

<b>Eagan Athletic Association - Board Meeting Minutes</b>			
<b>Thursday, March 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.</b>			
<b>Eagan City Hall, Eagan Room</b>			
President, Aaron Reykdal	X	Director of Basketball, Emily Rusham	X
Vice President, Dan Sagstetter	X	Director of Cross Country, Ben Weidenfeld	X
Treasurer, Megan Brewster	X	Director of Football, Chris Thole	X
Administrative Officer, Katie Bailey	X	Director of Lacrosse, Jason Oberhamer	
Director of Business Development, Nick McCallum		Director of Soccer, Mike Langley	
Director of Facilities, Todd Wrucke	X	Director of Softball, Chris Parnell	X
Director of Program Initiatives, OPEN		Director of Track, Sara Delgado	X
Director of Marketing, Elizabeth Kmety		Director of Rugby, Eric Curtin	
Director of Sport Programs, OPEN		Director of Volleyball, Sara Sykora Proxy: RoseMary VanDyk	X
Director of Web Strategy & Support, Mike Peterson	X	Director of Wrestling, Katie Rowekamp	X
At-Large, Josh Estes		Director of Baseball, Eric Kraushar	X
At-Large, OPEN		Director of Ultimate Frisbee, Alicia Carr	X
Financial Assistant, Briana Klaus		Guest: Mike Ramirez, City of Eagan	X
Business Interface Rep, Heather Lorentz	X	Guest: Matt Shands	X
Administrative Assistant, Erikka Anderson		Public Attendees: none	

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 20, 2025

X – indicates attendance

Meeting was called to order by Aaron Reykdal at 6:30 p.m.

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

- As of now start date of May 1 to allow fields to dry and get them set up.
- Lex/Diff Fields 1-3 bases are now in green bins on site.
- Goat 2 backstop will be installed this spring.
- NV restroom remodel starts Aug 1.
- Lex/Diff Field 7 construction starting in April for irrigation and field improvements. Fencing may block off some areas, but minimal interference. Will be out of commission for the season.
- Working on artificial turf behind Goat 2, netting will not go up until turf in place. Goat 1 will have netting during this process.
- Requesting EAA sports and board get together and put a document together for planning in the fall to set plan in the spring and send to only Mike and not others and he will distribute as needed. Ex: field maintenance requests, new batting cages.
- City is redoing master plan for the next ten years and need to work with/around the new EHS athletic building. Would like a list of Soccer needs:, baseball needs etc. Some needs may have to build into capital investment plan.
- EAA could help by donating goals to City to help create new/different field options.
- Dan inquired about the plan and if the meeting was public. Mike stated it is a 10 year plan with Parks and Rec. There was an update to the council at a public meeting last Tuesday. Continued use of rec facilities and resources in the city of Eagan have not been discussed. Meeting is available to view online.

### **Administrative Business:**

- January 2025 EAA Board meeting minutes
  - Dan Sagstetter motioned to approve the January 30, 2025 meeting minutes and Eric Kraushar seconded the motion. Motion Carried. The minutes will be posted on the EAA website.
- New At Large Board Member Prospect
  - Executive Committee proposes Matt Shands for At Large Board Member
  - Matt lives in Eagan, has kids that played Eagan sports, was a former coach, is passionate about EAA rec programs and has interest in exploring an EAA swim team.
  - Motion to elect Matt Shands as an At Large Board Member was made by Dan Sagstetter and seconded by Eric Kraushar. Motion carried.

### **Committee Updates:**

- Finance Committee — Megan Brewster
  - Cross Country, Football, MN Stars budgets were approved at the March meeting.
    - No registration increases.
    - Added MN Stars 12U Development Level.
- Marketing & Technology Committee — Dan Sagstetter
  - Marketing Committee meeting recap
    - Trying to circle back on items that Nick had started with photography and design.
    - Have not heard from Nick in six months.
    - Managed to obtain some of the requests from sports that wanted photographers.

