

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2012

Audience: Chris Finkler, Tammy Lambert, Joe Brickl, Jon Lambert, Sue Culbertson, Mike Culbertson, Suzanne Doody, Amy Smith, Kirk Wessel, CJ Wessel, Tim Menzel

President Jeff Thornton called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. He explained that at the end of the meeting the Board would go into closed session and reconvene after closed session.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one offered public comment

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Minutes from the December meeting have been posted. There was an Ecomm meeting on Monday night: minutes are not yet available, but topics included awarding an ADM scholarship for session 2 for one family (\$100), the opportunity to offer AAA spring hockey at the rink, additional ice to split ADM sessions, a coaching situation report, and authorization of an SPYHA cell phone for Chuck.

b. Treasurer – Paula Walker

- Invoicing Update – All travel players but one have paid – that payment is due today. Over 100 ADM invoices have been sent, approximately 50 are left to pay, with some just dropped off that need to be opened.
- Treasurer's Report – Paula reported that there is \$113,732 in checking, \$103,462 in the general money market fund, \$96,738 in capital campaign, and \$5,224 in equipment, for a total of \$319,738.25. There is also a scholarship fund at M&I Bank.

Jeff extended his thanks to Paula for chasing all the travel payments.

c. President Elect – Dave Batterman

Topics will be covered later.

d. Past President – James Trent

Topics will be covered later.

James later added an update on the equipment room. They are virtually out of small equipment. There is a One Goal order due Feb 1, so he'll work with Jason Walker, equipment manager, to see how much we may want to order at \$75/set.

e. President – Jeff Thornton

- Rink management – Jeff reported that there has been a slight change in the chain of command, with z-team control/scheduling being handed off to Kevin Weisensel. There is no salary change associated with this. Jeff extended thanks to Kevin. The z-team really is a team, and this transition had no dissention at all.
- SPYHA is discussing an AAA opportunity to allow a new AAA spring complementary program out of Sun Prairie Ice Arena. There has been discussion back and forth. ADM doesn't really like spring hockey, as kids are encouraged to try other sports. It is a great opportunity to sell ice. There are still some negotiations, as the company wants SPYHA to recruit coaches and players. We would support coaches and players who want to participate, but we don't want to actively be recruiting. At this point, there's casual support, but not active support. There would be the potential for \$30k in ice sales. There would be six year classes from 1997 to 2002. Mike asked if they would be supplying a letter of intent. As negotiations are ongoing, we aren't to that point yet.
- The President's letter explained pledge cards. Fundraising is our number one priority this year. We have a deadline to get \$700,000 in seven weeks. We're in the process of updating the thermos. One of our members is working with the Booster Club on a proposal for an alumni tournament. Their request will be for SPYHA to donate the ice. Year one would be dedicated to fundraising for the new rink, but there's hope that this would be an annual event.
- OBHL discussion went well, and we're hoping they'll come through with a pledge.
- There was a separate meeting with the Booster Club to work on structuring a pledge from them related to the locker room.
- The Bassett Mechanical agreement has been received. They've requested an increase in fees for our aging equipment. It is a two-part contract. The first is a \$3,000 increase through July, and then another \$3,000 increase after. They did take a pledge form, so we're hoping to offset some of the increase with a pledge.

This agreement is not just a fee for service, it's part insurance policy – in case of failures that can't be repaired, components would be replaced.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. New Year's Eve wrap-up – Jason Ledford chaired the event, but wasn't present for an update. Betsy mentioned that over \$1,000 was taken in between donation containers, sucker tree, raffle (50/50 and skate pass), and cake walk. The concession stands (rink and PAC) took in about \$1,000 before expenses. There were over 500 people through the ice rink in the first 45 minutes, and it was really packed. It was great exposure, with lots of non-hockey families in attendance. It would be helpful to have one person supervising off-ice, as there were lots of people who plopped in high-traffic areas to try to put on skates, which made for some potentially dangerous situations.
- b. Volunteer Committee – No one present to report. Betsy asked about the plan for the list of hours to date. Jeff will check on it.
- c. Annual Fundraising Committee – No one present to report. We need to get a report from Scott Halbleib on the cards. This summer there should be a discussion on continuing with this type of fundraising or looking for something different.
- c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut is continuing to juggle requests. He'll put Jeff's letter on the President's Bench page.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. ADM – Marcie Rauls (Angie Hadley absent)

Marcie arrived just in time to report that the new session starts Monday. Betsy reported there are at least 35 new skaters, some returning to ADM, but most New to SPYHA Hockey/Learn to Skate. There was a meeting last week that included Jon Lambert to discuss crowding on the ice. Chuck is revising the schedule to split the ADM U6 session into two. Most would be about 40 minutes. Jeff mentioned that the varsity practice will be shortened 15 minutes on Mondays to help accommodate the change. Thanks to Steve Hanrahan and Chris Finkler for working with us on this. Mike thought these were great numbers.

