

Minutes Ausome Ottawa Executive Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Location: 726 Golden Avenue, Ottawa, On

Attendees: Liisa Vexler, Anna Whyte, Amy Bienkowski, Emily Zeppa, Karen Wilson, Suzanne Jacobson

Regrets: David Baker, Niall Sinclair, Derek Firth, Nicole Dautz, Meg Friedman, Katherine Kacew

Time: 7:30-9:40 p.m.

Action Items:

Liisa

- Follow up with Shawn Silverman at Kiddie Kobler in Barrhaven regarding discount program
- Continue looking into starting Member's Rewards Program
- To speak with Scotia Bank to see if monthly bank fees can be reduced.
- To meet with Innovapost to discuss making sponsorship partnership a long term arrangement
- Follow up with Nicole and Katherine about organizing Annual Fundraising Auction Party in November

Nicole

- To start planning Ausome Ottawa's Annual Fundraising Auction
-

1. Welcome – Liisa

Welcomed board members and went through AGM proceeding. Please refer to AGM minutes.

Reviewed minutes form executive meeting from February 7th, 2017. The action items were discussed (*Comments/updates in italics*)

Liisa

- Will create a 2 sided letter that we can give to corporations that will highlight what Ausome Ottawa does and the sponsorship levels. (*done – Liisa will resend the document to current board members for everyone to circulate*)

- To send out email to families about the new Ausome Ottawa annual registration fee (*done – Liisa did not receive any objections about new membership fee, 90 people have registered bringing in an extra \$2000 in revenue*).

-Draft an attendance policy (*done – has been sent out to current families in an email and is also posted on website. The No-Show Policy states “failure to notify notify us 3 or more hours before a program or activity will be considered a no-show. Every program participant will be permitted one no-show. On your second no-show, you will be fined \$15. Payments must be made prior to registering for any future programs”. It has just posted this week, therefore no issues yet with the new policy.*)

Katherine

– To follow-up with Yogatown about giving proceeds of one of their fundraising yoga sessions to Ausome Ottawa (*Followed up with Katherine via email, she has plans to ask Yogatown for a donation for our annual Fundraising Auction*)

Niall

– To investigate putting charity donation boxes for Ausome Ottawa into local businesses and health care offices as a way of fundraising and increasing awareness of Ausome Ottawa. (*As Niall was away, Liisa provided update. She noted Niall had done great work in getting this initiative started. Charity donation boxes have been placed at Back on Track Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Center, Dingerz Batting and Pitching Center and Valiquette’s Source of Sports. We have raised \$18 through these boxes. Shawn Silverman from Kiddie Kobler in Barrhaven is also agreed to have a box at his store’s cash. Liisa to drop off the box soon. He is also keen to try other initiatives such as providing a discount to Ausome members Liisa to follow up.*)

Anna

– To continue to look at the feasibility of running a summer camp (2 full days or 4 half days) this summer (*Due to the demands for securing funding, volunteers and infrastructure, it was decided that Ausome would stick with offering single day camps rather than a full week camp. See Anna’s report for more details.*)

The minutes from February 8th 2017 were passed by Katherine and seconded by Derek by proxy.

Members Rewards

We had a discussion about starting a member’s rewards program. The idea would be that Ausome Ottawa would post on their website and Facebook site about various partnerships in the community where members could receive discounts. Kiddie Kobler in Barrhaven as noted above has volunteered to do this. Liisa to follow up.

Annual Report

Liisa created document highlighting all the accomplishments of Ausome Ottawa thus far. It also shows our vision for the future. It lists the board members, staff, and donors. It documents the

key things we do – focusing on physical literacy (ABCs- agility, balance, and coordination), fundamental movement and other sports programming. It will be a great document to show to potential donors to share what services Ausome Ottawa provides.

The partnership with Algonquin College has been beneficial. OT & Physio assistant need help to know how to work with kids with Autism. The children have benefited in focusing on fine motor exercise and fundamental movement in order to have this foundation before moving on to learning how to play sports. The physical literacy of learning how to run, jump, catch and throw will be beneficial to each child going forward.

Grants and Donations

Liisa pursuing many grants. She may look into Autism Speaks Canada, Sens Foundation, Canada Post Foundation, Change for Charity at the Airport, and Ottawa Community Foundation.

Liisa reports we have received grant from Unity of Autism and a \$5000 donation from Bushtakah. Liisa spoke at Bushtakah's sweet (The Sporty Women's Empowering Evening of Tips and Advice) event and able to share that donation will provide 200 hour of sports for our kids.

Liisa will meet with Innovapost to see about making the sponsoring partnership a long term agreement.

