



**OMAHA HOCKEY CLUB
MAY BOARD MEETING
MAY 17, 2010**

President Neal Krauss called the May Board meeting to order at 1835.

Those in attendance:

Kathy Hughes	Michael Hughes	Mike Duffy
Mike Morton	Carley James	Lisa Eshelman
Ann Buttner	Mark Curran	Misty Curran
Christie Naberhaus	Michelle Roeder	Stacy Bradley
Kathy Baranko	Gilinda Giles	Aimee Guzman-Jones
Mark Stinson	Steph Woodward	Loretta Goodwater
Jonathan Fox	Erik Johnson	Jay Schubert
Dana Casebeer	Dennis Munnally	Tony Loser
Mark Wehner	Brian Hickey	Ross Scholz
Josh Cohen	Chris Sorenson	Ken Gunc
Jeff Anderson	Neil Schilke	Shawn Spencer
Neal Krauss	Lisa Leary	Jodi Kozol
Mark VanderMeulen	Rick Murcek	Kirk Hutton
Molly Howell	Andy Ketterson	Brian Grady

Absent:

New Business: The Board of Directors were introduced to the membership present at the meeting. We also unveiled the new Business and team logos. The Jr. Lancer team logo will be used for branding for the entire organization.

We will be coordination with Christie Naberhaus and her equipment list to have a “garage sale” of old jerseys, t-shirts, etc from both of the previous organizations. The money from this sale will go toward both the general fund and the hardship fund.

“Christie’s List” – Christie Naberhaus said that the equipment in the back has been inventoried. She would like to put some of the stuff out for the first day of IP. She was also wondering if once things get thinned out a little in the back, maybe some shelves could be put in to better organize the area.

Office Director/Registrar – Gilinda Giles : We are working on getting the registration out. The ice contract is the hold up on this. The Board needs to look at options for the

payment plans since registration is later this year. As soon as the registration is ready to go, Gilinda and Molly/Aimee will send out an e-mail notification to all members.

Gilinda also requested that she not have a line item on the agenda. She is here for most meetings, so if someone has a question, they can just ask.

Treasurer – Mark VanderMeulen: The budget process has been very time consuming and once again can not be finalized until the ice contract is finalized. We are targeting June 1st for registration to begin and for the budget “frame work” to be done for all teams. We are also looking at June 1st for all bank accounts to be merged and the accounting to be merged. Everything points to Benson not reopening, so we will not have this ice.

IP-Mite – Aimee Guzman-Jones: We are hoping to have 80-100 IP skaters in the fall and we are going to be pushing the rental equipment (currently only 1 or 2 sets not rented for summer). We would like to put a committee together to set up a Mini-Mite tournament for our young IP players.

Mites – would like to get away from calling them Termites and Mites and just call all players 8 and under Mites (not first time skaters). All of the games/practices will be cross-ice. We are working on the coach selection and how this program will be rolled out. The main goal is to make sure that the kids are developed for when they move up to Squirts. How is this going to work? We will break the kids out into teams and work on their skill levels. Would like to have one head coach over all the Mite teams and then individual coaches for each team. We are looking at getting things out to the schools, it is too late this spring, but we will be working on it for the fall.

Squirt-Bantam – Brian Grady: Still looking for steering committee members, then once we have members, we will look at breaking them out into Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam. We could have up to 7 Squirt, 4 PeeWee and 6 Bantam House teams.

Grading will be in September and will be over 3 weekends. Each group will get 2 ice times. They will work on skills and games skills. We will have several coaches to grade the kids. The committee will decide if we will use the computer picks for teams.

Last year, the older summer IP kids that were not good enough to play High School, were able to play as Bantams and those teams were registered as Midgets. Will we be doing that again this year? That is something that the committee will look at.

Check vs. non-check at the High School level? We may not have enough kids to be able to do this. The non-check would be used for kids that maybe play other sports, have physical issues. Many ideas were brought up on how to take a survey on this to see if it is something the membership wants: question on registration, poll on website, survey monkey?

Girls Hockey – Andy Ketterson: Looking for committee members. I have some goals that I set for this program, both long and short term.

In the short term, we are looking at fielding 1 all girls team, U12 looks like it has the best numbers. Making sure that the committee, coaches are on board with the attitude and philosophy for girls. Look at having events to get all the girls together, no matter the team they are on.

In the long term, it would be nice, if within 5 years, we would have a girl's team at every level. This will take recruiting (getting out to the schools), marketing and visibility.

The goal for the next season is to offer at least 2-5 girls clinics (would like to offer 1 a month). Will be looking at tournament hosting as well as going to MN or ND to play against other girl's teams.

We have been working with the rink to get a girls locker room.

