

MINUTES

Old Timers Sports Association of Minnesota

January 7, 2018/Time 3:00 PM |

Meeting called to order by George Harris; the Opening Prayers were offered by Sylvester Harris

In Attendance

George Harris, Writhers Nyenie-Wea, George Brown, Kerper Dwanyen, Anthony T. Mwah, Victor Nyekan, Peter Zakiel, Sylvester Harris, Morris Kiazolu, Nathaniel Sumo, Christopher Wreh, Albert Sherman, Edwin Y. Weedor, Sr., Brownell Weeks, Joseph Cole Swaray, Buster Tweh, Martin Marshall, Robert S. Gyeh, Hanson Toe, Emmanuel Porte, Colistics Major, Yaya Freeman, Kla Brownell, Edwin Wahplo, Christopher Wreh, Jefferson Doe, Robert Gaye.

Approval of Minutes

The December 17, 2017 meeting minutes were read by the General Secretary and subsequently approved

Welcome Remarks

The President welcomed the members and thanked them for attending the meeting. He introduced new member, Edwin Wahplo to the general membership. Mr. Wahplo introduced himself and expressed his desire to join Veteran Ahblawoe. New members who were registered in abstention are Kennie Roberts and Boniface Nyemah Ogunti.

Committee Reports

- **Liberia Trip Committee – Jefferson Doe, President Emeritus**

Mr. Doe informed the members that the reason for the Liberia trip was to lend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters back home. He set March 15 – April 15, 2018 as tentative travel dates to Liberia this year. Mr. Doe inform the attendees that the delegation intends to secure a place for the black-tie event and will also meet with different commissioners to secure a place for the proposed children playground project among other activities.

Mr. Anthony Mwah wanted to know what the next plan was to motivate members to go back in such a short time (2 months) since no preparation or fund-raising activities had been done since the delegation arrived back from Liberia. Mr. Doe acknowledged the absence of preparation but encouraged members of good will to do everything to make this trip possible as was done on the last trip. He said Liberians hold Ahblawoe in high esteem and so we should capitalize on this momentum.

Mr. Victor Nyekan, for his part, wanted to know about the video recordings from the last trip. Mr. Doe informed the body that the video was available for members to see upon request since there was no way to show it at the meeting.

Mr. Kerper Dwanyen warned the members about requesting land from community elders because land issue is very crucial in Liberia.

Mr. Nyekan promised to introduce Ahblawoe to some trusted landowners and would guarantee that he will make everything possible to secure a trouble-free land for the playground project.

- **Membership Committee – Albert Sherman**

Mr. Sherman informed the body that his committee was in the process of creating a membership database for the Association and therefore asked all members (old & new) to complete their membership forms. He admonished the Administration to make sure that anyone who pays his due be given a membership application form to fill out and let the person know there is a process in place for admittance to become a member.

- **Inaugural Committee – Yaya Freeman**

Mr. Freeman provided update on the preparation for the Inaugural Ball. He informed the body the tickets were available and that each member was responsible to sell two mandatory tickets but they and their spouses will enter free of charge. He also told the body that he will need help in getting the hall ready for the ball. He warned that any member who does not pick his two tickets to sell will have to pay \$40.00 during their registration or have the money deducted from their membership due.

Mr. Nyekan admonished the Inaugural Committee to make adequate accommodation for visitors attending the inauguration and to avoid the repetition of what occurred at the last inaugural ball.

Mr. Freeman outlined the plan that will be put in place to prevent what happened the last time.

- **Social Committee – Urias Youboty**

Mr. Youboty encouraged all those who made pledges to honor those pledges. He informed the body that so far only few members had fulfilled their pledges. He said the success of the inauguration depended fully on the pledges.

- **Marketing & Publicity Committee – Peter Zakiel**

Mr. Zakiel informed the body about the work been done by his committee to help promote the inaugural program including the solicitation of ads for brochure (Full page - \$100; Half page - \$50; Quarter page - \$20). He also assured the body that we working on the ID card machine to begin issuing ID cards to members.

On other matters, the President, Mr. George Harris expressed his concern and disapproval of the low turnout when members are called upon to visit with bereaved members and or make contributions for Ahblawoe events. Moving forward, the President said he would instruct the Social Committee to keep accurate records of members who make contributions and visit with bereaved members and or attend other Ahblawoe sanctioned events.

The issue of the Ahblawoe website was also discussed. The members asked the Administration to get in touch with former President George Yuoh to see what can be done about the website issue.

Next Meeting

March 4, 2018, Time: 2:00 p.m., OLM Main Office

Motion to adjourn was made at 5:00 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Writhers Nyenie-Wea

General Secretary