

**Mankato Area Hockey Association  
 Monthly Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, January 14, 2008, 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
Dave Breiter	X	Tim DeSutter	X	Joe Sieberg	E
Traci Hays	X	John Goettl	E	Chad Sisco	X
April Austin	E	Ruthann Kragh	X	Sherry Stagg	X

**Others Present:**

Dan Devenport, Steve Isakson, Lon Anderson, Ellen Wild

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Vice President Jeff Nickels called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Review and Approve current agenda**

Motion to approve agenda

M/S/P: Kent/Darren

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

November 12, 2007 Regular Board meeting

General discussion on minutes.

Motion to approve minutes.

M/S/P: Kent/Darren

Due to scheduling conflicts, a December meeting was not held. There will be no meeting minutes for December, 2007.

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

Net profit \$1,052 for the month ended 12/31/07

Net profit \$6,113 last year for the month ended 12/31/06

Jeff reviewed bills paid in November and December and bills to be paid in January. Jo will transfer \$20,000 from the gambling fund to the general fund in January.

Jeff reported that we pulled operations out of the Roadhouse. The Roadhouse experienced a theft and they refused to reimburse the gambling fund. MAHA contacted the appropriate authorities to investigate. See the memo distributed for discussion at the end of this report for details on this issue.

Jason and Jo were notified of a violation at another o four sites. They will meet with the Gambling Control personnel to discuss potential penalties and repercussions that will result from this violation.

Motion to accept Gambling Report and approve bills for payment.

M/S/P Kent/Lynette

**Treasurers Report:** - Traci Hays presented

Traci reported on October and November activity. December is not yet complete. The Valley Bank accounts are being transferred to Pioneer Bank. During October and November, we experienced normal operational expenses plus tournament expenses. Deposits included winter registrations, equipment rentals, transfer from Gambling account (\$10,000) and tournament receipts.

Motion to accept Treasurer Report.

M/S/P Darren/ Tim

**Fundraising Report:** – Sherry Stag presented

Sherry reported the Schwans Fundraising numbers are looking close to last years. Internet sales are up and paper sales are down.

Jeff Nickels reported that the MAHA Men’s Stag will be on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. We will be trying to beat last year’s revenue (\$12,000). The group is considering using a larger facility next year.

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

Dan reported that the decision was made that we will not need to use the Sports Institute facility this year to supplement the ice schedule. We may still consider using this in the future.

**Operations Committee:** – Dan Devenport presented

Dan reported he has been in contact with the two high schools and we have booked the entire Saturday of December 20th next season for “Hockey Day in Mankato”. Many events are planned for that day. Each of MAHA’s traveling teams will play a game at ASA that day leading up to the two East/West games that night. Dan has a lot of ideas and will be looking for some help from those who are still on the board come March.

Dan reported that the annual coach’s party is coming up and preparations are underway.

Please see the full report attached.

**Communications:** – Dave Breiter presented

Dave reported the committee intends to issue a newsletter in February. MAHA will also host another meet and greet session at All Seasons Arena to get to know parents of the younger participants in an effort to recruit new Board members.

Please see the full report attached.

**New Business –**

**Anthony Ford Group – Discuss Potential Pond Hockey Tournament**

Lon Anderson and Ellen Wild discussed their concept of developing an annual Pond Hockey tournament. The concept will be an annual tournament with divisions by age and will begin next year. They requested MAHA to keep the traveling teams calendars open for a period next January so members of those teams can participate. There was a good deal of positive discussion and excitement on this concept.

**Public Relations Committee – Chad Sisco and Dan Devenport**

Chad reported that he and Dan met to discuss ways to promote MAHA. Items they discussed included hanging Minnesota State Hockey state participation banners in the All Seasons Arena that would showcase the MAHA teams that have participated at the state level over the years. They also discussed creating and enhancing the tradition/history pages on the internet.

