

Minutes of the Alabama Association of USATF Spring Meeting
Shelby County Services Bldg; Pelham, AL
March 13, 2016

President Ben Vail called the meeting to order.

Officers present: Ben Vail, David Bullock, Angela Vail, Mary Birdwell.

Quorum was verified by Membership chair Mary Birdwell.

A motion was made that the reading of the previous meetings minutes be dispensed as they had been posted on the website for review. This was seconded and the motion was passed.

***Reports**

Membership Report: Membership chair Mary Birdwell stated that at this time we have just over 400 members members. She reminded people to text her the birth certificates – she can read them easier that way and then she deletes them right away.

Finance Report: Treasurer Angela Vail reviewed the 3 standard reports available on the website: 2015 Balance Sheet; 2015 Profit and Loss; 2015 Profit and Loss – Budget vs. Actual. She stated that the 2014 990-EZ form was also available on the website, and that the 2016 Budget would be posted also once that was finalized. Joe Henderson asked that Pie Charts be made available to view percentages of expenditures. Angela noted that the Finance Committee had met earlier in the morning: Angela, Alice Biggs, Martha Moran, and Dora Sims. She listed the topics on their agenda and that they would be meeting in person at the March and September meetings and having phone conference calls between those meetings (June and December). President Ben Vail mentioned that we would normally have a budget for the next year available at the September meeting. Due to a number of factors that took up a significant amount of time, the 2016 budget has not been finalized as of yet, although it is approximately 95% complete. Angela then reviewed the proposed 2016 Budget. President Ben Vail proposed that the Budget be accepted; the motion was passed.

Committee Reports

Youth: Youth chair Dale Beard stated that his committee was working on Youth Operating Procedure. He suggested possible Meet Rotation options for the JO Qualifier meet for 2016-2018: Auburn or Montgomery; Huntsville; Mobile or Gulf Coast. He also discussed the meet schedule for the 2016 Outdoor season, and the USATF Alabama 2016 Youth Championship and the JO Qualifier meets. President Ben Vail brought up the possibility of having a Throws meet or two for Open/Masters; Mary Birdwell noted that she gets a lot of e-mails from folks interested in meets of that nature. Dale reviewed his proposed budget. Jeff Jackson asked if the JO Qualifier meet could be done in one day – that was noted as not really being an option, due to the numbers involved, and the heat. John Bahakel proposed that Dale's report be accepted; Joe Henderson seconded the motion; it was passed.

Men and Women's Track and Field:

Debbie McMoore

- Present - no report provided.

Masters LDR/ Men and Women's LDR:

Lauren Mitchell

Absent

- Mary Birdwell heard from Lauren on 3/12/16 – she is aware of the National offices' intent to increase the number of Open and Masters' participants. Also, with RCAA Insurance available to running clubs, the USATF benefits do not appear to be enticing.

Race Walk: Shaquille Mosley was welcomed as our Race Walk chair. He noted that at the 2015 National Annual meeting they discussed using a penalty lane, International races, and wanting to start Race Walk earlier – introduce it in elementary schools.

Coaches Education:

Paul Brueske

Absent

- No report received. Ben Vail noted that as of 2016 a Level 1 Coaches Clinic is not required anymore. Kevin Madden and Dale Beard have higher levels of coaching credentials. Resources are available.

Masters Track and Field: Bill Murray has resigned as Committee chair; Kevin Madden may replace him.

- No report received; President Ben Vail reminded us that we have had an increase in Masters athlete participation over the last year, and to reach out to athletes – notify them of meets that we have, and offer them Resources (clinics we can hold; videos through National resource library; etc.).

Officials: Officials chair Ben Vail noted that we have 142 officials in our Association at this time: 59 Apprentice level; 35 Association level; 35 National level; 13 Masters level. He contacts approximately 400 officials across the country with e-mail information when he is acting as a (Officials) Coordinator for meets; in other states, some Officials chairs do not provide much information. Ben would like to have a small banner hung at meets with “Join as an Official” on it, to encourage more people to become involved. There simply are not enough officials anymore for all the meets at any given time, especially during Championships. Ben also stated that since this is an Olympiad and testing year, he hopes to have four (4) clinics – Huntsville, Birmingham, Auburn, and Mobile. Ben reminded everyone that the exam is essentially an open-book exam: they want you to be able to know the rules and know where to find them in the rule book. Ben noted that you do not have to attend a clinic in order to become an official – it helps you learn some things, but it is not required. John Bahakel reminded us that every year of an outdoor Olympics is the year we all are required to recertify. Joe Henderson brought up the issue of getting some new, younger officials – the challenges for younger people were noted: families, traveling, limited vacation time, long hours, etc.

