoing business:**

1. Fundraising and sponsorship -

Update – Heidi Vognetz

a) Recent soccer fundraising numbers- Spring 2016 \$6,700, fall 2016 \$6,400, Spring 2017 \$ 5,200. Funding Chair had difficulty following the effects of the “opt out” fee.

b) The idea was discussed as to when to collect opt out fees- Individuals can opt out right away when registering and pay, or make it mandatory to pay upon registration and have it refunded or credited to a subsequent registration fee.

- c) Heidi to get more involved with the website features to be more effective with fee management.
- d) Heidi has been in contact via email with Samantha at Physical Therapy Group, which are indicating that they can offer RAA many of the same services that they are offering EBC. Also Dick's Sporting Goods has been brought up regarding sponsorships.

## 2. Softball – Wendi Grinell/Roger Garber

### News/updates:

- a) Opening day was 4/22. Softball has had some successful tournaments, one on 6/10 & 6/11. This is a great funds generator, as well as \$4k-\$5k in concession stand revenue.
- b) Discussed fundraiser “mud love” had generated \$1,500. Softball also received 20% in t-shirt sales, and netted \$800.
- c) Playoffs will be week of June 12. Softball is also hosting a championship game at the end of June. After that, softball is starting to look at Fall Ball with 10U, 12U and 14U. Spring season was 6U and 8U.
- d) Update on softball commissioners- Roger Garber is planning to phase out of the commissioner role. Wendi will remain. Softball is looking to other individuals to set up and fill/assist with positions such as uniforms, equipment, fundraising, concessions, etc. Looking at breaking down jobs and streamlining approaches for the future commissioners to take control. Discussed potential hierarchy as 1 commissioner with folks under that position doing different jobs while communicating through that commissioner.

## 3. Boys Lacrosse - David Kase

### News/updates –Update provided by Dave Kase via email---

- a) On 6/23, Dave Kase made a motion via email to nominate Mr. Don Hall for RAA Boys Lacrosse co-commissioner. The motion was seconded by Kenny Burke. The motion was unanimously approved by the board on 6/24 (11 ayes, 1 no vote).

## 4. Soccer – Doug Oberholser (Travel) / Doni Keeports (Rec commissioner).

### News/updates – The following topics/updates/ were discussed:

- a) Doni began updates that he has emailed coaches on the Spring season and has received a few responses. He mentioned that there was a Donegal coach who had expressed interest in coming to RAA/Etown to coach.
- b) Doni said that he is just getting into the swing of things- learning individuals, coaches, the system, etc.
- c) Fall registration was temporarily brought down from the website to tweak the way that fee will be charged for the upcoming season. The intent is to have only one registration in fall for the whole season.
- d) Bob Mueser explained that travel roster size can be limited on the registration system to assist in the issue of folks signing their player up for wrong teams and to prevent over-maximizing team sizes, spawned discussion on whether or not to set up site to utilize this functionality.
- e) Rec & Travel to go with the same uniforms. Not everyone in rec now will have to change, as of now, but as new player come in, they will synchronize their uniform with Travel. Current uniforms can be worn for three more years. This change was to

eliminate having to have another position assigned to manage uniforms, and allows for better and more economical transition from Rec to Travel if necessary.

f) U6-U8 moving to a group/pick-up format with one type of t-shirt for, with a use of pinnies to distinguish teams on game days. This is more in line with what youth soccer organizations are leaning towards clubs doing.

g) RAA U6-U8 is moving away from using Hershey training this season, as well as no longer traveling to or hosting Hershey team in games.

h) The topic of creating a paid position for in-house soccer manager/training/program director, focused on U6-U8, but assisting as all levels as needed. This idea was created out of need for more consistency as parent coaches and other positions are occupied and left as childer/players transition through the levels/teams of the program.

An individual has been identified to occupy this position as an independent contractor- Ms. Jessica Conrad. Ms. Conrad was brought to the board's attention by Kenny Burke, who works with her. Ms. Conrad currently works at Bear Creek Elementary, is the Director of coaching Development at Lebanon Valley College. Ms. Conrad was invited to tonight's meeting in order to gain a better understanding of what RAA is looking for and what she could provided, but was unable to attend. Dave Hershey has talked to Ms. Conrad via telephone and had indicated that Ms. Conrad does have availability and other who would like to help assist her and get involved with RAA. Greg sought consensus from the board for soccer to move forward with this idea. The board gave their consensus, citing that this would be a positive for RAA, having someone involved from within our community with a vested interest in the program's success.

