

The Knoxville Track Club Board of Directors met Monday, February 23, 2026 at Casual Pint, Northshore.

Members present were: Amber Carroll, C. John Chavis, Brandon Collier, Karla Gander, Zane Hagy, David Hinkle, Adam Kolatorowicz, Tina Fickey, Melissa Kanipe, Kunle Lawson, Don Madgett, Angel Norman, Matt Stegall, Jennifer Moore, and Samanta Pulido.

Staff members Eric Weatherbee, Jessica Mead, and Jason Altman attended as guests, as well as two other guests who are new members.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by board chair Hagy.

The minutes from the January board meeting were approved after a motion by Matt and a second by Tina.

The consent agenda, based on reports submitted from staff, was accepted unanimously after a motion by David Hinkle and a second by Karla Gander. Highlights included:

- **Executive Director Eric Weatherbee reported** that the purchase of Knoxville Youth Athletics will be announced in March. This purchase was approved by the board later in the meeting.

Timing staff will be converted from independent contractors to club employees as required by the IRS.

Finish on the Field has been approved for October 2026 at Covenant Health Park.

KTC online store is open with various apparel offerings.

The club is continuing the onboarding process with Two Roads bookkeeping, who will also serve as tax preparer.

The Straw Plains races saw a 44% increase in participation over the previous year with a near-record setting number of 900 runners.

- **Event manager Jessica Mead** updated the board on the upcoming Pistol Ultra races March 14-15 in Alcoa, encouraging board members to support the KTC-assisted event by racing, volunteering or spectating.

She noted that the beer run series will kick off on March 22 at Flock Beer and Wine with proceeds benefiting HALT (Humans and Animals Learning Together), a local charity that helps at-risk teens by having them help train adoptable shelter dogs.

Volunteers are always needed for CHKM weekend, and Jessica reminded the board of the shakeout run with Kara Goucher on Saturday morning, April 11. New this year will be a VIP option for participants, with more information forthcoming.

The Vol Track Classic will be held April 17-18, which will include the Hal Canfield Memorial Mile.

- **Treasurer Angel Norman** reported that the month of January was overall positive based on income and expenses.
- **Jason Altman's marathon director** report included current registration totals for the various marathon events. Numbers are running somewhat higher than last year at this same time. Routes for the events will remain unchanged from last year with the exception of the marathon which will run across the newly-reopened Gay Street pedestrian bridge rather than James White Parkway. Group training runs are underway and going well.
- **The Trail committee report** included a recap of the successful kickoff to the trail season at Wanderers at Maryville College on Feb. 7. The race had to be rescheduled due to January weather but was well attended.

Old Business

- **Purchase of Knoxville Youth Athletics.** Eric mentioned that the club will take over KYA after the purchase is finalized with board approval. He has met with the owners of KYA on many occasions, and they have been cooperative on all fronts. The board was asked to review the opportunity to ensure clarity for the request for approval.

Zane asked for any outstanding questions from board members, citing the importance of full awareness and transparency. David and Angel have also assisted with the documentation needed for the acquisition.

After a motion by David and a second from Brandon C, the proposal was approved unanimously. This is history making for the club and expands its impact in the community.

The acquisition of KYA will add two staff members--Brent Smith and Chris Kane. The process has been vetted by employment law attorneys. Brent and Chris will be hired and supervised by Eric.

Kunle mentioned that this will help meet needs to host indoor track meets, for which athletes are currently having to travel to Kentucky to participate in.

Bylaws require board approval for all hires, so Brandon moved to approve hiring Brent and Chris to continue serving KYA, and the motion was seconded by Melissa Kanipe. The motion passed unanimously pending acceptance by the coaches.

- **Run Knox:** Jason Wise will be taking the RRCA run coach course soon. He will be attending practices and begin working with Scott Schmidt as they help the program expand its reach. We will now have access to RunKnox social media. Zane explained the expanded scope of Run Knox to new board members. The program is still seeking a female coach to serve with Jason and Scott.

New Business included:

- **Web updates:** The Knoxville Marathon website is ancient, and Zane et al are working to update it. At this point, it is about $\frac{2}{3}$ converted but will continue to function in its current state until after the marathon. RunKnox will be added, and everything will go through KTC.org. CHKM is its own site with individual identity but is linked to the main KTC site.

Outside Guests and Public Comments

Zane recognized two guests who have recently moved to the area from Arizona. They've been volunteering at some races and participated in the New Years Day 5K. They provided positive feedback on their club experience and the upcoming increased youth involvement.

Round Table:

- **Brandon Collier** offered congratulations to staff members Eric and Jessica for the success of the first three road races of the year. Melissa Kanipe agreed but cited some parking challenges at the Straw Plains event.
- Membership chair **Tina Fickey** suggested that the board check into the registrations for the three races to determine who is a member and who is not. She suggested setting up material at the CHKM information booth regarding KTC membership and urged board members to assist with selling merch at the Expo.
- New board member **Samanta Pulido** introduced herself and mentioned that she was excited to join the board. As a parent, she was particularly glad to hear of the upcoming expansion into youth athletics.

- Trail committee chair **Michael DeLisle** mentioned that the recent Big Ridge trail races were excellent, with strong participation despite terrible weather.
- **Adam Kolatorowicz** expressed thanks to the Tennessee Running Club for their volunteerism in serving a recent trail race aid station, complete with boomboxed 80s music. He asked the club to consider recognition for them.
- **Melissa Kanipe** stated that the Strawberry Plains half marathon and 10K had received a great deal of positive feedback, especially on swag.
- **Angel Norman** commended the club on the strong start to the year.
- **Hannah Foust-Eng** asked about the specifics for the meet and greet with Kara Goucher at the CHKM Expo. Specifics are forthcoming and will be communicated via social media.
- Board President **Zane Hagy** mentioned the club is in a great place and hard work and vision is paying off.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 after a motion from Matt Stegall and a second by David Hinkle.

