

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2012

Audience: Mark Breyer, Rob Hamilton, Troy Giesege, Kimberly Trent, and Jason Ledford

President Dave Batterman called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. DC Diamonds rep Angie Hadley and Coaches' rep Chris Herwig were noted as absent at the beginning of the meeting.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Betsy provided a copy of the most recent ecomm meeting minutes to Board members and asked for advice regarding the posting of ecomm meeting minutes on the website. The requirements of the bylaws are being fulfilled by providing them to the Board, and she noted that it is at times difficult to provide meaningful information to the Board while keeping it general enough to be “published.” The advice of the Board was to keep distribution to the requirement of the bylaws, which is to make Board meeting minutes available to membership and ecomm meeting minutes available to the Board.

b. Treasurer – Paula Walker

November's profit and loss report were sent out by the bookkeepers. Paula reviewed the account balances. Paula has followed up on invoice emails explaining the credits for wreaths and scrip were on the invoices. Next year it will be broken out on the invoices more clearly. Paula had found out what the deferred revenue was but didn't recall the specifics. She will follow-up with an email explanation to the Board.

Follow-up: This was an audit entry on 6-30-11.

The entry for the \$140,000 Note Receivable is to record the remaining balance of the receivable from Prairie Athletic Club for the parking lot license agreement which should have been recorded as a note receivable and deferred revenue in a prior year.

c. President Elect – Vacant

d. Past President – Jeff Thornton

There was recently a meeting with Bassett Mechanical. SPYHA essentially pays for an “insurance policy” for major equipment failure. This year they increased the costs significantly, which is causing SPYHA some pain. Jeff and Dave met with the new project manager, and they asked for an evaluation of the costs vs. expenses and see if they could provide a donation.

e. President – Dave Batterman

Dave reminded everyone of the special election Thursday at 6 pm. Nominations close on Monday, and so far only Jen Kurtz has been nominated. Dave explained that the meeting was changed to PAC at 6 pm, and the meeting must be over by 6:30 am. He apologized for the miscommunication and explained that the change was due to a scheduled varsity game and their use of the meeting room. Betsy reviewed the requirements for a membership quorum: 15 members were needed. Board members count as members for this situation.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

No one was present to report.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

No report.

c. Communications Committee

Steve doesn't have anything new.

d. Region 4 Report

Kirk Wessel attended the Region 4 meeting and was going to email a report, but didn't. Jen was out of town and missed the meeting. Jen did provide some information from the DCHOA meeting. They expect all off-ice officials to be adults (18+) and do not appreciate little ones in the box with parents. If they are, they need a helmet. Board level reps were instructed to send the information to their team reps, and a sign will be posted as well. This should be communicated to away teams providing off-ice officials. She also had a request that the Sun Prairie ref room get hand sanitizer.

Jen noted that game reports must be in by Dec. 30 by 11:59 pm. Make sure teams know. PeeWee C's haven't submitted any games to Region 4 yet. There continues to be a shortage of refs.

- e. Tournaments: 3 x 3 update – Mike Sanders via email
  - Jan. 24-27 Squirt A Full
  - Feb. 8-10 Bantam B committed: Sun Prairie, Green Bay, Hastings MN, Dubuque, IA  
interested: Baldwin, , Austin, MN, Lakeland, WI, Wayzata, MN  
Austin, MN and Marshfield sound like they are in. /For the other associations it is too soon to get a feel for yet.
  - Mar. 1-3 Squirt B/C 12 teams for Squirts
- f. ACE Directors – Troy Giesegeh  
Topics covered later on.

#### 4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. ADM – Marcie Rauls and Karen Welling  
Marcie is working on a jamboree for the U6 – Waukesha has a free one. U6 and Learn to Skate/Intro to Hockey are combined for second session.  
  
From Karen, U8 jerseys are in. Canadians was spelled wrong, but they arrived just in time for pictures. Practices are going well. Game days are more challenging due to missing kids, so they are combining teams as they are often missing a dozen kids. Jen asked if student coaches should be showing up. Troy said Chris Finkler is working on it. Needs for student coaches at U8 will be confirmed with Paul Vilwock.  
  
