

Abilene Tennis Association Board Meeting –March 27, 2017

Members present: Beverly Guthrie, Kevin Crousen, Lydia Couch, and Jamie Miers

Members unable to attend: Jimmy Schaeffer and Julie Beckham

Business

February 27, 2017 Minutes were approved, with exception of changes needed to add \$2500 for Community Grant for (training, etc) Kevin made the motion and Jamie seconded. All approved

President – Kevin Crousen

Kevin Crousen and Beverly Guthrie, purchased leaf blowers for the Abilene High, Cooper and Wylie and they were delivered.

Treasurer's Report – Beverly (as temporary ATA Treasurer)

Beverly will meet with Sheila, and picked up checkbook, keys to Post office, and other paperwork for 2015, and 2017. Beverly will have to meet with Sheila to pick up past ATA Records.

Secretary's Report/ Community Grants – Beverly Guthrie

We have received a request from Abilene High School for a Ball Machine. We have voted to give each High School \$1000, so if ok with the Board, I will call Stacy and let her know that she can order and give us an invoice and we will reimburse her. Or if she orders, we make the check payable to the vendor, which ever works best for Abilene High. **Kevin made the motion to approve grant application from Stacy Bryan, Lydia seconded and all approved. We will send a check to the vendor that she chooses.**

I ordered and delivered the “eye-catcher’s” for Craig and Mann, Jimmy was very excited and sent me a text with a video showing Jared using it.

I emailed all the coaches and told them that we had voted for them to each receive a certain amount to be used for their wants and needs, but they had to fill out an Application.

Some of the schools had been contacted by Rich Bryan on the Grand Slam Committee asking them to apply for benches for the Grand Slam. Amanda Friday, said that there were Facilities Grants Available through the USTA Website and sent him the link. At the meeting, we told them we had already designated monies to the schools to be used at their discretion.

Beverly Brought information regarding *Get Newked* . Gave information to Tom At ACC, he is interested in doing this.

Adult League Committee Chair - Lydia Couch

The Adult League (AL) Committee has not met since last month.

Discussion topics for board meeting:

- Abilene hosting 18 & Over Mixed sectionals October 6-8
- o USTA, ACVB, and AL coordinators met on March 21 to discuss plans
- o Friday, October 6
- ☐ Check-In at The Sayles Landmark with open house tour. Offer raffle for Weekend Tournament Package (drawing at Happy Hour the next day).
- ☐ Work with local brewery/winery to get drinks donated
- o Saturday, October 7
- ☐ Happy Hour offered at The Mill

- ☐ Draw for door prizes with donated items and the Sayles Landmark raffle
- o Sunday, October 8 – planning to have finals at Rose Park – they think they will be finished by noon
- Opportunities to generate interest in tennis in the Abilene and surrounding community. Suggestions (from last month):
- o Fall Adult mixer at Rose Park open to all levels – offer red ball for beginners and matches for other levels. Prizes offered for 1st-3rd places – perhaps from local restaurants or vendors. Have food trucks come and have alcohol in coolers.
- ☐ UPDATE – request for \$1,000 from ATA to hold mixer. **Bev made a motion to approve request/ Kevin Seconded and all approved**
- o Reach out to Dyess community – Stacey Yates would be a good contact. Learn more about their tennis activities and how we can get them interested in participating in Abilene tennis. NO UPDATE
- o Reach out to local college players that are not on varsity teams – maybe club or intramural players. Who can help? Q: How can we maintain the connection when they leave for summer? NO UPDATE
- o Parents of JTT kids might be interested in playing tennis. Ask Julie about sending an email to them. UPDATE - Need to confirm with Julie.
- Recruiting members for committee
- o Agreed to date:
- ☐ Valerie Giles– 2.5/3.0
- ☐ Maria Poradek – 4.0
- o Need others – suggestions from Amanda Friday:
- ☐ All pros, variety of players, some coaches who play the most [not sure what this means – coaches who play?]

Volunteer – Beverly Guthrie

No Report at the time

Banquets Events Committee – Mary Noel Corn

We are working on sponsorships until April 24th! We are adding some new sponsors this year thanks to our new committee members.