**Next Meeting Agenda items**

- Discuss MAHA Logo
- Sponsorships
- Apparel
- Fill Secretary position
- Operations Manager annual review

**Next Meeting**

February 11, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Location North Mankato Fire Hall #2

**Adjournment:** 9:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

M/S/P: Darren/Dave

**January 2007 Operation's Report**

## **I. Hockey Operation's**

- I have been in contact with the two high schools in town and we have booked the entire Saturday of December 20<sup>th</sup> next season for "Hockey Day in Mankato". I am planning on having every one of our traveling teams play a game at ASA that day leading up to the two East/West games that night. I have a lot of ideas for such an event, and will be looking for some help from those who are still on the board come March.
- As with last year, I am going to work on some Spring, Summer, and Fall programs that will not work under the "MAHA" umbrella. If you want this to be done differently let me know, but we have agreed for a couple of years now that six months of asking for money from people is enough....so I am going to be doing some programs under my 3-D Hockey account.

## **II. Coaches**

- As I may have mentioned in the past...I am quite confident that this has been our best year as far as the quality of coaches all of the way through, that we have had since I have been a part of MAHA. I have yet to hear a single, valid, complaint regarding a coach this season. Of course there are a few of the minor things that don't amount to much, but for the most part I am very satisfied with what we have on our rosters this season.
- As an FYI....I did put on three clinics for USA Hockey this season: A level 1, a level 2, and a level 3.
- I will be setting up a year end coaches get together as I have done the past four years. I will likely shoot for mid-March so if there are any board members that are interested in attending and thanking our coaches keep this in mind. I believe we have about \$1000 budgeted for such an event, and last year we did it at Junkers...which worked out fantastic.

## **III. Programs and player development**

- As you all probably know by now, we are in our stretch run of the season. Yes, the season is slowly winding down. With district tournaments taking part in mid-February we are looking at a little over four weeks left in our "regular season". Our in house programs skate through March, but most of the teams are done by the end of February.
- A quick breakdown of how are teams are faring:

Bantam A – 6-5 in District play and currently in 4<sup>th</sup> of 8 teams

Bantam B: 6-1 in District play and currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 teams

Bantam C: 0-7 in District play, but have lost only one game by more than one goal

Pee wee A: 12-0 in District play

Pee wee B: 9-4 in District play and first in their division

Pee wee C: 2-1-1 in District play and currently in 7<sup>th</sup> of 13 teams

U12 Girls: 6-0 in District play and tied for first

U10 Girls: 8-2-2 and have finished second in three tournaments this year

Squirt A Purple: 12-3-1

Squirt A White: Still winless, but competing in pretty much every game they play

Squirt B Purple: 8-9

Squirt B White: 6-4-1

Something to be proud of is the fact that we are splitting our "B" Squirt teams evenly and they are still hovering around a .500 record. This shows how we have been able to bring up the level of play all of the way through our program. Numbers next year look very solid and we may be looking at having some tough decisions to make based on larger numbers at certain levels (this is a good thing).

- All in all, I am quite pleased, and very proud, of where our program is at right now. If you base “success” off of wins and losses our program is about as solid as it has ever been. You can see the development of some of our programs really working, and that is an exciting thing.
- I am currently working on utilizing some of the additional funds we have left over in the ice budget to set up some “prep” times for MAHA. A “Squirt Prep” would be for second year Mites who will be Squirts/U10’s next season, and a “Peewee Prep” will help those who will be first year Peewees next year. The goal will be to get them prepared for the level of play they will see, particularly the checking for first year peewees. These will be MAHA sponsored programs.

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

- With the middle of January comes the beginning of the wrap up process for the season. I am currently working on ensuring our teams are all set for the post season, and for year end. I have done some schedule analysis and am proud to say that our kids received more ice time this year than they have since I have been involved in MAHA, and if my calculations are correct, they did it with money to spare in the budget.

#### **V. Miscellaneous**

- Thanks to Kent Kvislen for spending a significant amount of time at my house setting up my new computer and printer/fax. So far it is working well, and I appreciate the board’s new purchase.
- I have met with Chad Sisco and Sarah Looft regarding the new Public Relations Committee and we will be making a quick presentation at the next board meeting. I am very excited about the possibilities this committee could bring, and hope that we are able to implement some of the ideas we have come up with.
- I would recommend that the discussion about our association logo be revisited before the next budget comes due. We have been in our current jerseys for about eight years now, and will need to start ordering replacements over the next few years. I do believe a discussion is warranted based off of what I have been hearing from our members at the rink.

