

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 20 , 2011

Audience: Steve Traut, Seth Blahnik Gary Pfann, Ken Frassetto, and Kimberly Trent

President Jeff Thornton called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm and apologized for running late. He took a moment to express his thanks for some deserving people: the Board, Steve Traut, the coaches, and Chuck.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

- Registration Update
Final registration total was 229, with 63 skaters in learn to skate/ADM U6, and about 106 in-house players. These numbers are fairly consistent with previous years.
- Try Hockey for Free
Wisconsin reported approximately 1,125 participants for Try Hockey for Free. Steve mentioned there were quite a few positive Facebook comments about Sun Prairie's program. He's filing pictures from this and other events.
- Family Skate (mistakely identified on the agenda as 4/5 skate)
The family skate held last night didn't have great attendance. Jeff mentioned that SPYHA player behavior at school skates needs improvement. Coaches will be asked to remind players that they are representing SPYHA at these events. Players who require repeated warnings will be asked for their coach's name, and coaches will receive a report if there are problems with their players.

Betsy also reviewed highlights from recent Ecomm meeting minutes, which will be sent to the webmaster for posting. Things have been delayed due to an unfortunate incident between a deer and Betsy's car.

b. Treasurer – Paula Walker

Paula noted that the router was down, so she wasn't able to pull financials remotely. The router has been reset, but it is possible that this is also a problem with Charter. If it continues to be a problem, we'll look into replacing the router.

- Invoicing Update – All but three ADM players have paid. Those who haven't will be forwarded to the ADM reps for follow-up. There were some walk-in registrations for ADM, so we may want to consider a late fee. Each walk-in paid at least something upfront. Paul proposes sending second half invoices out around Dec. 1-2, with them due around Dec. 15th. Wreath order credits will be applied to second half dues. There was discussion about what to do if credits exceed amount due. Paula prefers to cut a check to balance the account back to \$0. As scrip orders also accumulate, this could continue. Jeff asked if SPYHA should set a policy. We'll look to see what the policy and registration documents say.
- Warm-up orders are done and handed out. Anyone who wants warm-ups now should contact Mary at Suter's. Any backordered items should be available soon. Not many spiritwear orders were placed in the first order. The next due date is Dec. 3.

c. President Elect – Dave Batterman

Absent

d. Past President – James Trent

- Jerseys – White jerseys are here – basically on time. There were some size exchanges. James has heard a lot of great feedback about the new jerseys. Chuck loves them. It was noted that coaches and kids should be reminded not to stitch letters on the jerseys. Action: Betsy to contact Kelly to remind the team reps of the policy to not stitch or permanently adhere captain's letters to the jerseys.
- Steve Traut suggested that in the future there be plans made for additional orders. James asked if we would put something on line? These special order jerseys wouldn't be something that players would wear. He noted that Baraboo had a posted jersey policy. James was asked about allowing kids to wear jerseys to school. It was also noted that some teams took the white laces out. These must be returned with the jerseys during turn-in. If they are not, the fines outlined in the registration document will apply. Jeff wanted to follow up on information that was received about one team having a few players who removed the white laces and replaced them with other colors, which were only shared with certain kids. He feels we are an association, and jerseys are to be consistent. Because this was a bantam team issue, Jeff requested that Chris Gehrmann send an email

to the bantam parents indicating the importance of SPYHA and team UNITY. It is expected that all the players be wearing their white home jerseys for pictures, with the white laces. After discussion, it was agreed that players will be encouraged to wear their jerseys to school on the Friday before tournaments, as well as for the Hockey Across America celebration, but they will be reminded of their responsibility related to the conditions of the jersey. Youth hockey night for the varsity program will be coming up in January, and that presents another opportunity for players to wear their jerseys.