Jeff recognized the hard work of the ADM reps and Betsy. This year we were actively in the schools and hosted Try Hockey for Free, which really helped us recruit. We're looking at a 10% increase in participants, which is great after holding steady the last two years. Jen noted this should allow us to meet our 2x2 goals.

- b. DC Diamonds – Nate Rosin

Jeff Sezcik has been sent the capital campaign information. Nate will talk to Jeff about the Diamonds' equipment fee. Jeff has written a nice letter supporting the new rink and that it's a great way to grow girls' hockey.

Nate's team report indicated that the U14 girls are hanging in there, the U12's are just over 0.500, and the U10 are doing well. The Onalaska tournament had good competition.

The question was asked how the number of teams that go to state from Region 4 is determined. Betsy explained that the region with the most teams at a particular level earns the wild card seed. If there is a region that doesn't have a team for an age group, then that region's seed in the state tournament is determined in a similar way. Because Region 4 has a lot of Division 1 teams, we usually get a wild card seed, and sometimes one more.

- c. Squirt – Mike Weber

Mike reported that the Squirt B faced healthy competition in the Chippewa Falls team. They went 1-3, and played the eventual champs in their first game. There were three Minnesota teams. They had a lot of fun.

Squirt A's are doing well – they've had a lot of ties but are skating hard. There have been a few bouts of sickness.

Jeff reminded the level reps to please relay information about tournaments to the Board for tournament planning purposes next year. Mike's thought was that the Chippewa Falls tournament was good.

- d. PeeWee – Jen Kurtz

The PeeWee C team is 13-3-1 as of December 18. They took first in the Beaver Dam tournament. Amery should be out of consideration for future tournaments, as they cancelled their tournament at the last minute, and the PeeWees were lucky to get into the Beaver Dam tournament. They have a tournament in Green Bay next weekend.

The PeeWee B team is 10-9, which includes two tournaments. They took Consolation in Wausau and second in the Cardinal Cup.

The PeeWee A team is 14-8-2, which includes one tournament with four games. They are going to Eau Claire and took third in Chippewa Falls.

e. Bantam – Chris Gehrmann

The Bantam A's are 10-8-5, and have a winning streak of five in a row. Chris also mentioned that Jim was able to find three games for the cancelled Cardinal Cup tournament, and they have a tournament in Sheboygan.

The Bantam B team is 18-6-0. They are 10-0 in regional games. They played at Sauk Prairie recently, and Sauk Prairie decided to forfeit the reciprocal game at Sun Prairie due to the score of the first meeting. Bantam B's have tournaments in Onalaska and Fond du Lac coming up.

f. High School – Ken Frassetto

The HS2 is 12-7-4 overall, 10-4-3 in league play, and has a 1-2-1 record in JV games. They've figured out the roster size situation and can have an exception from WAHA to have a 19-1 roster (skater-goalie) rather than 18-2 if they wish. The coach has decided that the 18-1 roster works best. It's much easier to manage.

g. Coaches rep. – Troy Giesege

The timeline for coaches to complete modules has been extended to January 31, 2012. There is a mandatory coaches meeting on January 25. Betsy asked if there was a plan to cover the skills practices tomorrow. Troy wasn't aware there was a skills session. Steven McCrary agreed (by his wife's proxy) to cover the goalie sessions, and would try to take care of squirt and peewees. Troy would take care of the 2:30 session. Jeff said at worst it could be open hockey activities. Troy asked if there would be skills on Friday, since there is no school then. There is not.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. New Year's Eve Wrap-up

Over \$1,000 was taken in for the capital campaign, including over \$400 from the cake walk and \$300 for skate rental. Over \$100 was given in the rink donation jars. Other sources of revenue included the raffle (skate passes and 50/50) and sucker tree. This was pure profit, as there was not any expense associated with this. In addition, PAC and rink concessions each took in about \$500 before expenses. By about 5:45, over 300 people had come through the rink doors alone, and the ice was very crowded. In the future we should have someone at the rink assigned to crowd control, as there is a tendency for people to plop down in the lobby and other high traffic areas to change skates, which is dangerous.

