

The Knoxville Track Club Board of Directors met Monday, July 27, 2026 at Casual Pint, Northshore.

Members present were: C. John Chavis, Brandon Collier, Zane Hagy, Adam Kolatorowicz, Tina Fickey, Melissa Kanipe, Don Madgett, Jennifer Moore, Samanta Pudido, David Hinkle, Karla Gander, and Hannah Foust-Eng.

Staff members Jason Altman, Jessica Mead, and Chris Kane as well as club members Lauren Roach, Grace Weber, Emily Pack, Ben Dean, and Josh Epstein attended as guests.

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

The minutes from May board meetings were not approved due to the omission of Melissa's suggestion to move meetings from Casual Pint to another location. She suggested the public library, noting that non-profits are able to use the library without charge.

The consent agenda based on reports submitted from staff was accepted unanimously after a motion by Brandon Collier and a second by Karla Gander.

New Business included:

Karla updated the board on the hiring process for the new executive director. She mentioned that there were several candidates to interview and the hiring committee consists of Melissa, Brandon, Samanta, Zane, Kunle, Karla, and Jennifer.

The process will involve interviews by the committee, which will then make a recommendation to the full board. Jessica mentioned that the position was still open but was not being strongly promoted at this time. There was no listed fill date.

Don asked if an additional interview involving the full board would be included, and Zane said that the work of interviewing would be done by the committee and the board would respond to the recommendation of the committee.

Samanta mentioned that she would be willing to contribute to the process due to her HR and hiring professional background.

Jessica encouraged the committee to keep in mind fresh ideas, momentum, and willingness to tap into suggestions regarding forward progress of the club.

She mentioned some paperwork challenges that were creating some difficulty with the Springbrook Splash but expressed confidence that the issues were being worked out due to the diligence of race directors.

Melissa mentioned that Bound Running has asked to be involved in the Straw Plains race in February.

Guests mentioned that the vibe at KTC group runs seems geared toward teams and less toward inclusive access for runners of all ability levels. Hannah agreed, and David mentioned that new runners represent the future of the club. Zane expressed appreciation for input from club members, and Melissa suggested pace groups for marathon training runs. Tina encouraged the ED hiring committee to incorporate this insight into interviews.

C. John Chavis suggested that changes to the Grand Prix structure are needed, especially in regard to sponsored teams (Runners Market, Eddie's Health Shoppe) vs. unsponsored teams (C. John Runs, Team Really, Back of the Pack, etc.). C. John will head up a committee to review the current Grand Prix structure and suggest improvements. Melissa asked for clarification on the volunteer requirement for Grand Prix, which has been revised since the first of the year.

At the suggestion of the meeting guests, the board discussed interfacing with existing run clubs to promote growth for both. Jessica recalled the very active KTC Socialites encouraged revising the role of KTC social chair. Zane encouraged the guests to become involved with the community relations committee. Developing year-round pace teams was also discussed.

Treasurer Angel Norman reported that the club was below the \$1M threshold for required audit in 2024 but exceeded that level for 2025. She stressed the importance of attending to procedures.

Bradon reported that the Brushy Mountain race has 1,316 registrations and that momentum and enthusiasm are high for the event. Guests and board members were encouraged to communicate ideas for future events.

David Hinkle mentioned that the path forward for the club is growth among non-elite runners. Our goal is always to provide ways for people to be active, and we appreciate the perspective provided by guests. He noted that club participation and budget are at the highest levels ever.

Roundtable

Club member Ben Dean asked what people want to see in Knoxville Youth Athletics after the KTC acquisition. Chris Kane explained that the club has wanted to increase participation and support for youth athletics for a long time and this move makes that possible. He reported that operations have been integrated and progress is being made. He encouraged participation and volunteerism.

The age range between 20s and 30s is underrepresented in the club, and we are working to tap into that demographic.

Zane reported that new ideas to address that gap will figure significantly in the search for the new ED. Don Madgett concurred.

Karla asked the members of the search committee to send her times and dates that they're available to participate in interviews. Zane added that we want everyone to understand how the decision is reached. Ben asked what the board is looking for in the new ED, and members stressed the importance of stability, community relations, innovation, growth, and being the face of the club.

Brandon Collier made a motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM, which was seconded by David Hinkle. The meeting was adjourned.

