

WHA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 6 May 2013

(WHA Annual Meeting)

Attendance: John Dondelinger, Steve Bertossi, Eric Jones, Bob Roeser, Gerard Hanson, Zach Stamson, John Wood, Tim Blinkhorn, Chaz Larson, Derek Siddons, Andrea Gohman, Pat Shea

Absent: Jeff Balow, Chris LaDouceur, Randy Peitz (all excused)

WHA members present: Mark Applegren, Todd Holcomb, Marvin Denzer, Jeff Hayes, Jeff and Amy Isaacson

Call to order: Dondelinger

President's Report

Dondelinger thanked outgoing board members for their contributions to the WHA, dismissed them from the meeting, and welcomed the following newly elected WHA Board members:

Brooks Rankin, Amy Schneider, Todd George, Andrea Gohman (returning), Steve Bertossi (returning), Chaz Larson (returning), and Charlie Vacek.

Motion by Dondelinger to seat the new or returning members in the following board positions:

Steve Bertossi	ACE Coordinator
Todd George	IP Coordinator
Andrea Gohman	Competitive Team Manager Coordinator
Chaz Larson	Communications Coordinator
Brooks Rankin	Vice President
Amy Schneider	Fund Raising / Marketing Coordinator
Charlie Vacek	Girls Program Coordinator

2nd by Jones. Motion carried.

Discussion and agreement to post key volunteer positions consistent with previously approved board re-alignment on a new tab on the WHA website:

Key Volunteer Position	Board Oversight	Person
Equipment Coordinator	Comp Team Mgr Coord	Randy Peitz

Volunteer Coordinator

Secretary

Tim Larson

Tourney Coordinator

Treasurer

Open

Secretary's Report

Motion to approve meeting minutes of 8 April 2013 board meeting: Hanson. 2nd: Stamson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Financial report: May 2013

AP - \$0

AR - \$4,997.09

Savings: \$33,082.59

Checking: \$19,648.79

Communications Coordinator Report:

The following key survey themes from the 2012-2013 season were identified and discussed:

1. Tryout process
2. Coach selection process
3. Ice Time (primarily related to IP program)
4. Appropriateness of team level assignments
5. Appropriateness of the WHA being a part of District 6

All of these survey themes and the detailed comments supporting them will be studied further by the newly seated board for improvement opportunity identification and implementation.

Of particular importance, significant discussion was held between the board and association members present regarding their personal views and the survey feedback on points 4 and 5 noted above in light of the difficult season and unbalanced win/loss record of several WHA teams with respect to district play.

Several of the members present strongly urged prompt action to address WHA team level placement for the competitive level teams and characterized the issue as extremely important to improving many of the players' opportunity for development, their attitude toward and enjoyment of the game, and to the health and future growth of the WHA.

The main points raised in the discussion were the need to address the large competitive gap between some WHA teams and other District 6 opponents by potentially not fielding an A team (particularly at the Squirt level), working to establish an effective weighted schedule with other District 6 teams, and

potentially placing the non-A level teams at the B2 vs B1 and/or C vs B2 levels at the PeeWee and Bantam levels.

There was also some discussion around the potential concern of effectively preparing players for future PeeWee A level play should the WHA not field an A team on the Squirt level in the coming year. Other perspectives offered included the view that development would actually improve if the competitive gap was reduced and the players experienced some success to boost their confidence and motivation. It was also noted that the approach to coaching either an A or B team at the Squirt level would be essentially be the same so there should be no impact in that regard.

There was general agreement that improvements are needed to strengthen the IP program to better prepare skaters at to compete at the first competitive (Squirt) level over the long term and that this would go a long way toward alleviating the competitive gap that currently exists at some levels.

In the course of the discussion, Dondelinger outlined the team placement assessment and process:

- The HDC will meet in the May time frame to assess the prior season and make a *preliminary* proposal to the WHA board with respect to competitive team levels for the upcoming season.

- The *preliminary* recommendation will be reviewed for potential changes and voted on by the full WHA board.

- If the approved *preliminary* proposal includes the intent to not field an 'A' level team at any of the competitive levels, this action would be subject to a waiver from District 6 as it would be a deviation from the District 6 bylaws (which require that an A team be fielded at each competitive level unless a waiver is granted.)

- The WHA President and District 6 Rep would pursue this waiver with District 6 in the June/July time frame (there is no formal written process for this).

- Final* team level placements and number of teams at each level will be reviewed and approved by the WHA board in the Sep time frame.

- The number of teams and levels of play for all WHA teams must be formally declared to the District 6 Registrar in the Sep/Oct time frame and prior to the District 6 game draw.

Dondelinger also briefly addressed the topic of potentially leaving District 6 to play in a different district and noted there is no effort or action underway to pursue this option at this time, nor are any planned. He also noted there was no formal written process to pursue this action, and given the magnitude and impacts of this type of change, would only be pursued if a significant number of members were interested, there was due process in the form of informational sessions for all WHA members, and having the final decision subject to a vote by the full membership and would be subject to mutual agreement with impacted districts and MN Hockey.

Motion to adjourn: Siddons 2nd: Roeser Motion carried.