Jamborees are on the agenda under new business.
- b. DC Diamonds – Angie Hadley  
Angie was absent. Deana Turner has asked what financials the Diamonds have provided to us as their sponsoring association in the past. No one could recall seeing anything. The U14's took 3<sup>rd</sup> last weekend, U12's lost a hard game last weekend
- c. Squirt – Bill Gilbertson  
Bill noted that the Squirt A team went 2-2 at last weekend's tournament and finished fourth. They are 8-5-1. The Squirt B's went 2-1 in Sheboygan and won consolation, with an overall record of 7-5-3. Limited travel won today for the first time and are 1-6-1.
- d. PeeWee – Steve Traut  
Steve reported that the A's are 12-6-0, B's are 7-5-3, and C's are 6-4-2. The B's also took consolation in Sheboygan. There was some concern about the Sheboygan tournament as far as game timing. Our PeeWees were schedule for a 9:15 pm game start – the Sheboygan tournament was an eight team tournament for two different levels on just one sheet of ice. They didn't allow enough time between games on Sundays for PeeWees, so there was no time for awards/pictures.
- e. Bantam – Jen Kurtz  
The B team is neck and neck with Beloit for first place in the league, with a record of 10-4-2. They will travel to Rhinelander for their next tournament. The A team traveled to Waupaca and took third place. They are 4-12-1. Injuries are a problem for both teams. Two Bantam B players are out with concussions, including the goalie. A parent asked if the coaches are doing checking drills, and Troy confirmed that they are.
- f. High School – Chris Gehrman  
HS2 is 5-2-2 so far. Chris noted the discrepancy between the nine games the HS2 team had versus the number of PeeWee games. She thought this was really, really low. There are 21 guys, one of them is out with a concussion and she hasn't heard the prognosis for return. They are relatively healthy overall.

It was noted that supposedly Beloit's Bantam A team has been disqualified from state after being caught with too many out-of-district kids.

- g. Coaches rep. – Absent (Chris Herwig)  
Chris was absent at the time of the coaches' report. He arrived later in the meeting.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. New Rink / Building Committee

Jen and Dave met with SPASD building and grounds to discuss 60 ft. on the western edge of the new rink property that is owned by the city outside of the tennis courts, which are on a 40 year lease. They would retain a 6 to 8 foot easement, and we'd need to control water drainage, as the SPYHA area is higher than the tennis courts. This will go back to the city for discussion. Tuesday there was a meeting with the planning commission to show them the building. They have no problems with the building, but some concern about the lack of parking, which we can work on by pushing back the building a bit with the 60 acres mentioned above. Wednesday there is a building committee team meeting with JSD (civil engineer), Joe Lee (architect) and Stevens Construction. Last Friday there was a meeting with the police chief about being able to drive completely around the building. This is not needed. A discussion with the fire department still needs to occur.

Current plans have saved a big oak tree and made for 150 parking spots and a drop-off area separated by a median. The circuit court has approved deeding the land, and the appraisal came in at \$771k, of which the bank seeing \$582, (25% off) as realistic equity. We have cleared the 25% hurdle for building, and that doesn't include the equity for the addition 60 ft.

The RFP for the loan had one bank decline to bid, one not respond, and one who is diligently working with us. The thermostat now stands at over \$2.6 million of a \$3.5 million campaign. Thermostats are at the BOSP, PAC, and ice arena lobby. The in-kind committee has reconvened. There are lots of meetings, and we're still seeking donations.

Saturday there was a significant roof leak over the ice surface – hopefully colder weather will improve this.

Based on discussion with the UW refrigeration group, it appears that ammonia will likely be the refrigerant for the new rink. Chuck has been preparing tentative schedules for a meeting with the bank this week.

We're looking into working with Focus on Energy. They have programs for energy-efficiency upgrades that work like grants. WPPI is willing to work with us on these improvements, and the local utility (SP Utilities) also has some funds set aside for us to add energy-improvements. Categories include refrigeration and HVAC.

The RAGE women's hockey group is looking to add teams and maybe reserve a full-time locker room. Madison Freeze is also interested in ice time in Sun Prairie.

