

NBAHA

Board Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2010

Meeting called to order at: 6:10 p.m.

Board Members Present: Tim Cashill, Lisa Isaacson, Janelle Olson, Kerry Harvey, Ray Croal, Tom Garin, Tim Hink, Cherie Turek, Paige Lee, Brian Kerchner

Members Present: Kristi White

Bantam Parent Members Present: Ben Fairbanks, Roxanne Spencer, Troy Martineau, Kathy Martineau, Lori Larson, Danna Timm, Rick Timm, Lynn Courtright, Chris Courtright, Fred Lambrecht, Rick Runberg, Sharen Runberg, Randy Gendreau, Kari VanMeter, Wayne Danks, Scott Byrkit, John Murray

Jeff Henderson – Resignation

One year ago, Jeff Henderson agreed to stay on the board as Vice President for 1 year to help during the transition period. On April 14, 2010, Jeff sent an official email to the president, Tim Cashill, that he is now resigning from the Vice-President position. This provides the board an opportunity to shift positions around.

Paige Lee will take on the Vice President role, which leaves a vacancy in the Treasury role. Tim Hink will move from Mite Director to fill the Treasurer position. The president, Tim Cashill, approves these moves within the board.

Motion to appoint Paige Lee as the new Vice President and Tim Hink as the new Treasurer made by Lisa Isaacson, seconded by Janelle Olson. Motion carried.

Mite Committee – Participation in Local and Stacy Parades:

Ray Croal, Mite Director, has taken the role to lead the effort to find hockey players to participate in the North Branch and Stacy Parade this summer. Requiring parents to stay with their kids during the parade has turned some parents away from participating in this event. There was an agreement by the board that we would let players participate in the parade without their parents as long as there were still enough parents to volunteer so there was at least a 1:10 ratio of parents to kids. There will be a need for participation from 2 or 3 larger kids or some adults to carry the association flag.

Based on previous carnival participation, it was decided that there will be no float for this event because of the liability concerns with kids falling off the float in previous parades. There was some discussion around using a couple of 4-wheelers with trailers in the parade for carrying supplies and possibly some players. Looking to have hockey player skating on roller blades to pass out suckers with NBAHA tags attached as a fun way to advertise the hockey association.

The volunteer credits for this event have been posted on the DIBS website. There are currently 5 to 10 spots for parents and 20 spots for players. Families will receive one (1) service credit for having their child/children attend one of these parades.

Mite Committee – Swapping Mite Evaluations with Centennial:

Ray Croal proposed the idea of swapping coaches with the Centennial Hockey Association for the Mite evaluation process. This would provide an unbiased evaluation of players from both associations. Looking to get around 2 hours of pre-skate time where the hockey players would play some basic pond hockey for the first part of the evaluation. This would reduce the anxiety in the younger players. This first part of the evaluation would give the coaches a basic idea of the players' passing and shooting skills.

Ray has not looked into detail on the scoring method for the Mite evaluations. He indicated that we will need to work with Centennial to on a scoring method to use. There was an idea to group the kids into groups based on skill level instead of just a number scoring method.

Another option that was brought to the table was to place the lower level skaters at the lower hockey level and then move them up throughout the year as they improve. It was noted that we have until December 31st to move the kids to the correct level based on age.

The idea of an In-House Hockey League was also discussed. This would include teams of players that were most likely 1st year skaters. These players would not compete in District10, but would scrimmage amongst themselves as an inter-association league. This could replace the initiation level teams that were used during the 09/10 season. This league would keep the costs down for parents and give 1st year skaters an opportunity to participate in hockey.

Tim has asked that all board members attend the Mite Committee Meeting on May 5, 2010 if they are able to attend.

Bantam Parent Meeting:

The president, Tim Cashill, explained the current situation and options to the Bantam Parents at this meeting. He clearly stated that it is the goal of the board to partner with the High School level to get kids playing at the right level and that we are looking for thoughts that will help the board plan better for next year.

The Cambridge Isanti board came to us to let us know that they had chosen to not co-op with North Branch next season and are planning to skate on their own. There may still be opportunities to partnership at different levels. They are willing to share ice for clinics such as the goalie and checking clinic.

The most we could have at the Bantam level, for a North Branch bantam team, would be 13 players and there would be a larger range in talent on this team.

Co-Op Options

- Pine City is willing to co-op at the Bantam level only. They are expecting to have 19 bantams and 1 goalie.
- Cambridge Isanti is willing to co-op at the Bantam level. They are open to having the kids go through evaluations and then decide level of play for all players. The initial conversation that Tim Cashill had with their board was that they would want to waive our players over to CI.
- Chisago Lakes has a potential interest in a full co-op at all levels with North Branch. We are considering this as another option and will schedule a meeting with them to discuss this further. Tim did let them know that we are looking to have all of our ice at one or two arenas within close proximity of each other.
- The St. Francis bantam coordinator contacted Tim Cashill about a possible bantam co-op with their association. They would like to know if we are willing to waive players over to their organization. These players would then skate as St. Francis players and wear their colors.