Law and Legislature: L&L chair John Bahakel recommended that the proposed Bylaws changes, available online, be tabled for additional work and readdressed at the September meeting. Molly McGregor seconded the motion. There was more discussion about the Bylaws – Molly reminded the Association to be very careful with Bylaws – they are the structure that defines the organization, and need to align with the National Bylaws. The motion was called to order and brought to a vote - it was passed, with 2 opposing votes.

LOC report: Chairperson Molly McGregor stated that she had had a number of meetings with Ben Vail over the past year, getting details in place for the 2016 JO CC meet. She noted that, as required by the contract with National, a delegation (she, Ben Vail, Angela Vail, and Dale Beard) had attended the 2015 JO CC meet in Albuquerque, NM in December, and that Mary Birdwell and David Bullock had been there too, working the meet. They had a number of glitches come up for that meet, and the weather was not the best (cold and rainy for the first races with the younger groups). For our event to be held this December, she noted that the Pelham Civic Center Ice arena was available to us for free, and that it was within walking distance of several hotels that people may be staying at. It will seat 3200 in the stands and another 1200 on the floor – we just have to have enough volunteers to drop the wood floor on the ice and then pick it up afterwards. We had decided that we were not going to provide food at the opening event. We would be offering them coupons to the local restaurants that provided us those. Shelby County is really excited about our hosting this event. A basic budget has been prepared as of this point. The Host hotel will be Embassy Suites; a contract has been signed with them. As far as hotel rooms go, we will need to have approximately 2,400 available. A contract has been signed with Fine Designs for T-shirts/sweatshirts and such. Our Web Coordinator Nancy Ellis Cooper is getting the URL for our site – National office is pretty slow about this. Molly noted that Walt Bell, William Spear, Jim Pugh, Ben Vail, and Bill Murray had resigned from the LOC as of this date. Molly stated that she was resigning also as of today.

President Ben Vail noted that for the 2010 meet they could not guarantee enough volunteers would be available to help with the meet. The Association made arrangements with Hoover Track Foundation, and there was a 50/50 split of the profits after all expenses were paid. Hoover Boosters logged in 1700 hours, and Spain Park 430 hours. Kevin Madden discussed the LOC being reconstituted; there would have to be a date set to have the committed volunteers by. It would be crucial to start recruiting immediately.

There was a motion made to accept Molly's LOC report – this was seconded and passed.

President Ben Vail stated that now we essentially have no LOC. There would be the need for 15 people (minimum) to have at least 12 hours (minimum) to set up the courses – every turn for each of the four (4) courses, with flagging and barriers. We expect about 3400 athletes for the 2016 JO CC meet. There would be many things needed for running this event: tents, golf carts, flagging, barriers, scaffolding, insurance, programs, and on and on... Mary cannot do this by herself. Mary Birdwell noted that the 2010 meet that we had was one of the best meets – Alabama has hosted one of just a few successful (profitable) meets. Joe Henderson noted that the kids depend on us, and that he felt we should give up the JO CC meet and restart our USATF Alabama Association. President Ben Vail agreed that it would be good to get our house in order.

John Bahakel emphasized that it would take many man-hours to continue with the JO CC meet preparation. Dale Beard asked if the Association could give this topic another two (2) weeks, and asked that we reconsider things – he felt this can still be done. A motion was made for the Association to meet again on April 3, 2016; this was seconded and passed. The decision regarding to hold the JO CC meet or not was tabled.

Other Business: President Ben Vail noted: the National annual meeting was good. Let's find ways to use Social media if possible. Lakeshore Foundation has been influenced by the national paratrack organization, so more officials will be getting involved with that.

New Business

Financial Internal Audit report: The Board had authorized the special committee of Kevin Madden, Molly McGregor, Melissa Brabson and Eugene Byrd in February, for an internal financial audit of the Treasurers' records 2011-2015; Melissa and Eugene chose not to attend the meeting held on May 7, 2016. Kevin Madden had given his report, to the Board, earlier today. However, a motion was made to have both reports presented to the Association at the meeting on April 3, 2016 – after Melissa Brabson and Eugene Byrd had conducted their separate financial review on March 21, 2016. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to adjourn; this was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Vail, Treasurer and acting-Secretary