

**Essex Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2007**

Meeting Began at 7:05pm

Board Member Attendees: Craig Benson, Al Foice, Will Gonyeau, Kib Horsford, John Laliberti, Estelle LeClair, Paul Murray, Maurice Rosales

Member Attendees: Jesse Giummo, Deanna Cram, Tyler Main, Jay Kagan, Jerry Heath, Mark Manley, Mike Haskins, Frank Fleming, Craig Butkus, Lori Handy, Kristin Romick, Karen Jean, Dean Bartlett, Matt Gleason, Pat Burke, Jill Vespa

April minutes reviewed: Approved by all

Visitor Discussion:

Considerable conversation took place regarding the topic of mites going to a cross ice format. Al provided a brief overview of the issue. VSAHA indicated that they are considering a mandate that requires all local associations to adopt the cross-ice program for the Mite level for 2007. VSAHA has already determined that there won't be a State level tournament for the Mites this coming year. VSAHA has asked for local association support and representation on state level task force to study implementation solutions.

A group of concerned parents expressed disappointment with this proposal and outlined their concerns both from a parental and player perspective. Several commented on the pros and cons related to the players who have already experienced full-ice travel hockey and questioned the purpose of the proposal and whether the developmental benefits were real. Al informed the parents that the EYHA board has not yet determined the Association's course of action and that it requires close consideration of what VSAHA mandates and what other local associations choose to implement. Al indicated that Tyler Main and Jay Kagan offered to represent EYHA at the state task force meetings. Al handed out a document that summarized what other local associations have implemented or are considering as an implementation strategy. Various implementation ideas were discussed by those present. Several board and Association members expressed support for the proposal from a developmental perspective.

One member unaffected by the Mite proposal indicated that if Mites were allowed to play up during a transition year that the board should consider allowing other players the opportunity to play up if the talent is evident and the player can compete at the next level. The Board's position indicated that there was a long-standing policy prohibiting petitions to play up in age, with the exception being within the girls program. On occasion, the board needs to move qualified U12

players up to the U14 roster to sustain the U14 team. In the boys program the numbers are stronger and the policy guards against displacement of players within the travel program. The Board recognizes that this policy may result in players trying out for the Glades. This led to a question regarding players leaving the program. AI covered the VSAHA rules governing this activity.

AI suggested that EYHA form a task force to look at the implementation consideration for Mite cross-ice. Paul Murray will chair the task force and it is charged with the exploring all the financial, logistic and player impacts and will formulate a proposal for the Board to consider. AI indicated that it was apparent that parents were concerned and solicited parental involvement as members of the task force. A sign-up list was generated for those interested. The task force will be comprised of Paul Murray-chair, Pat Burke, Deanna Cram, Mike Haskins, Jay Kagan, Tyler Main, Mark Manley and Kristin Romick. The committee will formulate a proposal for board consideration at a future meeting.

Old business:

- VSAHA Activities were summarized in a written report to the board by outgoing State Representative Kevin Norris. In Kevin's absence AI reviewed the Glades VSAHA Tier 1 discussion items. No action was taken pending a formal proposal from either the Glades or VSAHA.

New Business / Board Reports:

- Treasurer's Report – Maurice Rosales reported on the following: the account balances as of May 15, 2007; transaction reports for the period since the last meeting; the completed transition process between outgoing Treasurer Kay Maloney and Maurice; possible account changes; proposed changes in ice procurement and payment process; archiving past records; bank and legal paperwork changes of account signing authorities; and the 2007-2008 budget process.
- Registrar's Report – Kib Horsford reported: His primary comments covered projected returning players. These are preliminary numbers and do not projected transfers to the Glades, high school teams, cross ice loss or gain, those not returning to hockey and new recruits. Numbers are based on who played last year and what level they project out as based on age and include both house and travel players.
 - Mites – 65
 - Squirts – 43
 - PW – 51
 - Bantam – 53
 - Midget – 42
 - U12 (U8, U10 and U12)– 23
 - U14 - 15

The initiation program brought in 47 new players last year. We are the 3rd largest organization following both CSB and St. Albans. Some discussion ensued regarding recruitment. The total enrollment approximated 350 which was consistent with the previous year but down from the two previous seasons. While there was concern about reduced numbers, members noted similar demographic changes were projected within the community as a whole (and nation wide) as noted by school projections. Some members noted a similar reduction in baseball registrations this year. While no action was taken at this point the board felt optimistic that with improved communication regarding registration notification and a vigorous recruitment plan for the girls program that our numbers will remain strong. Overall, Kib is hopeful for continued growth in on-line registrations. We had nearly 50% enrollment via on-line in the first year of operation.

- Fundraising Coordinator's report – Estelle LeClair reported: Estelle would like help with the Golf Tournament fundraising. It is earlier this year and time will run out quickly so volunteers are needed. Paul will pull volunteer names from the web site database and provide to Estelle.

- Ice Coordinator's report – Craig Benson reported: There is a delay with construction on the rink. We're looking at an Oct. 8 to 15 opening date. There will continued discussion regarding how we begin our season whether it is utilizing other rinks or a later start date. If a later start date, there may be an option for post season play. It was determined that decisions needed to be made on this within the next two months in order to set a timetable.

The meeting adjourned and moved into private session. During the private session the board officially appointed the following individuals to serve in the following positions:

- Head Coach/ACE Coordinator – Pat Burke
- State Representative – Jerry Heath
- Woman's Director – Craig Butkus

Meeting Adjourned: 9:54pm

Next Meeting Date – June 21, 2007 at the Sandhill Essex Fire Station – 7:00 PM.