SPYHA gave an assortment of prizes to members on New Year's Eve, with an iPad grand prize, as an extra benefit for the fundraising efforts. The Dine and Discount card fundraiser is wonderful for us, and in addition to the prizes the association allocated for membership from a portion of the proceeds, the Halbleibs kicked in many extra prizes, including the stays at Chula Vista. Jeff extended a big thank you to the Halbleibs for this. Unfortunately, no one who stayed after the New Year's Eve cleanup and watched the drawing won prizes. The profit from the fundraiser the last two years has gone to the Capital Campaign.

Jeff also had a huge thank you to Jason Ledford for chairing the New Year's Eve event. There were no major injuries, and the event brought a lot of new families to the rink.

b. New Rink / Building Committee

Dave met with Stevens Construction, or construction manager, to bring them up to speed. Even though there hasn't been much to talk about over the past months, they were pretty familiar with where things were at, and are very interested in continuing to work with us. They understand that we won't need much until after March.

James has accepted an appointment as Capital Campaign Chair. Pledge forms have been distributed to Board and membership. So far approximately 36 families of 180 have turned them in, and there is \$119,450 in monetary pledges: a large portion of the pledges are coming from a small number of families. There are five pledges turned in with business matches. Then pledge forms have been received from others, including past members and their family. There have been a few who have indicated that unfortunately they are not able to donate at this time. A few have included names or businesses suggestions to contact. Many have included general labor volunteer hours. The Capital Campaign has a list of potential major donors and in-kind donors. The final draft of the big brochure is done – a big thanks to Troy for making it look so professional. It is 20 pages in full color and will go to potential major donors. A pdf version will be on the website.

Angie, Chris Herwig, and Jen are meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 to work on the chamber list. Angie sent out a press release and is working to set up a time for interviews. The message is that if we don't raise the \$700k by March 1, we could potentially lose the high school site. There is also exposure through social media and Facebook. Kirk Wessel set up a hockey network that received 35 hits the first day. There are three free ads that will be placed in the paper.

Dave reported on the Uno's Dough Raising opportunity: 20% of the proceeds would go to the association, based on coupons brought in. We would be given coupons to hand out for SPYHA night. Both take-out and dine in purchases with the coupon would be eligible for donations. We could have something on the website that people could print, too, but we can't give them away outside the door or on their property. No date has been set yet.

Jeff asked if there were any questions from the Board or audience. There were none.

c. Region 4

Deadlines for game reports have past. By January 24 the playdown seedings should be released on the Region 4 website. Registrars were reminded to issue supplemental rosters with the coaches modules. Available officials/referees are down approximately 10%: most are level 2. WAHA sent media blast about hockey that includes some Region 4 skaters. There was a note that there is no running time in Region 4 league games. League games must be played. Off-ice officials were reminded that they are to be neutral. While there have been HS2 issues with SHAW Varsity, there were no issues with SHAW JV players here. Region 4 will only hold disciplinary hearings for teams in their region. Southwest has also cancelled games with SHAW Varsity. Jodie Krause from Region 4 has shared that there is something in the works, but wasn't specific. Information on development camps is available. Jeff noted that these are opportunities for PeeWees, Bantams, and Midget-level players to engage in regional competition. Sign-up hasn't opened yet. USA Hockey may have eliminated the U14 national camp for boys, but no one is sure why. It was also noted that teams using the state logo must have permission. Coaches need background checks. There are no state "D" level tournaments this year. There is consideration about moving state tournaments to avoid WIAA tournament conflicts.

The next Region 4 meeting was changed to the last week of January – January 25 at 6:30 pm. The general membership meeting starts at 6:30 pm at Vitense, with executive committee to follow.

Jen asked if we'd received any release requests? Jeff said nothing has been received, and wondered if there would be sanctions if one didn't come through. It seems like it would be an association issue (not ours).

Jeff thanked Jen for continuing her work with Region 4.

d. HS2 playdowns/state tournament roster

Ken restated that it is the coach's hope to have just 18 players for playdowns and state, with the "sit rotation" continuing for the league tournament. The coach had informed players before the last Board meeting that he would be selecting the players who would be playing in playdowns and the state tournament. Ken doesn't know the specifics.

