

**Hopkins Youth Hockey Association
Minutes of the January 19, 2009
Board of Directors Meeting**

Members Present: Mr. Bizal, Ms. Groom, Ms. Quale, Ms. Whitmore, Mr. Hazuka, Mr. Keiser, Mr. Glover, Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Greeley, Mr. Davis, Mr. Martin, Mr. DeGiulio, and Mr. Sweeney.

Guests: Mike Beck and Brian Kirk.

Call to Order

Mr. Bizal called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Charitable Gambling Report – Ms. Groom

Ms. Groom reported on a new process for conducting the Charitable Gambling Committee meetings and to provide information to Association members who so request. Any requests can be made to the CG Manager or the Association Secretary.

Ms. Groom reported December, 2008 of expenses \$31,000 (\$15,045 from Tuttle and \$15,955 Main Street). Ms. Groom stated that CG operation is now paying state taxes at the maximum rate with a payment for December 2008 of \$8,683. Ms. Groom estimated that taxes should remain at that level until the end of the tax year.

Ms. Groom generally reported on the turnover and payout of pull tab games. She reported a decreased payout rate in December, from 84% to 81.5%. This resulted in a larger return for the Association.

Ms. Groom reported gross CG sales for December 2008 of \$186,100 and net gross sales of \$34,232. Ms. Groom stated January expenses, so far, were as she expected.

Ms. Groom stated estimated February, 2009 expenses of \$34,410 (\$19,705 for Tuttle and \$19,705 for Main Street). Ms. Groom briefly broke down expenses.

Mr. Patterson moved to approve the estimated February 2009 Charitable Gambling expenses in the amount of \$34,410. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Mr. Bizal called for discussion. There was no discussion. Mr. Bizal called for a vote. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Groom reported that the audit from the previous year is complete. The audit results are available from the CG Manager or the Association Secretary. Ms. Groom reported a “clean” opinion with some mention of minor cash shortages and suggestions.

Ms. Groom reported cash in the bank on December 31, 2008 of \$54,151.55. As of the meeting date, there was \$49,367.95 in the bank. This does not include payment for the audit.

Mr. Bizal stated that the Association can expect an approximate net return on the CG operation of \$2,500 to \$4,500 until the end of the tax year. Mr. Bizal stated that the Main Street is outperforming Tuttle's by about 20%. He stated he anticipates this will continue.

Ms. Groom reported that she is not pursuing the charitable gambling opportunity at a restaurant in Golden Valley. Ms. Groom stated that its financial performance was poor.

Old Business.

Mr. Bizal stated that he would like legal counsel to review the concession stand lease with the City of Hopkins. Mr. Bizal stated that the City wants to enter into another lease for the Association equipment locker at a cost of \$100.00 per month. Mr. Bizal stated that the concession stand costs \$300 per month and the City wishes to increase the rent. Ms. Groom stated that the City is interested in eliminating the Association lease for the CG storage location on Johnson Street. Ms. Groom stated she is looking for a less expensive alternative. However, the CG operation must have a street address in a non-City owned building. Mr. DeGiulio suggested another location might be available. Ms. Groom suggested that she would explore mini-storage locations.

Mr. Bizal stated he tabled his report on player waivers until the February 2009 meeting or later.

New Business

Ms. Quale briefly introduced Association member Mr. Mike Beck. Mr. Beck presented his concerns about the Association's early season team level declaration. Specifically, he is concerned that the Association is overestimating the playing level for its "A" and especially its "B" level teams. He is concerned that some Association teams are more correctly "C" level teams. He further stated that some families were unhappy with the pressure placed on them to move from "C" level registration to B2 or B1 playing levels for their child. Mr. Beck suggested that a recent Squirt tournament in Highland revealed that the Association B level Squirt teams were not declared at the proper level. He suggested that the Association not be afraid to declare "C" level teams, other Associations in the District declare such teams and that District 3 has 10 such teams all playing a full league schedule. He stated that overestimating a team's playing level is not best for the players or the Association. He stated that this situation has existed in the Association for 2-3 years. Mr. Bizal stated he generally agreed with Mr. Beck's observations. Mr. Beck believed that Mr. Hillen was involved in the team declaration process. Mr. Beck suggested that the Association look closely at the playing level of players from previous seasons and request former coaches to provide guidance to the Association for the next season. Mr. Bizal suggested looking closely at the likely group of returning players during the summer to estimate team playing levels.

Several members commented on Association team success in recent tournaments. Mr. Martin asked about normalization of teams. Mr. Davis said league balancing is a frequent topic at District meeting. Mr. Davis suggested that having the Association and the Armstrong association playing against Wayzata and Maple Grove not wholly fair. Mr. Beck stated that at some Associations teams play 10 of 16 games against either Maple Grove or Wayzata teams

Mr. Greeley commented that the Association's two squirt 'B' teams should be balanced. Mr. Beck stated that the Association does not balance the teams and that the Association does not have enough kids to fill a Squirt A team. Mr. Patterson suggested having two B2 level teams at the Squirt level. Mr. Bizal suggested that team balancing might have some merit. Mr. Bizal suggested the Association continue to develop the players it has. Mr. Bizal further suggested that a committee might work well to suggest the team declarations to the Board in future years. Mr. Bizal suggested that problem is related to AAA hockey. Mr. Bizal further stated that the St. Louis Park association is interested in creating mixed Association teams.