- Thomas Lake Family Fun Night
      - EAA was approached by TL elementary school to have a booth their spring family fun night on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
      - EAA has done these types of events in the past, typically in the fall and at PW.
      - Have had a table with flyers, tattoos etc to promote EAA programs.
      - Would be a good target market. Elizabeth to spearhead it, but would need volunteers.
      - Committee is still considering hiring someone to do these type of events.
    - Viking Movie Night
      - Trying to connect with Vikings, so far efforts have been unsuccessful.
      - Josh may have a Vikings connection. Dan will reach out to him.
- Executive Committee — Aaron Reykdal, Dan Sagstetter
  - Food Truck Festival Committee – Aaron
    - An electronic vote was held and was approved by majority vote to move forward.
    - Requires liquor license, ordering beer and seltzers and staffing.
    - Dan, Aaron and Elizabeth on the committee so far, looking for others
    - Meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> with City of Eagan to put together checklist of required items.
    - Matt Shands and Katie Bailey also offered to help out the committee and attend the meeting. Eric Kraushar and Emily Rusham have volunteered to assist.
    - Marketing/Executive committee discussed how to fairly allocate proceeds received. Allow the volunteers who work the event to pick a sport they want their “share” to go to or to obtain a list of volunteers from the sport directors for allocation.
      - List of volunteers by sport is preferred because may count towards DIBS for some programs and multi-sport athletes likely to pick the more popular sports and smaller sports may not see the benefit
    - Event is Friday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 3-9pm, but volunteers will be needed longer than that.
    - Noted that contractors won’t be asked to work outside of respective duties and Megan will be out of town that day.
    - Only two board meetings before the actual event so a lot of the planning will need to be done outside of these meetings.
  - Gender inclusion policy overview – Aaron/Dan
    - EAA follows District 196 and MSHSL policy.
    - As of now no change to EAA’s policy.
    - Should this occur Director should work with parents and coaches directly.
    - EAA and the sports housed in EAA where athletes can letter do not receive federal funding.
- Facilities Update – Todd Wrucke
  - Next week will get to all the sheds and clean up areas and trash.
  - Equipment/First Aid Kits
    - Megan sent out email regarding first aid kits. Todd will check, but let them know if your program needs them.

- Baseball, softball and soccer will get most of the new ones but it is up to equipment directors.
- DSG provides some funds as well through DSG gift cards and AD Star. Admin budget also has some set aside for this.
- Megan will send out an equipment reminder in April.
- Sheds
  - Megan found the old EAA shed agreement with EHS and it said that EHS is required to make the repairs. Todd has informed EHS of this.
  - The door works and is lockable but concerns with water, so may say it doesn't need to be replaced.
  - Lacrosse has responded about the codes for the locks and can now move forward.
  - Will try on baseball shed first with the new code process to see if it works and if it does then will roll out to all the sheds.
- Business Development Update – Nick McCallum (Absent)
  - No update given
  - Noted that Nick has not been heard from for about six months.
- Initiatives Update – Katie Bailey
  - Starting to make a list of positions we need to recruit for.
  - Soccer will do some initial vetting of the interested director candidates.
  - Open Board positions include Business Development, Sport Programs, Initiatives. Considering a paid Marketing role, but will require further discussion on logistics.

### **Program Updates**

#### **Baseball – Eric Kraushar**

- Hosted first parent meeting since pre-Covid, was well attended.
- Last years field situation was pretty rough with mowing the grass. In-house facilities are not being kept up by the City, parents are complaining.
- Have been reaching out to the City and Mike Fleck as well as Andy on the City Council.
- With 800 kids playing, want to be proud of where they are playing. There have been some updates to Goat Hill, but need to put some effort into upkeep for in-house.
- Just had 9U tryouts, 530 kids registered for in-house so far with registration closing this week.

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

- Wildcat Academy in April/May has 180 registrants.
- Travel program will hold end of season coaches meeting soon and would like to order new uniforms. A committee was formed to address uniform ordering and board will vote on this in April.
- Considering creating a paid coach committee.
- Will need to replace basketballs and are looking at many different providers.
- Board is healthy with succession planning in place.

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

- Summer Miles registration opened today and has a cap set for 30 runners. Program will start in June.

## **Football** – Chris Thole

- Spring training camp starts in two weeks. Just under 300 kids signed up and will run for four weeks, starting in April.
- Chris plans to stay in the role for a while with a strong, healthy board on hand. Depending on the success of the training camp, may look to add another position.

## **Lacrosse** – Jason Oberhamer – absent, emailed in update

- Registrations have tapered off - we are still trying to drive late registrations. We have about 120 boys signed up and 60 girls so far. We are slightly below projections at 8U and 10U girls and we are light at 12U boys. Overall, we are tracking to about 90% of projected registrations, and we still have boys 8U and 10U summer only registrations coming later.
- I have put in the city field request but have heard nothing from Mike regarding scheduling or how they are going to charge us this year.
- We are inside Eagan and IGH melted out arenas through April, and then we'll be outside beginning in May.
- Board member recruiting is ongoing - I have potentially identified a successor. More to come there after the season is over.