e. President – Jeff Thornton

- Unpaid dues – Nothing new to report
- Insurance – We're hoping to competitively shop our policies.
- Bantam B Goalie situation – This is done. As the transferred player is only in town for practices and games, it was decided that fundraising and volunteer hours would be waived in this situation.
- Cardinal Cup – Officially, the Bantam A Cardinal Cup has been cancelled. Only one team expressed interest, so they may come up to play a game or two. PeeWee B and Squirt A tournaments are full. The interested teams for the Squirt B/C tournament have been contacted to see if they are okay with it being a mixed tournament. Troy noted that he felt the reason why the interest for the Bantam A tournament was so low was because last year the tournament was "cancelled." Betsy pointed out it was a deliberate decision to allow the Bantam B team to host a Cardinal Cup last year. Troy's point was a loss of continuity – swapping weekends hurts. Jeff mentioned that with a new rink there is a plan for every team to host a Cardinal Cup
- Rink mechanicals – We've received a proposal from Bassett Mechanical with changes to our contract, which works like an insurance policy. It's no secret that we've had a few issues with some of our equipment. The original proposal was a 50% increase in the middle of our current contract. We asked for another proposal, as this presented significant hardship at a time when we had already set dues for the upcoming year. Since the contract was up in February, Bassett provided a second proposal for review, which included an increase of about 15% for February through June or July, with a bigger increase starting in July. They would be interested in a counter proposal that might give us a little credit for sponsorship/advertising rights. They've been good to us in years past, and would adjust the program for a new building in the future.
- SHAW HS2 Game Cancellation – Jeff reported that seven or eight Sun Prairie players complained about racial comments made by one of the SHAW players to one of our players during the recent game between Sun Prairie and SHAW's "varsity" (their area doesn't have a high school varsity program) team. James note dwe only have to play them once per league rules; however, we have a reciprocal game scheduled. Jen suggested contacting Jodie Krause, the ALD for Region 4, and putting the complaint in writing. We do have a name and player number, so perhaps getting the kid to sit the game would be okay. The Board will be updated with the outcome.
- Cyber-bullying and other HS2 incidents – Jeff reported on three disciplinary actions on the HS2 team. For the first incident, there was a player who took an aggressive action with Coach Keegan and was subsequently escorted from the ice. After discussion with the ACE Director and Coaches' rep, it was decided to allow the coach to handle it. The result was suspension from practices and games for a week. If it occurs again, it will come to the Board. The next incident was a player to player altercation after the coaches had left the building. They weren't aware of the locker room policy as they had missed early coaches meeting. The situation resulted in an injury to one player. The aggressor met with Coaches Keegan, Finkler, and Giesege and Jeff, and was suspended by the coach for one week. In both cases, time already scheduled off would not count toward suspension time. For the cyber-bullying incident, a player posted some inappropriate comments on Facebook about teammates. This player was called out of practice to talk to Coaches Keegan, Finkler, and Giesege, and Jeff. The parent was also contacted. The player has been made the new anti-bullying chair, and has the duty to report any bullying to Ecomm. If the player is involved in any further incidents, he will be subjected to an expulsion hearing before the Board. The message for this situation, as well as others, is that we are all one association, and wear one jersey, so we should act as a team. As a lesson, we should add consequences for bullying to the policy manual. In this case, the coach addressed the whole team. It was pointed out that the Bantam B lace situation also falls into the category of bullying, because some kids were being excluded from the "alternate" laces.
- In a HS2 game, one of the off-ice officials pulled a kid's facemask. As a minor official, this is inappropriate. Action: Betsy to contact Kelly to send a reminder to team reps about minor official conduct. There is a link on USA Hockey's website about this also.
- Jeff noted that thank you cards and gifts were sent to nonparent evaluators.
- The ADM lead coach, as well as the coaches and Board reps are asked to make recommendations for the ADM jamboree. We should also check in with Mike Sanders, our tournament director, about the March 17 event.
- Concealed Carry – Ecomm learned that there could be some liability by posting the sign banning weapons in the arena; however, this is a risk we're willing to assume given the alternative.

