

**Mankato Area Hockey Association  
 Monthly Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, October 22, 2007, 2007, 7:00PM  
 North Mankato Fire Hall #2**

**Board Members attending:** (X = present, E= excused absence)

Jason Westerlund	X	Darren Bruns	X	Kent Kvislen	X
Jeff Nickels	X	Lynette Cline	X	Holli Loe	E
		Tim DeSutter	X	Joe Sieberg	X
Traci Hays	X	John Goettl		Chad Sisco	X
April Austin	X	Ruthann Kragh	E	Sherry Stagg	X

**Others Present:**

Jo Nickels, Dan Devenport, Steve Isakson, Dave Breiter, Shawn Reddy

**Meeting Called to Order:**

President Jason Westerlund called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Review and Approve current agenda**

Motion to approve agenda

M/S/P: Joe/Darren

**Review and Approve Minutes of last regular meeting**

September 17, 2007 Regular Board meeting

General discussion on minutes.

Motion to approve minutes.

M/S/P: Kent/Joe

**Gambling Manager Report and Expense Approval:** - Jo Nickels presented

Net profit \$10,824 for the month ended 9/30/07

Net profit \$10,005 last year for the month ended 9/30/06

Jo reviewed bills paid in September and bills to be paid in October.

Jo reported the compliance Review by the Gambling control Board is complete and they will need a response by the middle of November.

Jo reported the MN Department of Revenue audit is complete and everything was in good order.

Motion to accept Gambling Report and approve bills for payment.

M/S/P Sherry/Lynette

**Treasurers Report:** - Traci Hays presented

Traci reported that many checks were issued for away tournaments, level 4 coaching, the hog roast, equipment from PIAS, and the Children's project scholarships along with normal operating expenses.

We also deposited payments from Home tournament registrations, winter registrations, and proceeds from the hog roast.

Motion to accept Treasurer Report.  
M/S/P Darren/Joe

**Fundraising Report:** – Sherry Stag presented

Sherry reported that all the Schwan's fundraiser packets are ready to be distributed.

There was general discussion regarding the establishment of incentives for members to sell over and above their required obligations.

**Expansion and Growth:** – Dan Devenport presented

Dan reported that he met with Shane Boyer at Sports Institute and discussed our needs to book dry land training time there. We will not need additional dry land time because the available ice time at the arena is currently sufficient to provide MAHA teams with the ice they need.

Dan agreed with Shane that he would try to get our teams in there at least one time to see if there is any additional interest.

**Operations Committee:** – Dan Devenport presented

Dan discussed many issues affecting the MAHA organization overall and how they may affect his future performance and the effectiveness of the whole association. Dan raised many points on the current attitude of many association members and raised many questions on the role of the operations Manager.

Please see also the full report attached.

**Communications:** – Kent Kvislen presented

Kent reported that he is in the process of updating the inventory records for MAHA owned computers.

Kent has been in contact with Puck Systems regarding the ability to load e-mail data.

Kent has been cleaning up the website to eliminate old data and reports. Kent reported on updates that have been completed and reviewed updates that still need to be completed.

Kent reported that Dan is having troubles with his computer and suggested it be replaced. Kent will do further research on the cost to replaced it.

Kent introduced Dave Breiter who is interested in taking over Kent's responsibilities on the Communications Committee.

**Follow-up Business -**

- Sponsorships – Traci Hays reported that we are looking for one more sponsor. She and Darren have approached the North Mankato Fire Department to see if they would be interested in sponsoring another team. There was much general discussion on potential sponsors.
- Olson Insurance Issue – Jason Westerlund reported that he received a letter from an attorney representing the Olson family. General discussion on MAHA's response to that letter followed. By a hand vote, MAHA decided to not offer any payment at this time.

**New Business –**

- Coach Selection Process – There was much discussion on how the players' placement process works, how MAHA selects coaches for the specific teams and how parent coaches fit in the process. MAHA goes to great lengths to identify and place available coaches based on the needs of the various teams.

Parent coaches are welcome to coach in MAHA. Qualified parent coaches will be allowed to coach as either a head coach or an assistant coach depending on MAHA's needs. Parent coaches will be considered along with all other available coaches and placed on the most appropriate team based on all MAHA's current open positions.

MAHA will not create a coaching position on a particular team for no other reason than the parent has a son or daughter skating on that team. A parent's status as a MAHA coach (or as a Board member) will have no bearing on the team placement of their son or daughter. As we do with coaches, we go to great lengths in the player tryout/placement process to identify the most appropriate team for our players. A parent's volunteer status in the organization is not considered in the player tryout/placement process.