## **Rugby** – Eric Curtin – absent, emailed in update

- Our K-5 Dragons camp was a huge success again with around 80 participants.
- Registration for the spring season is going well across the board, though we are still trying to push for more HS boys as we have a very young group and continue to rebuild.
- We are sitting very well for our HS Girls, we will again have a very solid team as we look to make it four years in a row as State Champs. They have their first match in Belfast tomorrow against a very strong team, Malone RFC, who just won the gold cup for the Ulster region (northern Ireland).
- Middle School does not kick into gear until after break, but we are happy with registrations thus far, and particularly happy to have found a replacement coach/manager (one of our former players who is back after college graduation and wanting to give back).

## **Soccer** – Mike Langley – absent, Aaron gave update

- There are five candidates for the director position and Mike will start the vetting process.
- Wave reached out to meet regarding the separation agreement and rec soccer programs.

## **Softball** – Chris Parnell

- Tryouts for Fastpitch were held in February. Second year in a row that program has been able to field teams at 14U, 16U and 18U. Numbers at 12U/10U are down and younger ages are up.
- Lower attendance at winter training and are looking at different options such as Bethel University, open gyms and partnering with EHS.
- MN Stars 12U development team retention is an issue because players cannot be on a team until 14U and they are going elsewhere to play. Looking to increase winter training to entice motivated Eagan players to stay in Eagan.
- Program is looking to upgrade in house and slowpitch team equipment this year.

### **Track Update – Sara Delgado**

- Program has 851 registered.
- Will be hosting a parent meeting via Zoom on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the first time the program has done this. Coaches meeting will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- There is a new meet manager who plans to be in that role for several years and a new merchandise and equipment manager. Working on recruiting a treasurer.

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

- High school practices have started. Numbers are slightly down as well as for middle school.
- Middle school program saw an increase in rates because the governing body raised their rates.
- Alicia would like to step down from the director role at the end of 2025 and is looking for a replacement. Announcement was made at the player/parent meeting, but so far no one has expressed interest. This role could be divided into three different positions. The middle school coordinator may be able to step in.

### **Volleyball Update – Rosemary VanDyk - Proxy**

- Spring In House program will begin 3/31. There are 367 registered players and 40 teams.
- JO has two tournaments left in their season.
- Travel program is working on securing tryout date and location for fall.

### **Wrestling – Katie Rowekamp**

- Season wrapping up, six went to state.
- Katie is the only board member currently on the wrestling board. Keeping eye open for eventual director replacement, not looking to leave yet.
- Looking for a coach replacement for next year.
- Will connect with Aaron and Dan about District contract due to being invoiced for things this year that have not been in previous year. Heather will send district contact info to Aaron/Dan.
- Issues with securing and keeping space as program tends to be kicked out last minute if other high school programs want to use it.
- If paying for the space, EAA should have priority use of it. Katie has confirmed that neither Rosemount or Eastview are paying for use of their wrestling room space, so is unclear why EAA Wrestling is being invoiced for space.

### **Open Air (all):**

- Several programs indicated interest in meeting with the City to discuss prioritization of field space and needs as well as how Eagan residency of participants affects this.
- May consider forming a field space committee to work with the City and District 196.
- Alicia indicated that she was charge \$19 to request field space from the District using their online form.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm by Aaron Reykdal.

**Reminders:**

<b>Marketing Committee</b> 7:00 p.m. Zoom (3rd Monday, Odd Months)	<b>Finance Committee</b> 7:00p.m. Zoom (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, Odd Months)	<b>EAA Board</b> 6:30 p.m. City Hall (last Thursday, Odd Months)
May 12	May 13	May 29

**Committee Assignments:****Finance**

Aaron Reykdal, President (Chair)  
Megan Brewster, Treasurer (Vice Chair)  
Erik Kraushar, Director of Baseball  
Chris Thole, Director of Football  
Katie Rowekamp, Director of Wrestling  
Emily Rusham, Director of Basketball  
Alicia Carr, Director of Ultimate Frisbee  
Todd Wrucke, Director of Facilities  
OPEN, Director of Sport Programs  
Katie Bailey, Administrative Officer,  
Josh Estes, At Large  
Matt Shands, At Large

**Marketing**

Elizabeth Kmety, Director of Marketing (Chair)  
Dan Sagstetter, Vice President (Vice Chair)  
Sara Delgado, Director of Track & Field  
Chris Parnell, Director of Softball  
Sara Sykora, Director of Volleyball  
Eric Curtin, Director of Rugby  
Mike Langley, Director of Soccer  
Ben Weidenfeld, Director of Cross Country  
Jason Oberhamer, Director of Lacrosse  
Nick McCallum, Director of Bus. Development  
OPEN, Director of Program Initiatives  
Mike Peterson, Director of Web Strategy & Support