

Rheems Athletic Association
Board Meeting – August 20th 2017 - Meeting Minutes
Lucky Duck's Cafe, Elizabethtown, PA

Vice President Brian Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following board members in attendance:

Brian Bell (vice president), Michael Smith (secretary), 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 Keeperts (soccer co-commissioner), and Doug Oberholser (soccer co-commissioner) were in attendance.

Greg Laszakovits (RRA President), David Kase & Don Hall (Boys lacrosse, co-commissioners), Rick Knowlton (Volleyball commissioner), Lea Taylor (Treasurer), were not in attendance.

- Special business/guests –

The following individuals were in attendance:

Jess Conrad (Elizabethtown United Director of Coaching).

- Prior meeting minutes review and approval

Brian Bell asked if there were any objections or revisions to the June meeting minutes. There were some revisions that Brian Bell made and gave to the secretary for revising prior to upload to the RAA website. **Michael Smith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Jo Hershey seconded the motion. The board approved the meeting minutes unanimously, with revisions accepted.**

- Finances – Lea Taylor

The June and July 2017 financials were not prepared for review and approval at this meeting due to system issues. This item was carried.

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. **Item CLOSED out at this meeting. Don Hall was nominated and approved by board as Boys Lacrosse Co-commissioner.**

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 8/20/2017.**

3. Previous business – Action Items – Aug 2016

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

Item will be closed out as of this meeting. Training occurred on 7/25/17.

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

Review, and post to website, bylaws for any necessary updates/revisions. **Open - Carried forward on 8/20/2017. Bob/Brian to confirm if revisions are needed.**

5. Previous business – Action Items – Apr 2017

Website/I.T. Status update (New Item)

It was brought up that Blue Sombrero can handle multiple sports and it is free, through Dick's Sporting Goods. However, Softball is concerned since the many facets of softball, league, umpires, notifications, etc. rely on the current system and worry that changes may affect continuity and allow for seamless transition and provide same functionality as current system. There was a suggestion to get Inga Washington and John Barker involved. These folks will be taking over as I.T. and website administrators of RAA, for Bob Mueser. Carry 8/20/2017.

New and Ongoing business:

1. Fundraising and sponsorship - Update – Heidi Vognetz

- Discussed that Dick's Sporting is looking to partner/sponsor RAA with \$500 gift card in attempts to reach gold level of sponsorship, giving equipment to soccer and softball programs in RAA. Dick's would get a banner and a plaque for this level of sponsorship. A small Q&A session began between members and fundraising chair on what would be the best items of equipment for softball and soccer to negotiate from Dick's in the exchange.
- The Soccer Sub RAA (R&K) fundraiser is to start in early September.

2. Softball – Update – Wendi Grinell/Roger Garber

- Softball just had their start of fall ball (10U/14U) 27 girls at this point. 9/10/2017. This runs for 7 weeks, with doubleheaders on Sundays.
- Softball is now looking to the spring already to set up dates for tryouts, intending to have them earlier than last year to know team makeups before they have to turn in teams to the league.

3. Boys Lacrosse – Update – David Kase/Don Hall
(provided by Dave Kase via email)

- Lacrosse is going to be fielding a 5th/6th and a 7th/8th winter at the nook team this winter. Registration will be open soon.

- We have been working on an advertising campaign to bring more boys to the sport. We finally have some money to spend and it will mostly go toward advertising. We are making plans for yard signs, printing ads, backpack flyers and more.

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

- Travel & Rec soccer have now started. U6/U8 starts on 9/5
- It was mentioned that registration are still coming in but rosters are full. It was discussed on how to prevent this in the future through website manipulation.
- Rec practices start this week (8/21); teams are filling up but are not as full as Doni would like to see at this point
- The overall participant numbers are down this season.
- Doni mentioned that it has been a challenge and there has been a learning curve getting the season up and running as the new commissioner, but he thought that it was going well at this point.
- The following additional information (along with attachments) summarizes what was presented to the board by Doug Oberholser and Brian Bell, both members of the soccer committee, to restructure the Elizabethtown United Soccer Club:
 - Motion 1 – A written motion submitted by Doug Oberholser, explaining that the soccer committee wishes to reorganize the leadership structure of “Etown United” from a two (2) “co-commissioner”-type leadership role, both with voting board rights, to a president and vice-president role, both with voting board rights, with the establishment of eight named/appointment-type positions resting under the President/Vice President structure. This motion was seconded by Kenny Burke and voted unanimously to approve.
 - Motion 2 – Upon passing of the restructuring, Doug Oberholser made a motion to nominate Brian Bell as the new “Etown United” Soccer President, which was seconded by Heidi Vognetz. A unanimous vote to approve was reached. Brian Bell is the new “Etown United” President.
 - Motion 3 – Upon being voted in as “Etown United” President, Brian Bell made a motion to nominate Doug Oberholser as Vice President. Doni Keeports seconded the motion. The board voted 5 ayes, and 3 nays, and the motion was passed by a majority of the members present.
 - Motion 4 – Doug Oberholser moved for changes to the representation of soccer and other sports on the Rheems Athletic Association (“RAA”) board of Directors, that all sports, effective 1 September 2017, would have only one voting representative on the board. Due to a discussion that ensued prior to, and during, the vote to elect Doug Oberholser as Vice President, this last motion was tabled until the next board meeting. The general sentiment from the nay votes was that they wished to have more time to digest and discuss these motions and their implications to RAA as a whole and to the sports individually. Questions over the use of the terminology of “President” and “Vice President” versus keeping “Commissioner” and “Co-commissioner”, and would it be expected that all sports align now with this structure of Soccer. The suggestion was made to hold another interim board meeting

between now and the 10/8 meeting where board nominations will be made, especially since this motion would directly affect the nomination process.

5. Volleyball - Richard Knowlton

News/updates – a) Season is over, went well. No further update.

6. Rugby – Kenny Burke/Jo Hershey

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

- Rugby is currently in its off-season.
- b) Only current ongoing work is with Hempfield U13/U15 to play in a competition in the spring to compete for the state championship. Elizabethtown would send player to Hempfield for the U15 team, and Hempfield would send player to Elizabethtown for the U13 team.
- Rookie Rugby went very well. Last season had 48 player signed up, this season it was up to 65 players. 7's tournament went very well, considered a success. Next year's is already set up.

7. Compliance/Risk Management – Paula Burke

News/Updates – a) Fall background checks are in progress. It was reminded 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 – Rheems upper field being taken out of service for practices.

9. Field Usage – U15 co-ed soccer shifted to East High field.

10. Miscellaneous –

- **Discussion re: field leases, and ownership (Did not address at 8/20 meeting, carried to 10/8 meeting)**
- **A Subsequent decision has been made to hold an interim RAA board meeting at the request of board members. The meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Sunday, 9/24 at Lucky Duck's**

2017 remaining RAA Board Meetings:

Time: 7pm Location: Lucky Ducks, Elizabethtown.
Dates: Sunday, 8 October 2017 (Nominations)
Sunday, 10 December 2017 (Elections)

Meeting adjournment: Wendi Grinell made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was 2nd by Kenny Burke. Brian Bell brought the meeting to an official close at 9:00 pm.