Staff

-Along with Anna, have hired Alix to help with Programming and Kayla and Rachelle to be support people at the sports programs.

-The plan for next summer is look into hiring a summer student

3rd Party Fundraising Events

-Basketball tournament – “3 on 3 in the 613” will take place on July 9th, 2017 (projected fundraising total to Ausome Ottawa is \$1500)

-Dynes Sports Management 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament to take place July 23, 2017 (projected fundraising total to Ausome Ottawa is \$3000)

Database/Website

Rob Roach of Salesforce has been helping to develop database and website. 3 volunteer developers have been helping for many Saturdays to help develop database.

It will be quite helpful as we will have quick access to our donors, participants and volunteers. Everything will be able to be plugged into database. Once database is ready to go, we will launch new streamlined website at the same time.

2. Treasurer's Report (David)

Liisa gave report in David's absence.

Financial statements from 2016 have been approved by Suzanne and seconded by Karen. The budget is balanced for the 2017 fiscal year with approximately \$20,000 in surplus currently. Liisa will speak with Scotia Bank to see if bank fees can be reduced.

Karen Cooper of Drache Aptowitz LLP advises Ausome Ottawa legally.

3. Program Director's Report (Anna)

Programming

Currently, all programming is going well. Running presently are Fundamental movement with physio assistant students, Fine motor with OT assistant students, Dance, and Basketball.

Fundamental Movement is going well and have found modifications that have been working well.

Fine motor program is being run for the second time with the students from Algonquin. She is impressed with the improved program and the student volunteers.

This is the first time running Dance and Anna has noted large range in skill set from beginners to advanced dancers with experience. In the future , it would be good to offer two groups divided on experience and ability. They have been modifying the program as they go and it seems everyone is having a good time.

Both groups of basketball at the JCC are doing great.

May & June

Next up for May & June are Gymnastics and Soccer. Each program runs for 5 weeks.

Depending of space and schedule may be able to do another yoga session for late spring.

Fall

Alix Milk will take over from Anna for her maternity leave.

The plan is to have:

-water polo for September.

-baseball for 4 weeks at Miracle League Park in early Fall.

An Ausome parent has arranged use of the gym at Maurice-Lapointe Public Elementary School in Kanata for 6 dates in the fall. We are planning on running a “Getting Moving” program. Program will need to be developed.

Summer camp

We will have 3 separate full camp days. The first two will take place at the Miracle League Field in Ottawa. We will have access to baseball field and the community center. The dates will be July 7th and July 19th.

The last camp day will be an away full camp day at Camp B’Nai Brith Ottawa. Ausome Ottawa went there last year and had a great time. This camp day will take place on August 8th.

Anna noted that current programs filled up in 7 minutes after registration opened. Some families registered for both basketball and dance and she advised them to choose one program. This opened spots for families on the waiting list. Currently, there are 7 families on the waiting list. They have been offered first dibs on soccer and gymnastics before registration opened.

Anna has spoken with Philip from Proset Tennis. Currently, his rate of \$150/program per child is too expensive for Ausome Ottawa to partner with. Perhaps, we will revisit this partnership to see if a compromise can be made for a program to be run in November or December.

Anna is currently working on developing training modules for the community to learn how to coach/work with children on the spectrum. Ausome Ottawa has been approached by Nakkertok and Nepean Sailing Club to come to teach their coaches how to best work with kids with Autism.

We are looking into the feasibility of charging clubs to train them how to coach athletes with autism. Suzanne noted that \$2000 is the going rate to book a speaker at a conference.

4. Members at Large (Nicole) – party planning

Liisa will contact Nicole and Katherine to begin to plan Annual Fundraising Party for November.

5. Members at Large (Suzanne) – CASDA update

Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA) unites with speaking with one voice to the federal government to with hopes to make change happen to bring about a National ASD strategy.

They recently had a leadership summit in Ottawa on April 4-5th, 2017. Suzanne attended and is a director on their board. Through the national need survey, 7 key messages emerged. On the first day of the summit 7 self-advocated spoke and on the second day there were poster presentations representing 4 different areas.

6. Members at Large (Nicole, Meg, Emily, Katherine, Karen, Amy)

Amy noted that her son's school Kanata Academy will be holding a dress down day on April 28, 2017 with all proceeds going to Ausome Ottawa.

Suzanne suggested we look into having a charity run linking the three local autism charities (Ausome Ottawa, Quickstart – Early Intervention for Autism, and Children at Risk) together. The profits would be split three ways and the money would stay in the local community.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Next meetings:

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 7 p.m., location TBD

Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 7 p.m., location TBD