(Note: at this time in the meeting, Chris Herwig arrived but had no report for the coaches.)

### b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz

The Zamboni wrap and the scoreboard in rink 2 have been reserved. The accountants will provide general thank-yous with tax information to donors. Any big donors will also receive a personal thank-you.

Contracts will go out after the first of the year.

Two different families have offered grant assistance. We need to know what grants are out there - supposedly there may be the potential for USDA grants for hockey!

### c. Family discounts – Karen Welling and Misi Watters

Tabled for next meeting.

### d. Baseline concussion screening

Dave is looking to meet with the school AD to see how the school manages testing, and also check in with Misi. Lacrosse has scheduled something, and DC Diamonds held something as well.

## 6. New Business

### a. HS2 dues adjustment (roster size)

Based on the number of players, the amount of HS2 dues was examined. Jeff provided a copy of the spreadsheet used for setting HS2 dues to the Board and remaining audience members and reviewed it. The dues were recalculated based on a roster size of 22, as well as 14 home games (additional home games were authorized, as they were last year, because of the roster size). The dues cost doesn't show a change. The HS2 team does not share practice ice like the other teams do, so their per practice costs are significantly higher than the other groups. The estimated number of hours was 69 based on times from Chuck – other groups see about 35 hours. This includes tryout ice (the \$100/player tryout fee was credited back to the team dues in the spreadsheet illustration) time as well as the beginning of the season practices which are more frequent and longer. The ice practice schedule hasn't been finished at this time.

Concerns were raised about the number of games played versus the costs, as parents have paid a lot of money. Some games were cancelled – early on by the coach, and then recently Rock County JV cancelled at the last minute, although we are playing them in a hub weekend. Jeff noted that the cancelled games are away games, so they don't factor into dues costs. The team rep, Luanne Kostelic, emailed Chris with comments that Chris read, as Luanne was not feeling well and didn't attend. One other parent's comments were included with Luanne's, and included a request for \$450 dues rather than \$1,050, although no basis for the \$450 value was explained/provided.

The Board discussion noted that there were a lot of kids with less game time, although everyone came to an understanding about the practice costs. They are paying just a bit more than bantams for fewer games with a bigger team. Consensus was that from a financial perspective, dues were fair for what was being consumed.

A review of last year's HS2 schedule indicated that they had 17 games to date, versus this year's 9. Betsy reviewed what was scheduled in advance, the allowance for two extra home games early on, and contact/scheduling and tournament information that she has passed on to the team rep. It was noted that there was a substantial complaint about the \$25/player fee for a "hub weekend" – essentially a tournament without trophies but a guarantee of three games. Dave couldn't see how we could afford not to take those opportunities, as it was much less expensive than a tournament. It was also noted that WIAA only allows five JV games, so reciprocal ice isn't fully possible. Betsy noted that during scheduling for the HS2 team in September, only one reciprocal game wasn't scheduled. Onalaska is coming to Sun Prairie in March, but she didn't want to commit the team to traveling two hours each way for only one game, as there are no other league teams available in that area. She had suggested that the team rep discuss it with the team and then schedule if the parents were amenable.

As everyone on the Board was in agreement, Dave will send discussion information to Chuck to see if there are some holes in the schedule where an extra game or two could be added for the HS2 team at home, at no additional cost to the team. Since scheduling away games also seems to be a problem, Rob Hamilton asked if perhaps someone else can help the team rep with scheduling.

There was a brief discussion of why Sun Prairie doesn't offer a JV hockey program, which was truncated because it is not something SPYHA can solve at this time.

Dave wants a team meeting with the parents after the holes in the schedule are identified to discuss this further.

- b. Squirt Limited Travel – extra games and number of coaches  
SPYHA policy allows no more than three coaches on the bench, but at the time the policy was enacted, there was not a Squirt Limited Travel team, nor did the team exist at the time the original game limits were set, which were then amended. As a result, there are some vague situations on the new Squirt Limited Travel team that head Coach Mark Breyer would like to clarify, particularly with the addition of the extra players that brought the roster size to 17. They players had their first "non-lost" this weekend and have improved exponentially, but Mark could really use some extra on-ice help, and for games would like to always have three coaches on the bench. Troy confirmed that certified coaches had to be on the bench. As far as practices, a maximum of five, with four coaches the ideal number given the number of players, would be acceptable, which would mean there would be seven coaches on the ice for two teams.