Mr. Brian Kirk, suggested implementing an interim policy to address this issue and, create a committee to make recommendations to the Board. Mr. Kirk stated he supports "C" teams or equalized B2 teams. Ms. Whitmore reminded the Board that there are players who only want to play recreationally on a "C" level team. Mr. Bizal agreed to a committee and asked Mr. Beck, Mr. Kirk and Mr. Sweeney to serve. All agreed to serve. Mr. Bizal also agreed to have the Boys and Girls Coordinators also serve on the Committee.

Mr. Bizal reminded the Board about its accomplishments in the Mite division, Charitable Gambling, and Girls program. Mr. Bizal suggested increasing the number of players. Mr. Patterson suggested that the Association might have to give hockey away to dramatically increase the number of players. Mr. Patterson also stated that the waiver process is important. Mr. Bizal suggested that the costs, equipment and commitment to traveling is an impediment to new hockey players. Mr. Kirk suggested that Minnetonka is a more likely target than St. Louis Park.

Several members generally discussed the appeal of "rink rat" hockey.

Mr. Greeley suggested that the on-line clinic registration process is cumbersome. Mr. Bizal stated that making the clinics available is very important and that the Association should review this area during the summer.

Several members agreed that posting information on the website works well. Mr. Bizal suggested that general information on LPE's should be posted to the Association website in some manner. Ms. Groom suggested that something more should be available to Association members. Ms. Quale suggested a notice, such as: "LPE to spend \$XXXXXXX, and a meeting of the general membership will be held...."

Elections.

Mr. Davis briefly explained the upcoming election process, open positions and terms. Mr. Davis suggested forming a committee to alleviate some of the work on one member. Mr. Bizal appointed Mr. Bizal, Mr. Davis, Mr. Hoffman, and Mr. Glover. All agreed to serve. Mr. Bizal suggested that there will be nine (9) new board members after the election.

Mr. Davis briefly discussed the election timeline including nominations, ballot preparation, ballot mailing, ballot receipts, ballot counting, winner announcements and new member installation.

Member Reports

President Report – Mr. Bizal

Mr. Bizal briefly summarized the first annual wood stick tournament.

Mr. Bizal advised the Board that he approved an expenditure of \$250.00 for a local food shelter drive.

Mr. Bizal also announced an Association and Hopkins High School event where Association players wearing jerseys (and bring a non-perishable food items) to get into the High School game free. Mr. Bizal stated that he believed such events give the Association a good public impression.

Vice -President Report – Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis noted the Lets Play Hockey, Star Tribune, and Sun Sailor articles on the Association outdoor rink. He stated that Minnesota Hockey also is aware of the story.

Mr. Davis said that the City was extremely happy with the Association's donation to purchase an AED for the Pavilion.

Ms. Whitmore reminded the Board of the importance of coach selection and suggested that there be coaches in place early in the process. Mr. Bizal further discussed the importance of the coach in chief position and training for Association coaches.

Mr. Davis reported on several District 3 items. He reported that District 8 passed a provision prohibiting its teams from playing AAA teams. Mr. Davis stated that all Mite Jamboree materials have been distributed. Mr. Martin stated he received such materials.

Treasurer –Mr. DeGiulio

No formal report. Mr. DeGiulio said that cash balances are slightly down and that the squirt B2 team is behind in collection ice time charges. He stated he continues to work with teams to make them current.

Secretary - Mr. Glover

No further report.

C-League Coordinator – Mr. Greeley

No further report.

Ice Coordinator – Mr. Hoffman

Mr. Hoffman stated that he scheduled tournament ice for the Association hosting Bantam B2 and 10UB tournaments. Mr. Hazuka suggested coordinating the concession stand for tournament games. Mr. Hoffman stated that because of the “ice out” time implemented by the Pavilion, the last game is set for the Minnetonka Ice Arena. Mr. Hoffman asked for team pairings as soon as possible. Mr. Keiser agreed to send those for the Association Bantam B1 team

Mr. Hoffman stated that the 12U teams have not had their pictures taken. Mr. Hoffman agreed to contact Mr. Montgomery, the Volunteer Coordinator.

Outdoor Ice Coordinator – Mr. Sweeney

Mr. Sweeney reported that the recent adult wood stick went well

Mr. Sweeney further reported on the use of the outdoor ice by Association mite teams. Mr. Greeley commended Mr. Sweeney for his efforts. Mr. Sweeney stated that he believes that flooding the rink is enough and no “water wagon” is necessary.

Mite Coordinator – Mr. Martin

Mr. Martin inquired about the Advance Mite fee for additional ice of \$100.00. Several members discussed the issue generally and whether such fee should be waived. Most members disagreed and chose to require the team members pay the additional fee. Mr. Martin agreed to collect.

Several members discussed the need for additional ice time.

Registrar – Ms. Whitmore

Ms. Whitmore announced the last roster verification meeting and coaching supplements.

Travel Coordinator – Mr. Hillen and Mr. Ostenso

Not present. No report.

Equipment Coordinator – Mr. Hazuka

No further report.

Fundraising – Mr. Patterson

No further report.

Communications Coordinator – Mr. Keiser

No further report.

Volunteer Coordinator – Mr. Montgomery

Not present. No report.

Ms. Whitmore moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeGiulio seconded the motion. Mr. Bizal called for discussion. There was no discussion. Mr. Bizal called for a vote. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Michael Glover

Secretary

January 19, 2009