

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2011

Audience: Dan Smith, Darryl Chlebowski, Jeff Kostelic, Linda Houle, and Scott Halbleib

President Jeff Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm and reviewed the agenda, with the addition of a brief discussion of coaching policy and some other general comments. All Board members were present.

James announced that jerseys are expected here Wednesday or Thursday. He will try to notify team reps by Friday. Paula mentioned that warm-ups were ordered today.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Player Transfer Request

Jeff reviewed the history of the situation: at the last Board meeting, it was approved to roster a PeeWee A goalie to the Bantam B team.

Jeff extended a public apology on behalf of SPYHA for the grief the family has been subjected to concerning this change. SPYHA appreciates the numerous hours of volunteer commitment the family has contributed over the years.

Linda Houle has forwarded a letter to the Board requesting the transfer of Rob Houle to Wildcat Youth Hockey (Waunakee). This was her son's decision. The Wildcats have three PeeWee teams and no goalies. She explained that this goes beyond him leaving the SPYHA. They are very excited to have him.

Jeff explained that while transfer requests are typically not denied, they also aren't typically made after the season is underway.

Betsy made the motion to allow the transfer of Rob Houle from SPYHA to the Wildcat Youth Hockey Association. Paula seconded the motion.

During Board discussion, Mike noted he feels more information is relevant, as this sets precedent that could become policy. Jeff reviewed how some of this came about, in that a Waunakee representative contacted the Houles directly rather than approaching the association. The Wildcat Youth Hockey Association president called Jeff to apologize. These items should be handled at Board level, not by individuals. Jeff added that WAHA has a little more leeway in goalie movement because it is a specialized position. He also noted that release is a two-year process, so this would come up next year.

Jeff noted that the decision to roster a PeeWee A goalie on the Bantam B team was not a popular decision, and sent major ripples through the team. The Bantam B team meeting was difficult.

Mike asked if it is relevant to ask what the release means for the Bantam B team. Jeff doesn't know at this time.

Marcie is very distressed by the whole thing. As there are allegations of bullying, Troy wanted to know how SPYHA is dealing with bullying. The lesson is that the bullying can happen to anyone, and it's a painful lesson.

Chris needs to know what we're going to do for the Bantam B team. Troy asked if we did everything to explore our options for goalies.

Linda Houle pointed out that Waunakee wants the help.

Troy is leery about how it all shook out – he doesn't feel like the approach by Waunakee was appropriate.

Jen feels bad for Bob and Linda. She explained that the Board can really only go by the ACE Directors' suggestion. She noted that if people aren't happy with the Board, they can run for a position.

Dave had nothing more to add except that this was very unfortunately. James had nothing more. Paula reiterated that this was very unfortunately, but appreciated that this would give the child the opportunity to improve. Mike

had no additional questions. He understands the emotion and understands what's best. He explained that parents need to take responsibility – kids hear parents talk, and they need to be aware of that, make the best of situations and support the team. In the end, we're trying to do what's best of the kids. Angie said she is really sad about the turn of events. Marcie concurred and wants to look out for what's best for Rob.

James took a minute to address the bullying of parents to the Board. He felt the Board faced a difficult decision, and we voted on what we thought was best. In the end, you can question the decision, but not the motive.

At this point, the public was given the opportunity to speak:

Darryl Chlebowski wanted to apologize. He was against the Board decision, but told his son to make the goalie feel welcome. He wasn't against the person, he was against the decision to put two goalies on the Bantam A team.

Scott Halbleib reflected back on the tryout process, and asked if we should consider changing policy. Is it better to have two goalies on a team who each spend half the time sitting. Should goalies be required to also try out as skaters?

Dan Smith explained he was very critical of the Board decision, but has talked to Bob and they're fine. He personally thinks this would be the best for Rob.

Jeff Kostelic explained he wasn't present at the last meeting, but feels bad about the situation and wanted to apologize.

A role call vote was called:

ADM1 – Marcie – yes

ADM2 – Angie – yes

Squirt – Mike – yes

PeeWee – Jen – yes

Bantam – Chris – yes

DC Diamonds – Nate – yes

Coaches rep – Troy – yes

Treasurer – Paula – yes

Past-President – James – yes

President-elect – Dave – yes

Secretary – Betsy – yes

Motion passes 11-0

b. Remaining Travel Coach Approval

The following additions to the travel coaches have been presented to the Board:

Squirt A - Bill Gilbertson - assistant coach

Bill Welling - assistant coach

Dan Carpiaux - practice coach

PeeWee B - Mark Sanderfoot - assistant coach

PeeWee A - Steven McCrary - assistant coach

Bantam B - Thomas O'Rourke - assistant coach

Tom Lee - assistant coach

Mike made a motion to approve the coaching slate as presented. Paula seconded the motion.

Jen asked about volunteer credit if someone is splitting time between multiple teams. Jeff said we could discuss policy at a later time.

There was no public comment.

Motion passed 10-0-1, with Betsy abstaining.

c. Coaching Policy

The current SPYHA policy allows for three coaches based on the 2008 policy manual. Jeff stated he is a strong believer in three coaches on the bench at the travel level, otherwise there are too many voices yelling directions.

Coaches must be certified and have a background check.

The Board could approve an additional practice coach if recommended by the coaches and approved by the Board.

Chris doesn't agree with the additional coach. Dave is fine with it, as finding qualified coaches can be difficult. Paula noted that the ACE Director came forward with the coaches recommendations.

It was asked if a coach was missing due to injury or illness if another coach could step in. We need to find out what WAHA allows. Action: Jen to find out and report back.

d. Other notes

The 4/5 school skate held last Saturday had 163 skaters. Several SPYHA players were reprimanded for behaving inappropriately, but the majority of the kids were well-behaved.

At this time, Ecomm has awarded 1 full ADM scholarship, 1 full travel scholarship, 1 travel ½ scholarship, and a ½ scholarship to each skater in a family with two skaters. Jeff can provide additional information regarding what we're doing and why.

The principal at CHUMS has asked for a donation, so James has found some previous spirit wear items and a jersey.

The HS2 coach has reminded players that this is not a raceway. This will be conveyed to varsity players as well.

Family skate rental rates have been set at \$15, public skate is \$5/person with skate rental at \$1.

The hole in the parking lot entrance is scheduled to be repaired.

Jen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Troy seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Additional Board action – The following items were handled via email motion/vote:

On Nov. 3, 2011:

The Wildcat Youth Hockey Association has released a bantam-aged goalie to SPYHA. Based on this information, Betsy made a motion to accept the transfer of a bantam-age goalie from Wildcat Youth Hockey into SPYHA, provided that WAHA accepts the transfer and provided all financial and other obligations are met. This player will be placed on the Bantam B team. Motion was seconded by both Jen and Troy. All approved (11-0).

On Nov. 11, 2011:

At the request of ACE Director Chris Finkler, Betsy a motion to accept the following additional coaches at the ADM level, pending appropriate certification and background checks:

Andy Ausel

Paul Vilwock

Tom Siegel

Matt Meyer

Mike Tschanz

Casey Rufener

Dave seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 10-0, with no vote received from James.