High School League Commissioner – Lisa Leary: We have already had our first committee meeting (2nd Thursday of every month at Sam & Louie's on 72nd & Cass). We had 8 parents attend (right now Kearney and Lincoln are by proxy, not all teams represented until the teams are selected. Looking at a 12 member committee.). They worked on the outline for the year, adding a box to their registration stating that they have read the HS Rules (working on getting these set up for the next season). There will be one person names as the HS Commissioner. They are expecting about 200 skaters: 1 Fremont team, 2-3 teams from Lincoln, 1 team from Kearney and the 8 Omaha teams. They would like to have set game days, possibly more ice on Sunday.

They would also like to get last years coaching applications so they can review them. There has been a request for games in Lincoln and yes, that is possible. Kearney is also asking for home games this year, looking at the possibility of once a year.

Talked about Fall Freeze and if it should be opened up to Des Moines and KC? There may be registration issues with USA Hockey. There will be a 2 game guarantee.

They would also like to have a live HS registration at the rink, incase anyone needs help with registering.

They are looking at fundraising so that the players do not need to pay to attend the end of year banquet.

HS Midwest League Director – Mark Stinson: At the Midwest HS meeting, they were advised that we would have 2 teams this year. The tryouts will be after the AAA tryouts. There will be no charge for the tryouts (32 players on the Energy teams last year). Once the coaches are selected, we will begin getting the committees going. We are working on keeping the cost down so that money is not a reason that the kids can't play.

There is a centralized officiating pilot program that is working on getting better refs.

The Midwest HS teams will have a total of 32 games (16 home and 16 away). There are no new rules this year. The Rules Suspension multiplier will be strictly enforced, but we will be able to appeal it. They have eliminated the 7th & 8th place games in the playoff. The highest placing team will represent the State at Nationals.

They are working on getting a “Big Brother” program set up, as well as, community service and getting into the schools.

Ice Scheduler – Molly Howell: Met with the City of Omaha and Benson is not an option for ice, however we did get the information for Motto. Fremont ice will be open at least until Mid-April of next year (2011).

Travel Director – Rick Murcek: We need to name an Ace Director and get our coaching clinics going. We are hoping to hold a Level 1,2 & 3, with, hopefully, a Level 4 somewhere in the Midwest.

Parent and parent actions and the Zero Tolerance Policy. This is a big issue. Each organization has orange vests that need to be worn by a representative at all final games, tournaments and playoffs.

Our merger was very well received by USA Hockey. USA Hockey is giving incentives for using cross ice hockey – bumpers, nets, etc.

Midwest is working hard to restructure the Midwest League.

There will be a travel committee meeting soon. Coaching selections need to be done. Buy your own jersey program needs to be worked on. We can't really set tryout times until the coaches are selected. There will be combined tryouts.

When will you be accepting coaching applications? As soon as the web site is up and running a link will be put on it. Coaches need to be picked by the end of June, so that we can set up tryouts in August.

We don't expect a huge influx of travel players.

Are we having a Mite AA? USA Hockey does not recognize Mite travel and hardly anyone has these types of teams, all going to Select. Looking at having 2 or 3 Mite Select teams (based on skill). The top team will be able to play outside of Select games (as a Mite A team). The Select teams are the only Mite teams that will play full ice.

What about the Nebraska House League? This is something that we really need to look at. The NHS is not really a League until they complete certain steps to come into compliance with USA Hockey.

Omaha AAA – Kirk Hutton: U18 – 35 players – just finished tryouts last weekend. U16 tryouts are set for June 25-27. Dave Wilkie is the coach and expects 60-80 kids to attend.

The AAA budget is about \$350,000 for both teams.

We need the community to help with these teams. We need to set up housing for about 15 kids (\$275 a month given to this billet family). We also need someone to help set up where these kids go to school and getting them registered for classes, etc.

We are looking for corporate sponsors to help with fundraising. Lancers and Mavs have both talked about supporting these teams.

Vice President – Shawn Spencer: Since our merger, has been invited to KC to help with 2 of their organizations merging.

Rules Committee – learning what this entails and looking for volunteers.

President – Neal Krauss: The State paperwork has been filed. Mike Schilken is working on getting everything completed.

The WebSite is getting finalized with Webmaster. Expected to be up in 2-3 weeks.

Several Board members have been meeting weekly to get this ice contract finalized and they will continue to do so until it if.

Old Business:

Open:

Referees – some do well and others don't, very inconsistent. After registration, we need to have a meeting with the refs association. Perhaps, have a non-biased observer to evaluate the refs.

Molly Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lisa Leary. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 2030.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for your approval.

Jodi Kozol
Board Secretary