Discussion Item

- Randy, the High School hockey coach, spoke briefly at this meeting. He did suggest to parents that if their son is a second year Bantam or a starter Goalie that it would be in the best interest of the player to continue playing at the bantam level. He would love to see North Branch create their own bantam level team. He is willing to work with the association coaches to provide insight on what he looks for at the High School level and can provide drills that will help our players improve at all levels. Randy did note that the Captain's practices are scheduled for Sundays and Tuesdays and that he will send the association the schedule for these training sessions.
- If we can get ice time without a co-op and play as a North Branch team would give us our identity back.
- If we pull in bantam players from another association may create a level of play issue with what level we would be able to play at and still be competitive.
- We need to evaluate all of our players and not just play at level A as we did with CI last season.
- Cambridge Isanti believes that they will be 150 hours short on their ice time if they co-op with North Branch next season.
- One parent mentioned that they did not have a positive experience with parents and players during the co-op with Cambridge Isanti last season as they have had in the past playing as a North Branch team.
- It was noted that the kids had more fun playing as just North Branch even if they were playing at the lower levels.
- Paige offered the idea of possibly subsidizing the bantam enrollment costs with fundraising and gambling money to bring the cost down for these players to be more comparable with the High School costs. This would also include using more outdoor ice.
- The association will need to get the High School hockey coach more involved in the association to build a coaching curriculum to use at all levels of the association.
- If there is a decision to waive the bantam level players to another association would they have the option to choose where they would be waived to and have an opportunity to sign up as a player and have a better chance of being accepted into this association.
- Benefit of individual waivers is that some parents live closer to some associations than others.

The president, Tim Cashill, did note that there will be a lot of tough decisions if we put together a North Branch Bantam team. The board will discuss what we can subsidize from gambling and fundraising to cut the ice bill for our players at this level. The board will compile all of the facts and provide these details to the parents at potentially another Bantam Parent meeting to make a final decision on moving forward with planning a North Branch team or start looking at waiving players to other associations. It was noted that the president from both associations need to approve the waiver of players moving to another association. It was decided that option 1 for our bantam players will be to put together a North Branch Team and option 2 would be to hand out individual waivers to the players.

Co-Op Options (Do we Co-Op or move forward with NB Teams at Traveling Level):

Tim Cashill (President) - We are leaning toward creating teams on our own as NBAHA, but we are still weighing options of a potential co-op.

Co-Op Options:

- Pine City – Only interested in Co-Op at Bantam level. No preference on co-op or waiving players.
- St. Francis – Only interested in Co-Op at Bantam level. They would prefer to have our players waived over to their association. There has been no discussion about doing a co-op at this level.
- Chisago Lakes – Tim Cashill talked with Kelly and following their Board meeting they are open to a discussion on creating a co-op with North Branch. The North Branch board's main concern is to get kids with like talent to skate together. Chisago did have teams last year at an "A" level that did not belong there. They would like to make a goal of getting an A Bantam team, but are not pushing this level. They do agree with going through the evaluations to find the correct level of play. They are looking at a full co-op.
- Cambridge Isanti – Looking to waive players over at the Bantam level. If waived our players could try out at all levels of Bantams. They are also looking at sharing costs of clinics. They have 28 bantams including 2 goalies. There are 13 B1 players and 15 B2 players at the Bantam level.

Thoughts and ideas from the North Branch board members

- Tim Cashill would like to do everything we can to get our kids to skate as a North Branch team.
- Is there a way to find kids that have quit the association at the Squirt level and could possible come back and play at the Bantam level?
- A short bench for a NB Bantam team would provide more ice and give kids a chance to play with their friends.
- Look at subsidizing ice hours through fundraising, charitable gambling, limiting tournaments, and using more outdoor ice.
- Tim Cashill will own this project and will bring a proposal to the Board on how we could create a North Branch Bantam team. With board approval on this proposal, it will be brought to the Bantam parents to make a final decision on whether to continue with pulling together a North Branch Bantam team or look at potential waivers.

- Pee wee players – There are currently 19 potential players at this level in the North Branch association. Use evaluations to find a natural break in the player skill levels and use this information to create a 14-16 player team. It would then need to be noted that the other 5-6 players would then need to be waived to another association. Waiving kids to create a team has been done in the past. This provides these players with an opportunity to play with a team that is at their same level of play.
- Squirt players – There are currently 30 potential players at this level in the North Branch association. This is a good number to possibly create 2 good teams. Will look at creating 2 teams, however, we may look at waiving some players if necessary.
- A-Mites (Previously D-Mite) – It was agreed by all members of the board that we will not have an A-Mite team for next season if we want to be successful in District 10.
- There was some concern made by several board members on why Chisago is looking to co-op with North Branch as player numbers do not seem to be an issue within their association. Several North Branch board members will meet with some of the Chisago board members to discuss a potential co-op and level of play.

