

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2012

Audience: Lisa Birkrem, Seth Blahnik, Steve Traut

President-elect Dave Batterman called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm, as Jeff Thornton was expected to be late due to a hockey tournament.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Birkrem expressed disappointment with the end of result of the coaching situation from last month. Her children have played multiple sports and never had issues like this. While the coach provided an email apology, there was no response to a request for a face-to-face meeting. She found it unacceptable that a grown man could not feel comfortable apologizing in person to a child. Her uncle, Dave McCutchen, had been on the hockey board for years. Lisa commented that if this coach stays in the program, they will be very disappointed. Her son can't wait for soccer to begin, because, as he explained, there is no locker room.

Dave will pass this information on to the ACE Director. He apologized again on behalf of the association.

There were no additional public comments.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Minutes from the January meeting have been posted, and Ecomm meeting minutes were distributed via email just prior to the meeting.

b. Treasurer – Paula Walker

Paula provided balances in various accounts. She indicated that the mortgage loan was up for refinancing, with a balance of approximately \$80,000. The current rate is 5.7%, which will decrease to 5%, for a payment of \$4,100. There are less than 20 months left on the loan, and there would be no prepayment penalty. Betsy asked what directed this. Paula explained that the loan has an automatic two year renewal. The loan itself remains with the Bank of Sun Prairie. The paperwork will be addressed in March.

Betsy asked if we should be invoicing the next “quarter” for the capital campaign. James has all the pledge forms but still needs to do some work entering the information.

c. President Elect – Dave Batterman

Topics will be covered later.

d. Past President – James Trent

Topics will be covered later.

e. President – Jeff Thornton

President's report was provided after the Capital Fundraising report.

We are still pursuing summer AAA program, but need someone interested to lead it. There is a new camp for SPYHA: Northern Edge. They've had rave reviews.

We've received a report back from WCHSHL regarding the racial incident report we filed. They've talked to the team and player, and any further issues will result in additional repercussions.

Chuck is nearing retirement, and we need to start planning for a transition. Ecomm will start talking about it.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee – Approximately 60 families still owe volunteer hours, most of 20 hours or less, and many of them are ADM families.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee – No one present to report.

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut is just keeping his head above water.

#### 4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

a. ADM – Marcie Rauls (Angie Hadley absent)

Angie is returning from a hockey tournament. Marcie reported that the U6 participated in their first jamboree in Fond du Lac, and a committee has been formed to work on SPYHA's home jamboree. Things are all set for a jamboree in Waunakee for the U8 as well.

Marcie did notice that they are a little short on coaches for U6 – there were only two coaches out last Saturday for the blue/LTS, and about 40 kids. The question was asked if additional helpers could be solicited, or if they needed to complete the modules. Coaches need to have the modules done. Betsy mentioned that student coaches have been helping a lot with this group, but when there are tournament weekends it becomes harder for coaches who have kids at multiple levels, and for the student coaches.

Parents are excited about the jamboree – 20 U6 kids on two teams were registered for Fond du Lac and U8 had 10 kids.

b. DC Diamonds – Nate Rosin

All three Diamonds teams made it to state, the U10's and U14's won Region 4. The U10's took first in the Beloit tournament, and the U12's took first in Eagle River. U14's lost the third place game in Eagle River. Jeff had just arrived, and he noted that Eagle River puts on a great tournament. Jen agreed.

c. Squirt – Mike Weber

Mike reported that both the Squirt A & B teams are going to state. A's are 7-13-0, B's are 11-2-1, which doesn't include tournaments. The B's will be in Onalaska for state. The Cardinal Cup B/C tournament is March 10-11, and they're gearing up for that. Our tournament director has done a really nice job, with teams from Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan coming.

He shared that every single player has scored a goal.

Jen made a request of team reps that in the future please put tournaments into Region 4.

d. PeeWee – Jen Kurtz

The PeeWee C team is 14-4-1 since December 18, except play downs. They took home the sportsmanship trophy from the Onalaska tournament. They had a great beginning, but ran into some trouble after the two week break, and it's sad they didn't make it to state.