Mark noted he loved the ADM website for practice plans.

Jeff made a motion to allow up to five certified squirt-level coaches to help with limited travel practices. Paula seconded the motion. Jen asked about multiple voices providing instructions for players on the ice. Mark clarified that he was looking for extra hands during practices. Motion passed 7-0-3, with Karen, Marcie, and Betsy abstaining.

Mark then explained that the allotted six home/six away games were filled, and then he was subsequently approached by Waunakee, who has two C teams and would like to play, as they have some extra games available. He would like to be able to accept, as they look like a good match ability-wise. Mark noted he had unanimous parent support to add two games. Dave noted that his concern was the team was set up for more practices and fewer games. At the same time, with the ADM practices that were provided as an option for Squirt Limited Travel players, there are extra practices. Mark is also willing to do chalk talks or drylands. Dave also expressed concern that limits travel was only advertised as a certain number of games.

Jen made a motion to allow extra five games for Squirt Limited Travel, pending unanimous parent approval, and provided that they pick up all associated costs. Paula seconded the motion.

It was noted that additional practices are not mandatory. Chris Herwig noted that he was all for playing extra games, so the number of kids selecting this option impacted the A and B teams. He is sensitive to this.

It was noted that there are different interpretations of limited travel – distance, travel, and number of games. Jeff thought it was the parents' choice. Motion passed 6-0-3, with Marcie, Karen, and Betsy abstaining. Steve left at this point.

Troy commented that he and Chris Finkler weren't keen on teams coming in and asking to add games. Before the next season, he'd like to see the Board nail down a number, finalize it, and then that would be it.

c. ADM jamboree proposals

Karen and Marcie presented information on ADM jamborees.

Feb. 22-24 in Waukesha

U6 – 1 team, blue/white, cost free

U8 – 1 each, red, white, and blue, cost \$250/team (responsibility of parents)

The U6 and U8 also have a home jamboree. Search is still on for a second U8 jamboree away.

Jeff asked if this would allow all who want to go. This would, and includes involvement of U6's who join in the second session.

Paula made a motion to approve the jamborees as presented. Chris Gehrmann seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-3, with Marcie, Karen, and Betsy abstaining.

d. Other business

Jason Ledford mentioned that he appreciated the passionate conversations had during the meeting tonight. He thanked the Board, and noted that the Board isn't thanked enough. He also wanted it noted that the Squirt B team won the brat eating contest in Sheboygan. Jason did want to bring to the Board's attention that the Squirt B's usually practice after ADM on Wednesdays, and the ice isn't resurfaced. It's pretty beat up, and he is concerned about safety with the ice quality. He was wondering if maybe teams could be rotated so that it isn't the same teams all the time. The ice is slow, there's a lot of snow. It's realized that resurfacing would push things back 15 minutes. Dave will add this concern/suggestion to his email to Chuck.

Jason also encouraged the Board to think about ADM for 8-year-old players. He'd like to see a task force do additional investigation, instead of flip-flopping. He feels USA Hockey has recommendations, not mandates, and would like to discuss what options there are for 8-year-olds across associations.

Jen noted that USA Hockey and WAHA are looking at banning associations from travel at younger ages, and that the burnout rate is significant, especially at bantams. Chris Gehrmann noted that you'd be shocked at who drops out.

Marcie noted that discussions with other associations was a learning experience, which was explored this year. This will be added to New Business at the next meeting.

Dave noted that the Dane County travel league has nothing to do with what the kids want and everything with what the parents want, and it isn't limited to Dane County. Jeff mentioned that whatever happens there isn't unanimous decisions.

Jason was thanked for his comments.

7. Closed session – scholarship requests

Jeff made a motion to adjourn to closed session, Paula seconded the motion, all approved.

Various scholarship requests were discussed and approved.

Chris G. made a motion to adjourn from closed session and adjourn the meeting. Paula seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 pm.