Collecting Past Due Payments:

There are still a lot of outstanding bills. Paige has collected around \$3000 since our last board meeting.

Discuss Process for Setting Budget in April/May to Coincide with Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year ends on March 31st. The budget is up-to-date through the end of March 2010. We need to get fees set so we can look at using online registration. There are still details on figuring out a payment plan. Sport Engine usually has several payment options. Budgets need to be set so we can get the payment options set. Pre-pay is also an option. We need to discuss options at our next meeting.

We will need to look at fees at our May board meeting. We do have a good idea from our Bantam parents on the direction we need to start looking at for possibly moving forward with a NB Bantam team. The question is how much do we subsidize with gambling for the bantam ice fees.

We could have a flat fee and not talk about number of ice hours and registration fees. Registration fees are the fixed costs followed by the cost for ice hours. Flat fee is much easier to keep track of from an association and parent perspective. Tournaments are always billed separately.

In the past, each coach had a budget for tournaments and they would need to stay within their budget. There are now gate fees. Any non coach or non-players must pay these gate fees. The hosting association receives these fees.

What are we going to charge for outdoor ice with the new arena?

How are we going to manage the budget/spending for Arena Construction?

Tim Hink, Treasurer, would like to know who is managing the arena construction account.

Currently, everything for the arena has only come out of the general fund. The City of Stacy has the Arena Construction, account and writes the checks.

Lisa Isaacson - For grant writing, we do need to keep track of what is being spent from this account.

This account is on the City of Stacy's general fund so they will be keeping track of this account.

We will need to go to the City of Stacy and clarify that no checks or disbursements are made until it has been approved by the board Treasurer, Tim Hink.

People's bank will also need to have Tim's name added to the account. We will need to use the City of Stacy money first, towards the ice arena, before pulling money from this account. Tim will be in charge of the Disbursements for the ice arena. There is money currently coming out of the arena fund and there needs to be a spreadsheet keeping track of these disbursements. Tim Cashill will start the conversation with Jeff on have Tim handle all of the disbursement from any of these accounts.

Building Maintenance – Maintain Shack (Light Pole and Roof Repair):

Tim Cashill will talk with Don about staying on with the Building and Maintenance position. Steve Lee will look at fixing the Light Pole at the shack

Arena Update:

The Arena Committee is meeting about every other week. The committee just missed the grant deadline for this week. They did not have the numbers they needed from Aho Construction to finalize the grant.

Lisa Isaacson – “We need to setup a working session with AHO Construction to finalize these numbers.”

Ground Breaking Ceremony:

NBAHA did receive the approval from the Mayor of Stacy to approve the Ground Breaking Ceremony. The City of Stacy is leasing us the land and they currently have issues with our changes. We are moving forward with the ceremony.

Flyers will be included in the Chamber Newsletter, Friday Folders, Girl Scouts, Newspaper and TV stations. We are hoping someone will see what we are trying to do for the community and provide donations at the booths. We have received 4 North Branch companies that are agreeing to donate for booths. We are asking Girl and Boy scouts to help in the ceremony. We are looking at this event as a community focal event and are looking at other program associations to participate.

Get Member/Community Support to Design a new logo for our hockey jerseys:

We have not received any ideas from the membership to date. It has been decided that this new logo will not necessarily go on all jerseys.

Handbook Review with new and existing members:

The handbook copies were handed out to the new board members. This will be added to the May board meeting agenda or we may need to look at scheduling a separate meeting to go through this document page by page.

Debit Card Renewal

Paige has noted that there is a need to look at purchasing new debit cards for next season as they are set to expire. The names on the current cards are listed as North Branch Area Hockey Association. Janelle Olson has requested a debit card and P.O. Box key. There is a \$200 limit that can be spent without prior board approval. Tim Hink has decided that we will start with one general card for the association and one for Janelle Olson.

Hay Days Booth

The Hay Days festival is willing to give us a free 10x10 booth located near the food court. There is a \$15/day or \$25/weekend charge for those members that volunteer to sell raffle tickets at this booth. We will need to limit shifts so we can pay 1 ticket per family to get into this event. Children under the age of 12 can get in free. We will need to look at managing the number of people who work at this booth. We can save money if we have the same people work the booth all weekend at 3 hour stretches and pay the weekend charge instead of the daily charge.

Old Business:

- Paige – Collection status of payments received for player registration.
- Lisa I – Website Advertising Progress
- Lisa I – Handbook review with new Board members
- Lisa I – Grant Update
- Tim C – Arena Update
- Tim C – Follow up with Carl on equipment inventory update

New Business:

- Lisa I – New Mite Jersey Logo Competition Update
- Janelle – Ground Breaking Ceremony Update
- Tim C – Documented proposal on how we could create a North Branch Bantam team
- Setting Budgets Early for online registration

Next Months Meeting: April 28, 2010

Motion to adjourn at 9:55pm. Motion to adjourn made by Tom Garin, Ray Croal seconded. Motion carried.