Jeff said there are two things to note: the plan has to be communicated to every family and we're a pay for play organization. Jen asked if there was a problem that led to this, or would those sitting be those who could have been cut? Since the criteria have not been made public, this is a difficult situation, and the Board can't discuss what we don't know. Ken shared that the coach is rotating kids now, but we shouldn't take away his decision to set up the team for playdowns and state. It was felt that the families have to know what the plan is, and the appropriate way to do this is a team meeting. Ken was instructed to ask the coach to send the criteria to the Board (via Ken). If the Board agrees with it, there would be a team meeting with the parents to make sure they're okay with it, and then it would come to discussion and Board vote. If this is not done, then the regular rotation would continue for playdowns and state.

There was a five minute recess before new business.

6. New Business

a. Mite/2003 birth year tournament request

ADM lead coach Jon Lambert distributed a proposal to allow ADM U8 to play two additional tournaments/jamborees for players born in birth years 2003/2004 currently participating in the U8 ADM groups. For 2003 Birth years, the proposal is to participate in two full ice mite invitational tournaments, one in Baraboo Jan. 21-22 (\$500, with 11 players interested) and Monroe Feb. 3-5 (\$350). The tournaments were chosen based on level of competition, proximity to Sun Prairie, and opportunity for exposure to a fun experience, and cost. There

were 14 individuals who met the criteria, and all supported these additional opportunities. Jon further noted that there will not be any additional ice time requested to prepare for these activities.

The second request was to allow the 2004 birth year skaters to participate in two additional cross-ice jamborees, the first being West Bend Jan. 28-29 for \$125. Team would be registered as a white team. The second one could be Beaver Dam Mar. 3-5, but no fees were determined. There would be up to 19 skaters eligible to participate, so Sun Prairie could send more than one team.

Jon explained that he was looking for an opportunity for some outside competition for these older skaters, as they have been scrimmaging against their friends. Since SPYHA is not participating in the Dance County league, he's been looking for other alternatives. He's changed things up, but essentially for U8 there are two teams at each level (red, white, and blue), so they are playing one another. There are also some who have played full ice before, who have now skated the year on half ice but will be returning to full ice next season. In addition, the opportunities will give some exposure to jamborees.

Jeff noted that for the 2003 players, all 14 wanted to participate, although some couldn't do the first one because of previous commitments, and the fees would be paid by the families. He also mentioned that he and Jon have discussed possibilities and hadn't found anything else for the 2003's that met the criteria they were looking for.

It was noted that in addition to the above items, per the ADM policy, there is a plan to participate in an additional jamboree, beyond the planned SPYHA jamboree, pending Board approval. The recommendation is for SPYHA to participate in a jamboree in Waunakee.

Jon noted he does not have a feel for the 2004 buy-in; however, this plan keeps the 2004 off full-ice. There was a question of how many games were allocated to the ADM group already.

Troy's concern was buy-in with USA Hockey and ensuring there weren't too many games. Betsy checked the schedule and counted 16 games scheduled for ADM U8. He asked why the Middleton tournament wasn't recommended. Jon mentioned that he looked into the Middleton tournament in March in hopes of spreading things out, but felt that the kids would not have been able to be competitive. Troy also asked if the request for full-ice would be a one year exception. Jeff confirmed this would be the case.

Jeff also mentioned that Jon and the ADM coaches will evaluate the program after its conclusion. We knew it would be a learning year going in.

Chris Gehrman thought the full-ice was addressed with allowing 2003 kids to try out for Squirts. It was noted that the 2003's on the Squirt teams were on the Mite A team, and some from Mite B continued in ADM.

Chris Finkler asked what formal competition is, because full ice games with referees is pretty formal. He also asked if the occasional jamborees would be allowed to replace games?

Jeff asked if any of the parents from the audience wanted to speak.

Tim Menzel doesn't see a problem. His son doesn't want to always play his buddies, and noted that the program has already lost two kids. It would make the kids more excited about hockey.

Mike Culbertson noted he makes a habit of telling the coaches what a great job they're doing, but sees a need to play against some other kids.

Joe Brickl noted that Luke is a rink rat. He's a big supporter of ADM, but sees this as making a concession that will benefit the kids.

After public discussion closed, the Board discussion ensued.

Troy asked what happens if/when the 2003's go to Baraboo and then have to come out and play cross ice. How are the kids going to respond, can these accept it?