- Refunds for JV/Varsity Players – SPYHA had three players leave for JV programs (at Edgewood) and SPHS varsity. Players were refunded according to the policy in the registration document. Chris noted she didn't like keeping the donation portion: the \$15 scholarship contribution and the \$50 capital fund contribution.
- Pictures – The first session of pictures went off without a hitch. HS2, bantams, and ADM are next. Betsy noted that the ADM teams need to be broken up to help things flow. The pictures are set up in the open locker room area, which will pose some challenges.
- SPYHA donated two season family skate passes for the Sacred Hearts raffle at their request. There are additional passes available for circumstances/events such as these. Please ask.
- Background forms are needed from Board members who didn't have them last year. Betsy will provide them to those who need them.
- The chosen ADM director resigned right before Try Hockey for Free. A lead coach has stepped forward for ADM, but is not interested in the director title. He will handle practice plans, but the remaining duties will have to be handled by Ecomm and the ACE Director for now. We may look for another ADM director. Jen asked if the acting lead coach had already been approved. It was confirmed that he had.
- Z-team gifts. The last two years SPYHA has purchased Usingers sausage gift boxes. This year we decided to do something different with \$50 gift cards for each employee.
- Open locker room – With the number of ADM skaters, we've agreed to "build" an open locker room. Rubber flooring is supposed to arrive this week. A DIBS opportunity is posed for benches/cubbies. The materials are intended to move to the new rink with us. Stuff currently in the area will go to the little room off to the side of the bleachers. Scaffolding will be taken down and there will be a runner in place under the stands. The dryland area will still be there, and the benches can move, so this may actually improve the space. Chuck and his staff have really done a great job putting this in place.
- Dr Reeder's Presentation – Dr. Reeder, a member of the association, is holding a concussion symposium on Nov. 27th (next Sunday) at 7 pm. He will bring in EMT's to talk about what they would do, too. It was intended to get the information out as soon as possible. Ecomm is hoping to develop a concussion policy to protect ourselves. One idea is to request a baseline test for checking-level players.
- Other notes – it's not safe to let skaters use nets as props during open skates. Jeff has ideas for PVC piping ones. Helmets are highly recommended for open skates.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Volunteer Committee – No one present to report. It was noted that we would like a display in the lobby to show where people are with their hours. Volunteer hours will be invoiced this year (not just handled by letter notification.)
- b. Annual Fundraising Committee – No one present to report. It's not clear if there have been any meetings.
- c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut reported that communications come out as requested.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. ADM – Marcie Rauls and Angie Hadley
It's been a busy week. It's recommended that the equipment room be open after evaluations, through at least the first or second night, as there were people who didn't go to evaluations looking for equipment, and there was no one available (easily – Ecomm and z-team helped in a pinch). Marcie has fixed/updated the ADM page of the website, both the information on ADM from the left side and the team page. Based on walk-ins, she'd like to see options for registration on the day of. Jen asked if we were covered on ice time. U8 is great. U6 is a little trickier with 63 kids. Some newer skaters don't know how to put on equipment. For the question "do we have enough ice" we think this will be fine. While there is a lot going on right now, as skaters start to be able to move around independently it will get easier. Betsy pointed out there were 50 in the same group last year, and Jeff said we've had 50+ for many years. There is no "Squirt C" ice available – the schedule was redone and more ice sold when there was no team. The ADM players are getting more ice than in the past – ADM U8 generally skate three times a week, and U6/learn to skate are on the ice about twice a week. We budgeted for lots of kids on the ice, and with 30 kids at \$50/kid, that doesn't buy a lot of ice. We're also learning with the new program as we go. The open locker room should help alleviate some congestion, and a new rink would help, too. It was reiterated that coaches must be registered with USA Hockey and have the intent of completing a USA Hockey clinic by the end of the year (Dec. 31, 2011). They also must take the ADM module. Jen has heard that for travel coaches it's taking 7 hours. Troy noted that coaches have 30 days from the time they start. There are the same requirements for everyone. One suggestion for next year is to consider having several sessions just for Learn to Skate in the first month to get them on their feet. The ADM reps gave away a stack of varsity logo hockey stickers to ADM families. They both greatly appreciate Chuck and all he's helped with.
- b. DC Diamonds – Nate Rosin
Nate was absent, but provided a summary to Betsy. His notes included the U10's are currently 5-0: one more win than they had all of last year. He also asked that the following comment be recorded about the Bantam teams:

“As a teacher I have been asked to sign off on grades for kids on the bantam team. I think this it is great that the coaches are asking kids to be responsible for their grades. I appreciate that the coaches are getting the kids ready for the expectations of varsity hockey.”

Related to Nate’s comment, Jeff noted that the Ecomm has taken some heat for the coach’s policy, and the concern was discussed in a private meeting with the ACE director, Chris Gehrmann, Jeff, and Dave. It was recommended the coach include information on privacy/document destruction in the policy. Troy has a policy he would share in spirit with others. Jen mentioned the PeeWee A’s have a Puckometer to encourage training at home.