The PeeWee B team is 15-13-2 through this weekend, and will be going to state as the Region 1 rep. State tournament is in Beloit. They took second place in Eagle River and ended up tying the ultimate champion in the round robin tournament

The PeeWee A team is 20-12-3 including playdowns, and recently took third in Onalaska, they tied Superior 3-3 and then lost in overtime. They will be representing Region 4 at state, which is held at Hartmeyer.

e. Bantam – Chris Gehrmann

Chris wasn't sure of the Bantam B record – Region 4 shows them 24-11. They took third in Fond du Lac and lost to a AA Cedar Rapids team this morning at that tournament. They are hosting state.

The Bantam A's are 15-15-5, but did not make it to state. They had some "help" in their elimination. They took second in Sheboygan last weekend, and have pretty much wrapped up their successful season.

f. High School – Ken Frassetto

The HS2 is 18-9-7, and are the Region 4 champs. The state tournament is in Wilson Park hosted by SHAW JV. They start with Fond du Lac. HS2 took third in the Marinette tournament. The league championships are next week end. WCHSHL splits seeding, with top teams playing for one trophy and the rest playing for a second trophy. The league meeting will be at 9 pm in Beloit Saturday night. The league championships will include a sportsmanship game. The coaches will pass on their selections for that game to the players' families.

The team wasn't able to play their last home game, as Beloit cancelled on them twice (off – on – off) so it became a parent/kid game. The players rotated through Region 4 playdowns and will rotate through state. One kid stopped showing up, so two kids will sit each game going forward. It's been a tough situation to deal with. Some players/parents may have been frustrated, but they didn't talk to Darcy (team rep), the coaches, or Ken, so there

wasn't really much that could be done. The coaches had requested that Ken pursue a backup goalie as allowed by WAHA. This was added to new business.

g. Coaches rep. – Troy Giesege

Troy said he and Chris are planning a close out meeting / coaches game. There was a question about one coach's hours that he's looking into. Jeff indicated he was aware of the situation and there were extenuating circumstances. He offered that the Board could go into closed session if needed to discuss this in more detail. No one thought that was necessary as long as there was an awareness.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. New Rink / Building Committee – Dave Batterman

After Tuesday's council meeting, there are hopes to transition plans to design documents with the architect. We need to look into finalizing a contract with Stevens, our construction manager. "In kind" commitments have been funneling in.

b. Capital Fundraising – James Trent

Jeff said the Committee of the Whole meeting went well, with some interesting dynamics. He presented literature (brochure, glass block, etc.), and they were amazed at the progress and the \$357,500 raised since December. They were shocked and thrilled. There is still some derision in the ranks, but there are plans to meet the following Tuesday to vote to extend the option until June 2013. Overall it was very positive. Two alders were absent. Jeff pointed out to the Council that the restrictions are handcuffing our progress. There are some big things happening! There was some discussion that perhaps the city would be able to help, based on support for other 501(3)c groups like the Colonial Club. He extended his thanks to the Capital Campaign committee that really worked their tails off. OBHL committed to raise \$40k (by unanimous vote) over the next few years through a fee increase, plus will try to raise other \$60k in exchange for a tournament weekend.

A mailing of over 300 pieces went out to all but about 75 chamber members. The major businesses will be contacted separately. Follow-up phone calls are beginning, and there has been some response. In-kind meetings have had some success, with about \$170k in in-kind pledges. The Lions Club made a \$2,500 donation.

Angie suggested a group photo with a big check. James indicated that SPYHA membership has pledged about \$31k in general labor, \$14k in professional labor, plus an additional \$93k from pledge forms, with a little more than half the membership turning in forms. About \$200k has been invested so far. This helps us move forward. Over 80 glass blocks have been sold, out of an estimated 250.

There will be a figure skating fundraiser. Discussions are ongoing with another potential user group, and we're discussing things with the booster club. They will share alumni information. There is a school district meeting on Monday. There will also be an alumni tournament on April 14 – Angie is helping with publicity on that. We should keep positive, because things are happening.

c. Region 4 Report

Nate attended the Region 4 meeting in January. They reviewed playdown seeding, which is very difficult. There were some concerns during a bantam game between Rockford and Southwest, and some general feelings to let Rockford out of the Region 4 league. The question was asked if SPYHA could send a letter to Region 4 related to Rockford remaining in Region 4. Jeff will do some background research.

In February Mike attended the meeting, which was pretty short. There was discussion among ALD level reps that some league games were not reported before playdowns, including one team of an ALD. Jeff thought the seeding process is very gray, and it varies from region to region.

USA Hockey is raising fees from \$30 to \$50, and supposedly some of the increase will go back to a state/local level.

