

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association  
Board of Directors Minutes  
April 17, 2011

President	James Trent	LTPH Reps.	Absent (Jen Voge) Paula Walker
President Elect	Jeff Thornton	DC Diamonds Rep.	Chris Herwig
Past President	Absent (Tony Rehm)	Mite Rep.	Mike Weber
Secretary	Betsy McCrary	Squirt Rep.	Dave Batterman
Treasurer	Tim Butcher	PeeWee Rep.	Jen Kurtz
		Bantam Rep.	Gary Pfann
		High School 2 Rep.	Chris Gehrmann
		Coaches Rep.	Absent (Rob Wisniewski)

Audience: Steve Traut, Seth Blahnik, Kimberly Trent, and Shawn Lane

President James Trent called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

1. Public comments

Shawn Lane wanted to confirm a few things were in the minutes, and that those items wouldn't be lost. She specifically mentioned bantam tryouts. James explained that this would be one of the responsibilities of the new ACE director. Southwest has played Sun Prairie early in the season with split-squad teams. Jeff promised it wouldn't get lost. Shawn also mentioned that the number of games should go in the coaches' manual to be dispersed to everyone.

Steve Traut thinks our summer ice is expensive and inquired about possible idle-ice discount. Jeff said there are some cons: if you discount ice, it might be more difficult to sell regular-price ice. Mike Weber asked if it was possible to have tiered pricing. This will be placed under new business for discussion.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Betsy noted that minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting were distributed to the Board and placed on the website. March meeting minutes were approved and had also been sent to the webmaster for posting.

b. Treasurer – Tim Butcher

Tim explained that taxes are due. As a non-profit, we don't pay taxes, but we have to file. We are required to make them available during regular business hours. We could post them on the website or have them available other ways. Tim reviewed profit and loss statements and the balance sheet. One item he mentioned was our current system of paying refs. We mail each one a check, which costs us 44¢.

Because of the amount of time required to review this information, Gary asked that the financial information be shared with the Board in advance, preferably by pdf. Mike asked if last year's could be sent, too, so that some year-over-year trending could be established. Chris Herwig asked what the final annual fundraising number was. James thought about \$25k. Tim will look into this further.

c. President Elect – Jeff Thornton

Jeff continues to meet with the city, developer, and PAC. The "other option" is still progressing and still viable, but we are still under a gag order, until information comes before the city council in general session. This puts fundraising on hold while we select the path. As soon as the information becomes public, the city will share more information. There are many unknowns at this time, location is not to be discussed, and neither is who is involved. The new mayor is aware of the developments. Jeff will rework the member "press release" to see if he can get something through.

d. Past President – Tony Rehm

Absent

e. President – James Trent

James met with the volunteer committee (Kathy Thornton – the other member, Dan Smith, was unable to attend) and the Benischs, who manage the concessions. The Benischs asked that the volunteer hour payouts be applied to offset the concession salaries. The volunteer committee needs replacement members.

Last Wednesday James met with the annual fundraising committee; they will also need new members. He is also looking for recommendations on what to do with Face-off Festival.

The Empire Photography contract has been finalized. We will receive plaques for the coaches under the terms of the contract.

3. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. LTPH – James noted that Chuck has a great idea for next year's practices. Paula Walker will contact the ADM committee.
- b. DC Diamonds – Chris Herwig noted that, as in years past, the Diamonds have given SPYHA a \$300 donation for equipment use. There is a diamond appreciation event before the summer program begins in Waunakee that involves 1.5 hours of ice time. Chris asked about doing something similar in Sun Prairie before the regular season starts. Jeff suggested that Chris bring a proposal forward to the Board.
- c. Mite – Mike Weber had nothing to report.
- d. Squirt – Dave Batterman had nothing to report, but noted that the Squirt summer program is full.
- e. PeeWee – Jen Kurtz had nothing to report. Shad Kernan is having a PeeWee camp starting at the end of June.
- f. Bantam – Gary Pfann noted there is open hockey on Tuesday nights this summer, and squirt info had been emailed to families. Programs are starting June 14<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that summer hockey program information is on the website (except the squirt program, as it was filled by the email announcement sent out).
- g. High School - Chris Gehrmann had nothing to report. James asked if Chris had received minutes or heard anything from the league meeting. Chris will follow-up.
- h. Coaches - Rob Wisniewski was absent. Jeff noted that we do a poor job of registering kids for outside development activities like the Kohlman Cup, Team WI, WI Development Camps, as well as other WAHA offerings. Announcements are made on the WAHA website, but they're not always easy to locate. We should publicize this information better. Chris congratulated Jake Thornton and Jack Bostedt for their accomplishments. Jen Kurtz was asked to remind Region 4 to publicize evaluators. It is perceived that west side players/coaches are heavily favored. This year the Kohlman Cup was in Madison. This should be open for bidding. SPYHA should consider hosting with a new rink . . . at least tryouts.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Region 4 Meeting Report  
The April meeting is this coming week. There was a meeting earlier in the month to discuss league rules, but Jen Kurtz wasn't able to attend (it was over spring break). Jen Voge won't be able to attend the April regular Region 4 meeting, as she's out of town. Jen Kurtz is going anyway, so she will cover the meeting. Jeff thanked Jen for her Region 4 activities. Jen also mentioned that McFarland is hoping to go back to Division 2.
- b. New Rink / Building Committee  
New rink/building committee has been in a holding pattern, as discussed previously.
- c. Capital Fundraising  
Also on hold as noted above.
- d. PR Contract Renewal  
It was been a weird year and timing hasn't been what we thought. Right now, we're in an auto-renewal phase, where the contract goes month-to-month. Dave Batterman made a motion to continue the relationship with Jim Geisking for SPYHA. Jeff Thornton seconded the motion. After discussion that we're currently month-to-month, and without knowing an exact start date to go to an annual agreement, Jeff withdrew his second, and the motion died.
- e. Annual Meeting  
The meeting was scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Betsy made a motion to change the meeting to May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm, followed by the regular Board meeting. Betsy explained that likely she would be traveling for work. Paula seconded the motion. All approved. Kathy Thornton and Jen Kurtz are on the nomination committee. The goal of sending postcard notices by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 5. New Business

### a. Age Level Report – Preliminary teams for next season

James shared information estimated player numbers by age level. Based on the numbers, there would likely be three peewee teams next year. The high school situation will be challenging. Early registration may help, but we're looking for recommendation. We'll try to do registration a little earlier this year. Right now we're scheduling for two high school teams. The question was raised about there being a subset of squirts that would only be ½ season or limited travel, since there wouldn't be mite travel. A survey of this age level, asking "what do you want" might be helpful. A survey of 8-10 questions, maybe multiple choice, could be helpful. Betsy will review what had been asked in previous surveys. Steve Traut has some work contacts that may be able to suggest formats.

### b. Potential Bylaw Revisions

Betsy asked for more guidance on potential bylaws revisions. Based on previous discussions, she raised the following possibilities:

- What is the definition of a member?
- What should be done about the coaches' representative?
- Is the DC Diamonds rep something we are going to continue to include?

Since the DC Diamonds promote youth hockey, as does SPYHA, it was agreed that there would be no proposed change for the DC Diamonds rep position. At times, inquiries about an adult hockey rep have been made; however, as historical precedent has been just for youth hockey, no changes will be made at this time.

Betsy suggested the following criteria for membership (meet at least one):

- Current parent or guardian of a SPYHA or DC Diamond player in good standing
- Alumni or alumni parent of a SPYHA or DC Diamond
- Employee of the association
- Current or past coach or board member.

All agreed, with the one additional clarification that the DC Diamond player must reside within the boundaries of the Sun Prairie school district.

The question with the coaches' rep was one of appointed advisor without Board voting rights, recommended by the coaches, or an elected position with voting rights. The discussion centered on a requirement that the coaches' concerns be heard. Shawn Lane thought that coaches might feel slighted if it was not a voting position.

A roll call vote recommendation to provide direction was held:

Advisory position with no voting rights,  
recommended by the coaches  
Squirt rep  
Bantam rep  
HS 2 rep  
Secretary  
President Elect

Coaches rep nominated and elected by membership, with  
voting rights  
LTP rep  
DC Diamonds rep  
Mite rep  
Peewee rep

Based on this advice, Betsy will revise the bylaws and send them for Board review. One further comment was made, that the coach's rep must be a coach.

Logistics for the bylaw acceptance clarified that each change will be accepted or rejected using paper ballots.

The final discussion item related to bylaws was the absence policy. It was suggested that repeated absences would not be fulfilling the role, and it would then be considered vacant. All agreed to propose language that a director who missed three regularly scheduled meetings, or five total meetings within a term, would be considered having vacated the position.

### c. Ice Rates

James proposed getting together a separate group to look at possibilities. Mike asked if we knew what a break even point was. This will be looked into.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Annual meeting at 6 pm, regular meeting to follow.