Jeff added that the U12 Diamonds are .500. There was also an incident in a game at Fond du Lac where a Fond du Lac girl sucker-punched a Diamonds player in the stomach in the handshake line. This happened in front of Jeff.

c. Squirt – Mike Weber

Mike was absent. Jen shared that the Squirt A appears to be 2-2-3 and the Squirt B is 6-2-1 as of this weekend based on game reports. The squirt ALD is working on assigning game numbers. Jeff remarked that the game limit is 10 home, 10 away, plus 3 tournaments, so the B’s are nearly ½ way to their game total already. This is something that the team reps need to keep up with and adhere to.

d. PeeWee – Jen Kurtz

Jen mentioned that the note in the Ecomm meeting minutes was the first she had heard of a goalie wanting to play out, and she wasn’t included in the meeting. While it sounded like it had been resolved, she would have liked to be included as the level rep, in addition to Jeff, the team rep, and Chris Finkler. This would have been similar to what was done at the bantam level. Jeff apologized for the oversight. The outcome of that situation was to provide suggestions on how the goalie who is sitting can be involved and stay positive. In cases where the team is short-handed and the goalie can help by skating out, it is the coach’s discretion. This seems to have been resolved the team has stabilized.

Jen reported that the PeeWee A team is 6-1-2. Jeff reminded Jen to keep the game limit in mind for this group also. The PeeWee B team was 4-2 going into the weekend, and went 1-1, so their record is 5-3. The PeeWee C team has only reported three games, and is showing 1-2, but that was as of Nov. 6. They did win today. The B team is hosting a Cardinal Cup in December, the PeeWee C’s are in a tournament in Amery (difficulties were noted in securing accommodations), and the PeeWee A’s are going to Chippewa Falls.

e. Bantam – Chris Gehrmann

Chris is pleased that the goalie situation has been resolved. The Bantam A team is 4-4-1. The B team has only lost three games, most games were high-scoring on our side. Troy mentioned he needs to talk to the coach to ensure some restraint in not running up the score. Currently, the B’s are not reporting individual scoring to the Star because of some bullying situations relating to those who are scoring. Troy will also follow up on this. Jeff noted the importance of assists.

f. High School – vacant.

Right now there are three injured HS2 players. For last night’s game in DePere, three who were anticipated to skate didn’t show up, so they only had 10 kids and a goalie. Jen asked that the team please not skip the tournament this year. James noted that the fines won’t be paid until the information requested (which was supposedly attached but wasn’t) is received.

g. Coaches rep. – Troy Giesege

Troy didn’t have much. He has two coaches requests that he’d like added to new business. Background is as follows:

The proposed for Bantam A is an OBHL-C player, age 25, still in school. He’s never coached, and is looking to intern with the USA Olympic team, with a focus on nutrition, strength, and conditioning. Troy is willing to take him on as third coach, more for off-ice/dryland. His name is Patrick Solverson. He wouldn’t attend the first tournament, but would come to the second one. Chris asked if the parents would be covering his room, as their budget is already set. The proposed Bantam B coach would be for practice only, unless there was a case where one of the other coaches wasn’t available. His name is Jeremy Holmes, and he knows Brian Sullivan, the Bantam B coach.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. New Rink / Building Committee – Jeff explained that the city has shot out the developer, and there no longer is a project. In a meeting with the city administrator, mayor, and the council president, Jeff and James discussed

SPYHA and the options available. Jeff reminded them that SPYHA had been placed in a most difficult situation, and was left in the dark about progress while not being able to share information. At this time, they may reconsider SPYHA and the HS site, or other sites. The development site on the Westside may still be a possibility. The city has made it clear that they want hockey in Sun Prairie, although it wasn't immediately evident. Things were left with SPYHA hoping to have until the end of the year to decide which site to pursue. Only one option would work with PAC. Chris asked if we knew what happened. It had nothing to do with SPYHA. The developer made lots of promises, but didn't deliver. Jeff was incredibly disappointed – he mourned for two days and was just devastated with the situation. He shared that sentiment with the city. It may be necessary to start exploring doomsday options if we can't raise money. One alternate site that came up may be on the outskirts of Madison. Whatever happens, come the first of the year, we'll have to start up hard. The city is aware that we've invested a substantial amount in the site already, with grading, seeding, architectural plans, etc. The current plans involve about a \$7.5 million building. Marcie asked if we could do less. Jeff said it's \$5 million to build one sheet, and that doesn't have the revenue stream two rinks do. Two rinks were also promised to the city. Marcie asked if we are out the money if we don't go with the high school site. Jeff said that we'd have to wait and see. At this time, PAC is still interested in the Westside site. Right now, we're guessing we need to raise \$4 million. Jeff reiterated that we're back to where we were eight months ago or so. It's very disappointing.