Shellie has the tickets ready to take to the schools-all jr high will be offer a \$5 ticket sold at the schools for players only.

We are going to sell tickets to Abilene Christian and Jim Ned this year.

Robyn Morris is in charge of door prizes this year. We need all items that will be donated or purchased by April 24th.

The committee will choose the food selection this week.

We are using Craft Design for the awards this year. Buffy Watson is meeting with them this week to pick out or have them design a special one for certain awards.

We are still working on a competition between all the coaches where the winner will win a case of tennis balls!!

Junior Tennis Development– Julie Beckham:

- Abilene USTA Tournaments - Our ATA March Challenger was March 11-12 and Bobby & Tom did a great job running the event. Our survey results from participants were good. This was our second tourney this year with ACC as the main site. Our next tournament is the May Challenger on May 5-6. We had to order more balls from Wilson due to USTA Texas requiring a 3 new balls per match.

- West Texas Junior Tournament Swing: High School match results may be going into the national UTR system soon. The first pilot program for this is being done with 6 Lubbock High Schools. Lubbock is also host to

4-6 UTR tourneys annually. We may look into hosting some UTR tourneys too. Benefits are - more competitive match play based on skill, not gender or age, guarantee of 3 matches per tourney instead of just 2 and therefore better development of players.

- JTT leagues Abilene: Spring Season is underway. Sectionals is in Austin on May 19-20. We are still discussing having a West Texas Regional Tourney for Adv levels. Will include Lubbock, WF, San Angelo, Midland/Odessa, and Amarillo.
- ATA Banquet: JTA is receiving nominations for the Jr Passion for Tennis Award. Please email nominations to Julie at jrbeckham5@yahoo.com. JTA will give 2 scholarships to Seniors again this year.
- USTA Texas: Jr. Grand Slam is June 9-18th at all court sites in town.
- USPTA Junior Team Abilene 2017 to Newks: Team commitment from Abilene due in April, deposit due in May. Abilene needs a team captain. Jenny Gray from Austin will be Tournament Director in 2017 again.

Officials/Referees – Kevin Crousen:

The committee did not have a meeting during the past month. Kevin spoke with the referee (Bob Grodey) for the March Challenger that we hosted on the 11th & 12th during the meeting for a site director training held at the ACC tennis pro shop. The officials for the tournament were also there. Inquired as to any concerns or issues they had and there were none. I did have one concern which I observed during the tournament. I was on hand at ACC to help Tom with whatever issues might arise during the tournament. Melinda Roberson was the official assigned to work at ACC on Saturday. There were so many 10 orange ball participants who needed help with scoring, game management, rules, etc., that there was no way she could cover 4 courts by herself and provide all the attention needed. I helped cover 2 courts during this time. How do we want to address this in the future? **It was suggested that Bobby send out an email to players; 10&u hand out; Laminate a racquet template.**

Marketing & Communications Committee – Jamie Miers

I am meeting with Stephanie, mgr at Days Inn, this week about dates for comp rooms for tourney officials. Mary Ann Whitten has agreed to provide them.

We are looking into maybe having some cooling towels to give out at some tournaments in place of t-shirts. Another alternative could be water jugs. Either would be imprinted with our ATA logo, website and contact info. The only drawback would be that we probably couldn't list multiple sponsors like on t-shirts... However, these could be ordered in large quantities (800-1000) and several colors for around \$3 and could also be used for other giveaways such as goody bags, school coach thank yous, etc.

Also working on meals for officials and volunteers for tournaments. Hoping to get mostly comped. Beverly already has an agreement with Jason's Deli for 3 tournaments at \$3 per meal which is usually a \$10 box meal. When those dates are confirmed, we will proceed to contact other restaurants.

We were notified that we received the US OPEN Tickets on Friday, March 10th at noon. Beverly called 3rd street printing and was able to get 1000 tickets printed, signs made and smaller signs. Kevin sold about 15 at the Challenger in between having to work it.

Scholarship/Nominating Committee – Jimmy Schaeffer:

No Committee meeting

Next meeting will be April 24, 2017 at 6:30
Adjourned at 8:30