**Eastview Lightning Robotics**

**Boosters Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Location: Zoom Teleconference

Attendees: Alicia Lobash, Sharon Dahl, Cindy Schindler, Jodi Schwartz, Brian Connors (partial), and Liwanag Ojala, who recorded the minutes

Meeting Time: 6:45 p.m.

**Action Items/Minutes**

Vice President Alicia Lobash began the meeting with a request to review the January meeting minutes. She asked for a motion to approve, which was seconded by Sharon. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Sharon Dahl reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, and reported that the starting balance was strong, given the declined expenses this school year.

* She summarized expenses, including an Amazon Prime renewal and other expenses, including printing of team t-shirts and other incidental charges. Discussion followed regarding the upcoming expenses for tournaments.
* Sharon then reviewed the January balance sheet, noting an amount of $31,666.75, a healthy sum for this year and future years’ programming.
* Discussion followed regarding the school’s funded account, as it is a ‘use it or lost it’ account, and should be drawn from prior to the program’s own funds.
* Sharon then updated the group on the switch from current accounts to Bremer Bank, which will provide better flexibility for the board to access and manage the accounts. Additional materials are needed for the transition, including a Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State’s office, as well as additional information from the board members. The group discussed that board members would share this information directly with Bremer, and that the information would not be used for any other purpose than the shift to the new accounts.

Sharon asked for a motion to approve, which was seconded by Alicia. The motion carried and the report was approved.

**FTC Update**

Alicia then shared an FTC update, noting that several teams are doing very well, and moving onto state. Discussion followed about this announcement appearing in the Eastview HS morning announcements.

**FRC Update**

The group then discussed an FRC update, and noted the many unknowns. At this time, Brian Connors joined the meeting, and shared that the teams are continuing to meet remotely, and that the students are working well together. He noted a strong MARCOM group, as well. Brian described that students would be required to submit elements of the game online, within a time window in mid-March. Liwanag Ojala noted that March is also a busy time for juniors, as both the SATs and ACTs are scheduled that month. Some students meet in person, but most on Zoom, and all students are complying with social distancing and wearing masks. He noted that the team is continuing to come together, and that t-shirts are also being worked on.

**FTC Banquet**

Cindy then shared an update on her perspective on the FTC Banquet. As Cindy has organized this event in the past, the group agreed that she would take the lead in organizing this year’s banquet, and that it was important to still have one, to celebrate seniors’ last year in Robotics and their work over the years. Cindy noted that she would draw on the spring 2020 Cross-Country banquet, and she recommended that it be coaches/students only, with the ability for parents to opt-in to participate virtually. The group agreed that was best, based on the current pandemic. Sharon Dahl agreed to assist Cindy with the planning, as needed. Cindy then discussed several options for the banquet logistics, meal, tentative dates in April, and discussion followed regarding ideas. Cindy agreed to explore these options and come back to the group with potential dates and an overall recommendation for next steps. The group encouraged her to move forward and ask others for help as needed. Members of the board agreed that the banquet should be free for students, and that the expense of the banquet would come from the booster account.

**Board Succession Planning/Parent Involvement**

Alicia then introduced the discussion regarding board succession. Our current Board President and Treasurer will both be leaving the board at the end of 2020. The board’s plan is to move our current Vice President, Alicia Lobash, into the Board President role in 2021-2022. Current Secretary, Eric Ojala, has agreed to continue in that role in 2021-2022. There are two issues for the boosters:

1. We will have open spots for Vice President and Treasurer in June 2020. There is a strong need to have parents of Robotics students to step up and volunteer for these positions. The future strength of the boosters is heavily depended on parent involvement. Please consider filling one of these spots – our kids need us!
2. Without the involvement of kids in the younger grades (7th, 8th, 9th grade), the future of board leadership is difficult. If you are aware of students and know parents who are interested in getting involved, please actively let them know about the importance of parent involvement.

This issue of board succession planning and parent involvement has become more difficult in the last few years, as we have been unable to connect with parents in person. The situation has become more concerning as we have fewer and fewer parents attending meetings.

A discussion followed about engaging with younger students’ parents. Liwanag Ojala agreed to reach out to these parents directly, if Brian Connors would provide that contact information. Brian agreed to share that information to have the discussion. Further, the group discussed creating descriptions for each board leadership role, so that parents have a strong understanding of what they are volunteering for and the engagement needed to be successful.

**Other Matters**

Brian Connors requested that the booster meetings be adjusted to when coaches can attend more regularly. The group agreed that it was beneficial for the coaches to attend these meetings, and agreed to consider alternative dates in the future.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.

Date of next booster meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021