

**Minutes -****EYHA Board Meeting****June 16, 2011****Attendees:**

Board Members: Steve Schultz, Darlene Remlin, Bruce Garrapy, Matt Clark, Charlie Barwin, John Liliberte, Dan Forcier, Laura Pearce, Deanna Cram, Larry Hagerty

Other Attendees: Mike Smith, Gerry Anoetta

Missing Members: John Maddalena, Pat Burke, Al Foice, Rob Young, Carney Daniels

Notes:

- Meeting called into order at 7:10PM
- Approved May 2011 meeting minutes.
- Open discussion from visitors: Steve welcomed visitor's opportunity to provide input. No visitor comments.
- John Laliberte/VP House provided his update: John expressed the challenges with the success of the Newbees last year and wanted to solicit feedback from the board. Reference email at end of minutes. Discussion: Dan-possible 4-5 high school varsity boys/girls help, John-possible asking EYHA coaches to help 2+ times during season, coaches signup sheet at coaches meeting, Larry-put on website registration option to help Newbees, Deanna- possible to divide Newbees to skate with house squirt/Peewee group to maximize ice time.
- Charlie Barwin/VP Travel provided an update. Schedulers for 2011-12, Mites/Matt Clark, PW/has someone in mind, Squirts/Rob Young, Bantams/open, Girls/Pat Burke, Midgets/Wolfie. VSAHA scheduler meeting in August. Larry provided feedback what to expect at meeting and job description of scheduler. Larry will work with Charlie to get him up to speed.
- Rob Young/Ice Coordinator: Provided update via email. Team tryouts will be Sept. 24-25-26. First practice October 17. Bring a Friend to Skate will be September 17.
- Matt Clark/Tournament Director update: SEE ATTACHED U8 PROPOSAL. Need 22 players to break even. All requests to join Powerhouse to go to John Liliberte. General discussion. Motion to approve. All yeas – no neas – motion passed.
- John Maddalena/Head Coach/ACE update: not present
- Bruce Garrapy/Head Referee update: discussed referee fees, needs decision if board is going to approve higher referee payments or not. Bruce will figure the budget adjustment and report back to board.
- Woman's Director: open position.
- Dan Forcier/House Representative: no report
- State Representative: Open position.
- Laura Pearce: discussed several fundraising options/ideas: would like to do Red Barn again, Snack Bar at EYHA hosted tournaments, letters to possible funders/contributors. IBM donation?, bake sale at Essex Block Party, raffle for signed Bruins jersey. All to be discussed further at next meeting.
- Larry Hagerty/Secretary: explained 2011-12 fees structure as follows. In an effort to better plan the ice requirements for the season the following 2011-12 fees structure is proposed:
 - Our regular registration fee for Travel teams is \$255.
 - 1) If paid by 8/15 fee is \$255 (this can be split in 2 payments if needed- 8/15: \$105 & 9/15 \$150)
 - 2) payment received between 8/16 & 9/15: fee is \$275



3) payment received after 9/15: fee is \$295

Motion passed. All yeas – no neas.

- Deanna Cram/Registrar: Deanna will work on getting registration open ASAP. Dan Forcier has volunteered to step into the Registrar position. Vote taken and Dan was voted into position. Steve thanked Deanna for all her very important work over the years and for her willingness to transition the position over to Dan.
- Darlene Remlin/Treasurer: paid last ice bill for Milton (\$2100). Darlene (with Al and Rebecca’s help) will convene Budget Committee: Al, Darlene, Matt, Steve.
- Carney Daniels: Carney previously reported that the Squirt B coaches and puck bag has been returned. Bruce counted game jerseys and thinks we should be good on all sizes (approx 25 each). X-ice mites will get practice jerseys for game jerseys going forward.
- Pat Burke/Past President: no report
- President’s Report. Steve discussed wanting to continue to use the website for communication. Also reported that USA Hockey has approved the rule change that will move the age of legal body checking in games from 12U Peewee to 14U Bantam.

Next Meeting:

1. Golf Outing Update
2. Budget committee Report

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. An Executive session was held covering Board position appointments. Following positions were filled:

Head Referee: Bruce Garrapy

Head Coach: John Maddelena

Equipment Manager: Carney Daniels

Fundraising Coordinator: Laura Pearce

State Representative: Al Foice

House Representative: Open

Women’s Director: Open

Action Items:	Date:	Responsible:
1. Larry to send Charlie Goggle Doc scheduler list	June 19	Larry
2. Golf Outing update	July 21	Laura/Carney
3. Open Registration	July 8	Deanna/Dan
4. Head Coach to clarify coaching certification and broadcast to membership and coaches.	July 21	John Maddalena
5. VSAHA Tournament Violation resolution	TBD	Pat and Al

Related Materials:

Financial Reports.