Patch requests need to be in by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Jen will get that information to Patsy Ziesldorf (scoresheet coordinator) and the team reps.

Degree jerseys can be ordered/requested after April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

All scores for league play must be in by March 1<sup>st</sup>, or contact ALD rep if still playing league games after March 1<sup>st</sup>. All teams are strongly encouraged to report scores.

The next Region 4 meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup>. Someone needs to go from each group. Marcie is scheduled. Meeting should be at Vitense.

Elections for all ALD's and the Region 4 Board will be in April.

Chris pointed out that Region 4 ALD's cannot do their jobs if teams do not report game scores. Jeff stated that there should be some repercussions for not reporting. Chris mentioned that in soccer, the officials report scores, which would eliminate some issues. Jeff will discuss this more offline and provide sessions. Jen reminded everyone that playdowns are a WAHA event, not a Region 4 event.

Another item of note was related to the unemployment law for referees. The bill failed. SPYHA Has a hearing to contest an unemployment claim. Paula has details if someone can go on Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Betsy will check her calendar and let Paula know.

## 6. New Business

### a. Board member conduct

Jeff wanted to remind Board members, coaches, and parents about the zero tolerance policy. With tournaments and state coming up, there will be passionate games. We are trying to raise money and need to stay in good standing with other associations. We're publicly asking for money. We also need to remember this is a youth sport, and we should be concerned about doing right by all the kids. There have been a few instances of people doing things that are contrary to the best interests of SPYHA, including a parent requesting information from other coaches of other associations. If there are issues related to conduct, they will be addressed by SPYHA officials through appropriate channels. Jeff recalled a saying he once read: youth hockey would be a lot of fun if it wasn't for the parents. At times, this proves true.

### b. PeeWee A game add request

Jen asked if the PeeWee A team would add one more game, since they received an offer for a game March 4<sup>th</sup> in McFarland, and they are going to state the next week, and only have one game that week end. They have 12 home games, 12 away games, and 3 extra games in lieu of a fourth tournament, for a total of 27 allocated games.

Jeff recalled that the Board had place a requirement on the squirt level for extra practices for each extra game.

Dave made a motion to allow the PeeWee teams to add one game, plus three additional one hour practices, on or off the ice. Nate seconded the motion. During comment, Mike noted to make sure the fulfillment is communicated. There was no additional public or Board discussion. Motion passed 10-0-2, with Betsy and Jen abstaining. Jen will contact the PeeWee team reps. The practice information should come back to the Board.

### c. Emergency Goalie Roster Addition for HS2 Team

Betsy explained that in January, during a discussion with the high school vice president of WAHA about the number of players SPYHA could have on the bench, Mike Connor suggested that SPYHA consider rostering an emergency goalie, who could play in the event that the rostered HS2 goalie was ill or hurt. Since neither bantam team had an extra goalie, and with HS2 and bantam state tournaments the same weekend, no action was taken. Because one of the bantam teams didn't make it to state, there is a possibility that SPYHA could now roster a bantam goalie as an emergency goalie on the HS2 team for the state tournament. Rostering up a player requires Board approval.

Dave thought it would be silly not to do it. Troy indicated that with older goalies, the risk of injury is greater, so if we could we'd love to. Coach Keegan from the HS2 team approached Troy about this possibility.

Jen made a motion, provided the family approves, to allow SPYHA to apply for an emergency roster exception to allow the Bantam A, goalie to be added to the roster for the state HS2 tournament, pending WAHA approval, as an emergency goal tender. Paula seconded the motion.

There was no public or Board comment. Motion passed 12-0.

### d. Release Request

Bob Houle requested the release of Rob Houle for the 2012-2013 season. Bob explained that SPYHA released Rob to Waunakee this year. Rob is currently going to school in the McFarland school district, and their family's plan is to live there. Jeff recommended they get at least a financial release from Waunakee as well.

Jen made a motion to allow a second year release to Rob Houle to transfer to McFarland for the 2012-2013 season. Paula seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed 12-0.

e. Parking call

Marcie mentioned she got a call about parking during the high school varsity hockey game. She passed the information on to Chuck. The person complained that attendees had parked on grass near their apartment and wanted announcements made. Marcie had no idea how/why she was called. The suggestion is to call the police with parking complaints, or call the high school, since they're the user group in this case.

Troy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paula seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

Next meeting Sunday, March 18, 2012, at 6:00 pm.