b. Capital Fundraising – The city also wants to see us succeed and will work with us on fundraising.

c. Region 4

Angie attended the October meeting and sent out meeting summary. Highlights included the search for a Region 4 president and WAHA's creative piece featuring youth hockey. All scores must be in by midnight on Jan. 1. Officials are still willing to come to teams to discuss rules. For PeeWees, the home team has discretion for ice resurfacing.

Jen added information from the executive session. There was a disciplinary hearing for an 18-year-old AAA, as helmet removal is a match penalty, and the coach allowed the player to play. A match penalty requires that the player not participate in games or practices until the hearing. There was also a Southwest PeeWee B coach with a game misconduct who didn't sit.

There were 13 applications for Fenton Kelsey scholarships. A total of \$5,900 is available, but some requests are for \$700+.

Jen apologized to Troy – Jen didn't confirm the location of the November meeting – it was at Eagle's Nest, not Vitense. ALD's were also reminded at the November meeting that game reports were due Jan. 1, 2012 at midnight. This is required for team seeding.

There is a bill going through the assembly to address some challenges with identifying ice officials as individual contractors. Right now, if they only work with one association, they are identified as employees of that association. This effects more than just hockey. This is something to contact your legislator about.

It was reiterated that mite tournaments are only sanctioned after Jan. 1, 2012, and there will be no full ice sanctions for 2012-2013.

Jen extended a huge thank you to Chuck. He does all of the ref requests, which is huge for our association. Jen shared that if you have to cancel a game, there is a late cancellation fee if it's not cancelled 8 days in advance. Chuck's work keeps us from having to deal with the wrath of Larry and the DCHOA for last minute scheduling.

There is now an ALD for ADM – Laura Humphrey from the Polar Caps.

It was noted that Rockford has already cancelled a PeeWee game this year after being warned last year. Jen asked for the details via email.

It was also noted that only two out-of-district players are allowed per team. This does not include players who do not have an association in their town.

Additional notes from the Team Rep portion of the meeting included official rosters being due Nov. 15. Coaching mods have been a huge pain. Rosters can be on the Region 4 website. The officials will make team presentations – contact Larry Carrington. Also, any complaints must be put in writing to Larry.

6. New Business

a. HS2 Board Representative Elections

Gary would be willing to update the policy manual. He knows it needs to be done and it's been left unfinished. Also, recent focus on cleanup of bylaws has focused on changes from the executive director structure, but there's more there. His ideas include Board policies, team/coaches policies, operating policies, and volunteering policies. Jeff thought first pass would be to Ecomm, with subsequent approval by the Board.

Jen made a motion to establish a policy manual committee. Gary Pfann would chair the committee, with the ability to select additional committee members as needed. The chair would receive full volunteer credits upon completion of the draft. The goal is draft by March 2012, finalized in June 2012. Troy seconded.

There was no additional discussion or public comment. All approved, motion passed 8-0. Gary was congratulated on his new opportunity.

James then nominated Ken Frassetto for HS2 board rep. Paula seconded the motion. In public comment, Gary thought it was a grand idea. There was no additional Board discussion. All approved 8-0, motion passed.

Ken was invited to join the Board.

b. Additional coaching approvals

Troy has presented the previously mentioned candidates, Jeremy Holmes as a Bantam B practice coach, and Patrick Solverson as a Bantam A assistant coach. Betsy made a motion to accept Troy's recommendations, contingent on completing background checks and training. Paula seconded. There was no public comment or additional discussion. All approved. Motion passed 9-0.

Troy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paula seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Next meeting Sunday, December 18, 2011, at 6 pm.