## 5. Volleyball - Richard Knowlton

News/updates – a) Rick updated that the season begins tomorrow, 6/12.

b) 140 participants registered, over 25 male players, a record number. Rick indicated that there is less high school student participation than before, likely due to the Elizabethtown High School open gym that is also on Monday nights.

c) Rick brought up the concern of logistics and parking with that number of participants, and would maybe seek volunteers to help direct traffic and have folks park in adjacent neighborhood versus overflowing at Greentree field.

d) Volleyball went to designs unlimited for their uniform T-shirts, which also gives free merchandise for the kids.

e) The season runs for 8 weeks, and is 1 night/week for 2 hours.

## 6. Rugby – Kenny Burke/Jo Hershey

News/updates – Jo Hershey discussed a few updates/items:

a) Rugby U19 season finished today, 6/11, High School season was excellent. Team went 1-6 last year in its first year, now this year finished 4-2 and made it to the playoffs, went to the state semi-finals and lost to the eventual state champs.

b) Funk hosted an ice cream social and have a slideshow and awards. The kids and families were very grateful that the board gave them the opportunity to play.

c) 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders are in the U13 developmental league, and man from New Zealand helped coach with Paul Burke.

- d) Rookie Rugby starts in July- it is tough rugby to teach the basics and spurn interest.
- e) Rugby has reached out to Hempfield (Penn Legacy) to increase the size/appeal of the sport. They are also working with Cumberland Valley. Trying to help the sport by sending kids to play at both areas.
- f) On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Rugby is hosting a tournament at Rheems. Last year 13 teams came to participate. The goal this year is to have 17 teams come, from places like Maryland, New Jersey, etc. They see this as an opportunity to raise money. Rugby inquired about possibility of getting a tent from GEARS to grill, have drinks and snacks for sale to fundraise.
- g) Rugby indicated that financial are pretty slim at the moment, that they had to borrow training equipment from some other teams, such as hit shields, balls, uprights, etc.

## 7. Compliance/Risk Management – Paula Burke

News/Updates – a) Paula stressed that RAA needs to keep on message that coaches are “mandatory reporters”, meaning that if you see something, you must say something with regard to treatment of youth players. Paula indicated that on 8/26, at fellowship hall, up to 50 people can attend a free ‘mandatory reporting’ training that will be given by the Family Support Alliance. RAA is looking to gain more support from coaches.

- 8. Facility/Field Maintenance – Inga Washington mentioned that throughout the U6-U8 Spring season, that Masonic field was not mowed very often, that the grass was always high which made playing more difficult. She also mentioned that RAA should stress parental involvement should be sought with regard to children not participating but who are at the field during practice; especially mentioning that children shall stay out of Masonic Home trees.
- 9. Field Usage – no update.
- 10. Miscellaneous – Guest Keith Ende attended to mention his opinions/questions regarding the new soccer fees that were posted to the website and set into effect. Fees for Rec versus Travel. Keith gave an example of what he felt was an unreasonable increase without ample explanation by RAA Soccer- The commissioners and the soccer committee chair, Brian Bell, explained that soccer will sort out how (with assistance from Bob Mueser) to capture fees along with whether charging for fundraising opt outs up front or not. RAA Soccer explained to Mr. Ende that there is more to come on clarifying this topic and thanked him for his comments/questions.

The discussion regarding field leases and ownership was carried to 8/20 at this 6/11 meeting.

Brian Bell also indicated that some volunteers had stepped up in response to his email seeking help:

- 1) Kevin Nace has volunteered for the role of LBYSA commissioner.
- 2) Nate Hokonbrough has volunteered to be the new U6-U8 coordinator.
- 3) Inga Washington and Johnathan Barker have volunteered to eventually replace Bob Mueser as website administrators.

2017 RAA Board Meetings:

Time: 7pm Location: Lucky Ducks, Elizabethtown.

Dates: Sunday, 20 August 2017

Sunday, 8 October 2017 (Nominations)

Sunday, 10 December 2017 (Elections)

Meeting adjournment: Brian Bell made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Garber. Greg Laszakovits brought the meeting to an official close at 9:20 pm.