John Liliberte's email:

On Wed, Jun 15, 2011 at 4:41 PM, John Laliberte <jplib@comcast.net> wrote:
Team,

At a minimum I want to solicit feedback and ideas on how to offer the best overall experience for NewBees during the 2011-2012 season.

Background: As we entered the 2010-11 season, we purposefully lowered the registration fee for all NewBees to \$50. As a result of the lower price combined with enhanced recruiting efforts we registered 84 NewBees. For perspective, we averaged 45-50 participants for the several years prior.

Challenges: While the increased participation was welcome, the numbers were far greater than anticipated. Participants are divided into three groups based on general skill level. First time skaters require greater individual attention.

While there is no way to predict registration numbers for the upcoming season, I think we have to be prepared for the likelihood that there will be similar numbers to last year. That being said, how do we balance all of our needs and resources and put out the best product and experience possible?

Options for consideration:

Envisioning a perfect world, I'd like to work with Rob to explore the possibility of finding a second sheet of ice. This would allow us to divide into two groups. NewBees 1 for beginners and NewBees 2 for more experienced and/or returning skaters. This is how St. Albans runs their program for example. Of course this option squeezes existing resources and adds costs to the organization. This would also require a change to our registration.

Assuming we still have only one sheet of ice, cut off registration at a certain number and create a waiting list to back fill any openings created if participants withdraw. We typically have a 90% retention rate. This is my least favorite option. I am not in favor of us turning away any child that wants to try hockey.

The third option, and probably the most realistic, is to use one sheet and work toward using our resources more effectively. As an example, I can break into more than three levels. Or I can break the least skilled level into smaller "sub-levels". In either scenario we will require more experienced instructors. We have a lot of well-intentioned parents and guardians that come out and I need all of them, but most cannot and don't want to lead a group. If not for the help of Bruce, Carney, John M. and Wolfie last season I would have been in a world of hurt.

This scenario will require the recruitment of existing coaches at other levels and beyond. It will also require better planning of my part. I'm certainly willing to own the planning piece.

In summary, this effort is about balancing our desire to offer a hockey experience for every interested child while giving each of them the best possible experience in terms of support, fun and skill development. I'm looking to my peers for feedback and ideas on how we can accomplish this mission.

Respectfully,

JLib



U8 Committee Proposal

Goal:

- A. Increase player retention
- B. Keep programming costs as low as possible
- C. Use ADM as the foundation
- D. Offer multiple entry points

Proposal: 4 x 6

House:

1. Keep current house fees level = $\$195 + \$32 = \$227$
2. Power House (Designed for ages 7 & 8 but will allow exceptions on a case by case basis):
Additional cost -- \$100
Same program as House with the addition of:
 - A. 4 Saturday night x-ice style games(6:00pm if possible) -Essex teams vs. CSB/Burlington

** This has to be done right. Music before games, National Anthem, Referees... We should get 4~8 additional reciprocal games from CSB and Burlington

B. Additional 6 sessions with x-ice mites

*3 of them will be on a Saturday prior to x-ice mites games so they can watch x-ice mite games with their parents. 3 of them will be mid-week to get parents used to mid-week practices.

*We should get some guest coaches and invite select Bantam and PW players to help out.

Saturday-

9:00am – 10:15am house will have their normal practice

10:15am- Cut ice and put up center boards

10:30am-11:15am- Power house and x-ice mites play x-ice games

11:30am -12:45pm- X-ice mites game

X-Ice Mites:

1. Keep current x-ice mites fees level- $\$255+\$390+\$32=677$
2. Bonus: Change the Yamboree to a House and x-ice mites tournament

Keys for success:

1. Communication-

Update the website

E-mails to current House players (target 7 and 8 year olds)

Communicate throughout the season as kids join

2. Helmet Stickers for Powerhouse kids-

Make it quick and easy for coaches. No sticker, can't be on the ice until you pay

3. 6 Sessions with x-ice mites--Coach to player ratios-

Watch the weekly numbers for Powerhouse and ensure we have enough coaches

4. Powerhouse Champion

Someone will have to organize the games, breakup the teams and find coaches

Organize the 6 additional sessions – plan drills and games-