

**Minutes -****EYHA Board Meeting****July 29, 2010****Attendees:**

Board Members: John Laliberte, Al Foice, Pat Burke, Matt Clark, John Maddelena, Larry Hagerty
Other Attendees: None

Notes:

- Meeting called into order at 7:00PM
- Minutes of the previous meeting was not available for review.
- Open discussion from visitors: None
- Fees and Budget Matters: Al on behalf of Rebecca and the budget sub-committee presented the proposed budget results and various options for player fees for the 2010 season. In all fee options that were considered, budget shortfalls were projected ranging from approximately \$17,600 to \$32,000. Al presented a document (attached) that outlines the sub-committee analysis and proposal. Extensive discussion surrounded how the board can best promote growing the game using fees as the foundation for growth. Concerns over the appetite to utilize capital simply for fee reductions were expressed by several members. The board discussed the relative value of making one time fee reductions which may or may not be sustainable versus a two year commitment of holding fees flat. The discussions considered budget assumptions, uncertainty of fundraising revenues and impact on player growth, especially at the younger core levels. It became apparent that targeting the NewBee (novice) program fees would be optimal for building a base for the sustaining and growing the player base. Additionally, promoting the house program at the younger age groups was also a strong desire by the board. Lastly, the board felt that a forward commitment to the organization to hold all other fees flat in a rising cost environment would be beneficial to all members and will provide the ability to implement early registration for the following season. After several proposals were vetted, the board ultimately settled on the following motion:

Be it resolved: The board proposed and accepted that the NewBee fee for 2010/2011 will be \$50 for all participants for the entire season; that house fees will be set at the rate of \$195; and that all other player fees for all levels will be held flat with 2009/2010 levels for a two year period. All present were in favor and the motion passed. Al cast nay votes from two members of the sub-committee who were not present but supported another option, different from the final one proposed.

Overall, the board believed that with the projected budget shortfalls were significant combined with uncertainty with a certain revenue source that a moderate approach to fees should be taken. The approach targeted growing the game initiatives and capital management.

Additionally, a player referral discount for existing families who refer "new to hockey" families to EYHA was considered. The board saw merit in the concept however too many logistical and administrative details were not fully considered for the board to take action. The board deferred this topic to a subsequent meeting.

Al referred to the financial reports submitted to the board via email by Rebecca and noted an additional donation from Backstage was received and deposited since the date of those reports (\$4880). There were no questions from the board.

- Registration Dates: The board approved opening registration on August 10 with an initial closure date of September 10. Larry will coordinate web matters and discuss / confirm that these dates will



work for Deanna's schedule.

- **Tryout Dates:** Head Coach John M. offered tryout dates beginning October 14 and ending the 29th. The concept calls for the older age groups to be completed by the 21st and the younger groups by the 29th. John M. will have to coordinate with Noel for ice times and will investigate possible conflicts with high school and other youth sports schedules to minimize overlaps. John M. was asked by Pat to finalize the dates and provide a tryout plan to the board at the next meeting.
- **President's Report:** Pat discussed his desire and the reasons in support of his decision to retire from the position of president at the end of this season. He will be looking for input from the board regarding viable replacement or candidates and hopefully identify someone who can shadow him during the remainder of the season. Al confirmed his intent to remain with the board for this season and next and continue to provide past president guidance to both Pat and the new president.
- **State Representative:** Peter Glass, effective the last meeting, stepped down from his post. Peter and family are moving out of state for a new employment opportunity. Pat acknowledge his interest in fulfilling this role for the remainder of this year with the intent of being appointed in the position next year once he steps down as president. Pat's desire to continue with being EYHA's rep to VSAHA is consistent with his interest in statewide hockey activities and even as president, he has attended many of the meetings. The board took no action at this time but generally agreed to allow Pat to represent the association at the state level for this year. Pat also reported that Robin Hall is crafting a letter to VSAHA outlining local association thoughts on the state of girls hockey in Vermont. Pat will provide more information on this as the matter progresses.
- **VP Travel:** Larry reported that he will be working to identify and schedule the in-season tournaments for all travel teams over the next few weeks. Forward commitments for tournament entry is key to securing spots. Larry reported that he and Rob S. met regarding their respective roles and responsibilities. Rob S. will procure and allocate house, practice and game ice to all teams. Larry will in turn identify team schedulers who will fill open ice spots and manage the schedule as the season progresses. The August VSAHA schedulers meeting has yet to be determined but this will assist greatly in filling in a large portion of the in-state schedules.
- **Grow the Game Report:** Rob Y. provided a written summary provided on the back side of the meeting agenda. Rob noted good progress from the EJ Block Party – should yield 2 new boys and potentially 2 new girl registrations...all under 10. Bring a Friend to Skate is August 28, Saturday at 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Rob is coordinating a September skate at the Essex Rink as well. Rob is trying to identify if there are similar block party type events in Jericho, Underhill, Richmond. Rob is working on a mailer to players grades 5 and younger that can be handed out to friends to educate them on hockey. More to come.
- **Tournament Director:** Matt reported that the Thanksgiving Yamboree is progressing well for the Peewee and Bantam B levels. The Yamboree is posted to the EYHA, VSAHA and USA Hockey sites as available. He is waiting on more information from VSAHA regarding state and regional tournaments.
- **VP House:** Nothing to report. John L. discussed the need to identify more qualified coaches to assist with NeeBee and House activities. John M. concurred and discussed the potential of having travel coaches commit to one session during the season to supplement and assist at this level. The board supported these concepts and Pat asked John to work out a plan for the next meeting.
- **Head Coach Report:** John M. discussed his thoughts on advancing coaching development and the potential of using capital to invest in a EYHA specific coaching development program. The board liked the idea and asked for John to develop a plan with cost considerations for the next meeting.
- **Registrar:** No report. Registration fees and dates were established to allow registration to proceed.
- **Equipment Report:** No report.



- Ice Coordinator: No report.
- Fundraising report: Pat provided on behalf of Carney. Pat discussed the concept of year book ads that would be used to offset player fees. The concept needs a plan and Pat asked Carney to provide a plan for the board at the next meeting. Golf tournament and other fundraising matters were briefly discussed with no action taken.
- Head Referee Report: No report.
- Past President: Nothing to report other than what was previously noted above.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. No executive session was held since no non board members were present and there was no need.

Action Items:	Date:	Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Al will report financial decision back to Rebecca and Kristin, members of the budget sub-committee.2. Larry will coordinate the web site communications and registration needs and work with Deanna.3. John M. will provide a plan regarding: coaches development program; tryout process and schedule.4. Coordinate a coaching support plan for NewBee and House – John M and John L.5. Carney will provide a Fundraising Plan to the board at the next meeting.6. Pat and all members of the board will consider presidential candidates for the 2011/2012 season.7. Set the next meeting date.		

Related Materials:
Budget sub-committee memo. Meeting agenda. Grow the Game report.