Marcie noted that as ADM rep she feels like she needs to represent the 2003, and trusts Jon's judgment that this is a good idea.

Paula thought the kids would be fine. Many previous Mite B players would be fine with having two special times and then doing what they'd been doing, so she doesn't have a problem with the request.

Mike has a 2005 birth year kid, and just playing other people is good. We may want to reconsider the number of jamborees or the format in the future to play others and challenge themselves.

Jen was in favor of allowing 2003 birth year ADM skaters to participate in the Baraboo and Monroe tournaments. Paula made a motion to allow 2003 birth year skaters in ADM U8 to participate in two full-ice tournaments in lieu of playing games in-house. Nate seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-1, with Troy voting no.

Regarding the 2004 opportunity and the two additional cross-ice jamborees, Betsy asked about the 2002/2001 kids, since there are some older skaters in ADM. Jon noted that because of size differences, the West Bend tournament required kids to be U8. The tournament team would be a mix of red, white, and blue players.

There were no additional public or Board comments.

Paula made a motion to allow 2004 birth year players to participate in two additional cross ice tournaments in lieu of games here.

Nate seconded the motion.

Marcie noted that her child feels like he's playing the same kids.

Troy asked about scoring and referees. Jon was not sure, but the plan for West Bend was 4x4 with goalies. Dave noted that the proposals could result in three straight weekends. Would there be other options? Jon noted that he hasn't found much, but Jeff said he is getting more, so there may be other opportunities. Troy asked if some structure could be put around the opportunities, such as 60 mile radius, without refs or score being kept.

Paula and Nate agreed to the modification to the motion that the recommended travel limit is 60 miles or less, with preference to informal jamborees.

Motion passed 11-0. Jeff extended thanks to Jon for his work.

Betsy noted that SPYHA's participation in the Waunakee U8 ADM jamboree requires Board approval, and made a motion to allow this. Paula seconded the motion.

All approved 11-0.

b. Other Business

No new business was presented in this section.

c. Coach Disciplinary Situation

Jeff explained that the plan would be to discuss the situation in closed session, and then return to open session after. He gave a general overview, explaining that in the last few weeks, an anonymous letter was received about coaches conduct, followed by a second letter, then more recent complaints after the last tournament, including one by phone to Jeff. The executive committee asked the ACE Directors to investigate. The process to go from allegations to investigation was followed by the ACE Directors, who reached out to families and verified that the letters came from different families. They met with four families and all the coaches on the team, as well as reviewed the coaches code of conduct and the disciplinary policy to determine how to proceed.

Before public comment, Jeff provided a directive to maintain anonymity in the discussion and avoid using specific names.

Kirk Wessel noted he wasn't involved or aware of the situation at first, but became aware after he talked to his kid. He thinks his son is pretty sensitive but didn't really have any concerns. The coaches are loved and push the kids. They'll listen to them. Kirk also understands that the Board has to investigate the most recent thing.

Suzanne Doody noted that her son did make her aware of the complaint situation mentioned as the December incident, and wants the Board to do what's right for the kids.

Jeff urged parents to talk to their kids, and apologized for having to keep this situation vague. As there were no additional comments, the Board moved to closed session.

Closed session

During closed session, ACE Director Chris Finkler and Coaches Rep Troy Giesege reviewed the allegations brought forward. After discussion and questions, they presented their recommendations. Of seven families interviewed, six expressed varying levels of concern about coaches conduct.

The recommended disciplinary action for coach 1 was approved 6-2, with three people abstaining. One of those voting no wished it noted that the recommendation did not seem stringent enough considering the circumstances.

The recommended disciplinary action for coach 2 was approved 8-0, with three people abstaining.

Open session

The following outcome from closed session was announced during open session:

The SPYHA Board has taken disciplinary action against two Squirt B coaches. Each coach will be given a list of requirements to meet. Failure to agree to and meet those requirements will result in immediate suspension from all coaching duties until such a time that the Board is able to meet and review the situation. The most visible requirement will be that a parent with an SPYHA background check will need to be present in the locker room at all times for both games and practices. The parent will be charged with reporting any violation of the SPYHA Coaches Code of Conduct to the ACE Directors.

There was a question if gender determined which parents could be present. Chris Finkler agreed to look into this.

Nate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Troy seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 pm.

Next meeting Sunday, February 19, 2012, at 6 pm.