- Gambling Manager Compensation - Joe Sieberg reported that the Gambling Manager's current compensation is \$12,000 per year base plus \$5,000 incentive plan. Based on the additional duties assumed by this position and the growth of the program, Joe proposed that we increase the base to \$1,350 per month. This would put the compensation plan to \$16,200 annually and \$4,000 incentive for potential total compensation of \$20,200.

Motion to approve recommended increase  
M/S/P Kent/Lynette (Jeff Nickels abstained)

#### **Next Meeting Agenda items**

Discuss Dan Devenport's computer

#### **Next Meeting**

November 12, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Location North Mankato Fire Hall #2

**Adjournment:** 9:35 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

M/S/P: Kent/Lynette

## October 2007 Operation's Report

### I. Hockey Operation's

All teams are up and running. We are short two team managers at this point, but for the most part all teams are self sufficient at this point. That is the first major point for me is when we get all teams standing on their own feet. It was a very busy, hectic, and exhausting six week stretch, but it was all worth it as we are off and running!

We have not had an Operation's meeting since the last board meeting, so there is little to report in that area. I am probably looking at calling one in the next month or so to discuss how some of our early season changes went, and making notes and changes while it is fresh in our minds.

### II. Coaches

As you all probably know by now, we did fill our last team's (the Bantam C's) coaching staff a few days before their first practice. They now have three coaches on their staff, so no worries on my end about coaching on that team. At present, all of our teams have three coaches on staff except two...the Bantam A and the Pee wee C. I have four candidates that I received late from a "Reporter" ad at MSU that I will fill in on some of these teams. The Bantam A staff isn't interested in adding any coaches as they are quite comfortable with just the two of them.

I am very happy with the coaching staffs we have, and the coaching roster as a whole from 1<sup>st</sup> year Mini's through Bantams. We are as deep as we have ever been, and have as many coaches on staff as we have ever had before. At present, I don't see me having any trouble keeping our coaching salaries under budget even with the additional coaches. It is a good problem to have though, if it was an issue.

### III. Programs and player development

The changes in our first few weeks of "camp" seemed to go pretty well. We did have a couple of small bugs that we will need to work out for next season (conflicts, staggering the team postings, etc), but I think this concept is the way to go. We will be making the second phase of changes to it for next season as a result of the success this season.

Our In House program is off and running after week two just concluded. We have a really nice set up going there with a manager coordinator (Cyndi St. Pierre), Managers for each team, and a full coaching staff for each team. I really like where our In House program is, and where it is going.

Speaking of our In House program...we are working on a "Hockey 101" program where I will hold meetings during on ice sessions for parents who want to learn about various hockey topics. I would like to bring in some guest speakers in the hockey community as well, and to give these parents as much information on how things work, what they should expect, etc. We will probably be starting this program in early November.

I have been to at least one practice of every team in the first two weeks, and some as many as three practices. My main goal early in the season is to ensure coaches are prepared, that we have good turnout at each practice, that the ice is being utilized properly and that kids are getting a lot out of their ice times. These are the areas you can make the most difference with coaches as opposed to the "x's and o's" of the game. If a coach doesn't know something now, he is unlikely going to learn it in a short period of time....so making sure they are utilizing their ice effectively is a logical place to start.

#### **IV. Ice Scheduling**

I am confident that the ice schedules for our teams are set, and I feel like all are in a really good spot right now for ice time. I have booked about 25 hours over in New Ulm, and might book a little more to fill in some spots from hear on out, but we won't need too much. The main reason being the smaller teams...we are able to get two teams on the ice pretty much every time we have an open hour, and that helps the number of touches each team/child is getting.

#### **V. Miscellaneous**

Our trial program with District 8 is off and running. Coaches for the Peewee and Bantam teams have been given a list of contacts for teams within their sub-district and have one week to schedule games with them via phone or email. At that point they turn their games in to the district and we are set to go. It will be real interesting to see how things work with the scheduling of this program, and with the new program period.

Just an FYI that I have had sit downs with a few people in town who I feel are the most knowledgeable hockey people to talk with. My intention in these conversations was to get input on how things are going, how I am handling various aspects of the association, etc. Coming out of these talks I am confident that the support I need to keep moving forward is definitely there. We have heard some rumblings from various sources over the past few months, as we will always hear, and I want the board to know that I am constantly looking inward to ensure I am running things properly, and running them well. It appears that most of the people I most look to for input in these areas would agree we are handling things properly.

My main focus over the next month will be to ensure teams are starting off on the right foot, getting games scheduled effectively and within game/practice ratios, and making sure our coaches are getting certified properly. I will be spending a lot of time on the ice and at the rink as a result, and will be making my #1 priority the coaches and the players.