### **Communications Report January 14, 2008**

- **Recent updates to web site:**
  - Added calendar raffle winners
  - Converted Word Documents to pdf
  - Cleaned-up Various Type-os Throughout Site
- **Updates that need to be done:**
  - Convert other Word docs on the site to pdf format
  - We need some updated content for the home page or the association news section. If anyone has anything they would like posted please forward information to Dave ([davebr@bolton-menk.com](mailto:davebr@bolton-menk.com)).

- Kent and I met to go over the Communications Chair duties. He gave copies of his electronic files to me.
  
- **Items for discussion**
  - Public thank you to the individuals who have gotten the Schulz rink up and running.
  - Policy on what links we add to the web site. I have had a request from [www.followthepuck.com](http://www.followthepuck.com) to add a link to their site. Their site is strictly high school boy's hockey. They are hoping to add high school girls hockey next year.

Memo To: Mankato Area Hockey Association Board Members

From: Jo Nickels, Gambling Manager

Date: January 10, 2008

Subject: Fund Loss at Roadhouse 169

On Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> I spoke to Teresa Rohlk about a game that was missing on inventory at Roadhouse 169. She called down and spoke to Nicole who checked and said that they did not have the game that we took it. Nicole said that there was a different game there but not the game we were looking for. Teresa and I searched to make sure that we didn't have it in storage and could not find it. Teresa then called back and spoke to Chad Owens, the bar owner, and asked him to look again, that the game had to be there. Teresa decided to go down to help search. They found it in an empty distributor box, half open with the tracking sheet, played tickets and prize receipts but the money was missing. The name of the game was What's the Buzz, serial number M560354. The total cash on hand was \$1581 minus the Starting Bank \$500 which would of given us \$1081. The tracking sheet was not signed by Ray Bruce, the MAHA employee who does deposits for our sites. She asked Nicole to check the safe again to make sure the money was not in there. They have two safes and Nicole said that she only had the combination to the one safe and not the other. She checked the one and it was not in there. Nicole decided to try the same combination on the other safe and she was able to open it but the money wasn't in there either. Teresa took the game with her and told Chad that we would be calling him to discuss this matter.

On Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, I called and asked to speak to Chad but he was busy at the moment and would call me right back. I waited over 90 minutes and did not receive a call so I called him again and this time I was able to talk to him about the issue at hand. I explained to him that since the money was not on his premise and there was a theft that occurred, he was responsible for reimbursing the loss of \$1081 and that if he did not we

would need to call the authorities to report the theft. He became angry and asked why it took so long for us to find it and that one of our employees came in and took the money. I explained to him our procedure which is that when a game closes we have Ray Bruce go into the site, count out the cash in front of the bartender, sign the tracking sheet, give the tracking sheet back to the bartender to put with the game and then Ray would contact Teresa to go in and pick up the game to audit. I did ask him why the game was not on the shelf like the rest of the games that had been closed out and why it was stuffed in a box under the counter. He was not able to answer this question. All he told me was that he was not going to pay and we could do what we wanted.

We were heading out of town that afternoon and decided that I would have enough time to file a fund loss within the 5 day requirement. On Monday, December 10, I spoke to Dave Pehrson, our compliance officer to explain the situation. He said that we should contact our local law enforcement right away to get a report started. At 11:00 am I called to report a theft with the North Mankato Police Department. I spoke to Sandra Howe and explained the situation to her.

I spoke to several people at the Gambling Control Board about our situation and I decided that it would be best if we pulled out all of our pull-tabs from Roadhouse 169. The GCB did suggest having law enforcement along to make sure things did not get out of hand. I called Sandra Howe to ask her to accompany us to Roadhouse 169, that we were going to take all our pull-tabs that were in play, our inventory, and the money from each game. I had a form typed up that we filled out with all the items that we took along with how much cash we were taking. I had the bartender also count the cash and then had her sign the form. The only thing that we did not take was the box that was made to put the pull-tabs in because we paid \$350 of the bill to have this made and Roadhouse 169 paid the other portion.

I have received a copy of the police reports if anyone is interested in viewing them. If you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at [jojonick@hickorytech.net](mailto:jojonick@hickorytech.net) or call me at 507-779-9398.