

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2013

Audience: Joe Brickl, Chris Finkler, Troy Giesege, Joe Nett, Jason Ledford, Paul Villock, Dave Carlson, and Jason Walker

President Dave Batterman called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave introduced newly elected alder Dave Carlson, who represents District 4. Dave wanted the association to know he has talked to Dave and Jeff and is 100% behind the building project. He was on the SPYHA board in 2008-2009, when a momentum was lost. The City Council met for two hours in closed session, and the majority of the council wants to make the project happen. He is comfortable with the business plans and believes that the project will have a positive impact for skaters, hockey, and the economy. Dave's daughter Lindsay skated from age 7 through high school, and he was involved in organizing the DC Diamonds and Cap City Cougars to ensure girls had a place to play. He also indicated that his colleague Andrea Gage is also very supportive. Dave encourages SPYHA members to contact their alders with any concerns. He doesn't want people to lose hope – the project has potential to have good things happen. Jeff thanked Dave for coming to the meeting.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Meeting Protocol – Roberts Rules of Order

Betsy noted that there have been some questions and concerns expressed about interactions between the Board and the audience. Usually meeting conduct is discussed at the first meeting with each new Board. There should not be exchanges between the audience and the Board members during committee and level reports. For old and new business discussions, Dave will open discussion to the audience, then close discussion and only the Board will continue talking. This allows audience members to weigh in, but still keeps order in the meeting, rather than a continuous give-and-take between Board members and the audience. These procedures are in line with other organizations, including the local school board.

The March minutes had been approved and posted. There have not been any Ecomm meetings in the last month.

b. Treasurer – Paula Walker

March's profit and loss report were sent out by the bookkeepers. Paula reviewed the account balances. Invoices have been sent by mail to those who owe for unfulfilled volunteer hours. About \$11,000 should come in from these invoices, which is down from last year. Paula hadn't seen any payments yet. There are two people on payment plans yet, one with a May check and one coming

c. President Elect – Jen Kurtz

Alumni Tournament Wrap-up

The goal for the alumni tournament was \$15k. The tournament grossed \$18,708, and netted about \$14k, with \$4.4k in expenses. This amount will go to the capital campaign. The alumni hope to continue to do an annual tournament, and they will decide various recipients for funds going forward. Jen extended thanks to all who helped out. The officiating crew and z-team were all volunteers. Big thanks to Chuck for all his work, too. There were no problems besides some sore muscles.

d. Past President – Jeff Thornton

Jeff explained that the majority of his information will come under the new rink. Jeff shared sad news about Maureen Mengelt passing away. Maureen's son Andy is on the varsity hockey team, and had played on SPYHA teams in the past. Her daughter is a DC Diamond. SPYHA sent a plant for the visitation and contributed \$200 to the trust the family has established to benefit Sun Prairie music and athletic programs. The family is discussing possibilities to honor her. Jeff called Maureen the epitome of a hockey mom, and noted that it was a pleasure to know her. This is a significant loss to our hockey family.

Jeff received information on a spice fundraiser. Since the annual fundraising committee doesn't have a specific chair, he'll hold on to it for now.

e. President – Dave Batterman

Topics from Dave are already on the agenda.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

No committee members present. It was noted that anyone with less than an hour of time remaining had charges waived. All Board members must sign up on DIBS, which is now open for the 2013-2014 season. The committee is also in need of a chair.

Volunteer committee is in need of a new chair.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

No report. This committee is also looking for a chair. Steve was asked to highlight this and the volunteer committee needs in future association communications.

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut

Steve didn't have anything.

d. Region 4 Report

Steve attended the Region 4 meeting as SPYHA's representative. League champions were named and trophies went out. Elections were held. Wisconsin was #1 in the 2 x 2 Challenge. For Try Hockey for Free, Region 4 was #1 in the state. There will be two THFF events in the upcoming season. One will coincide with the Olympics.

Jen noted that the DC Diamonds have petitioned for club status, and WAHA will consider this at the annual meeting. Jeff stated that currently, SPYHA is the lead association, and financially responsible for the Diamonds. The split could actually be a good thing for us.

Jen mentioned that the Polar Caps have been invoiced for ice and referee costs from SPYHA as well as a fine for Region 4 for league game cancellation.

The WAHA book is being extensively revised, including bylaws and policies. Jerry Kennedy mentioned that he was unhappy that a player at the HS2 state tournament was removed from the game and then reinstated by a parent who was a nurse. ALD's took a beating over the seeding process. There was talk of bringing in coaches to do it, where one couldn't vote for his/her own team. This was the way it had been years ago. If a coach didn't show up, his/her team was seeded last. This is just a thought at this point.

Jen noted that Bill is signed up for the April meeting. The Bantam 1C tournament in 2015 is out for bid. Squirt 1A will be open in 2014, as Beloit cannot host it. May 1 is the WAHA Region 4 meeting, and May 18 is the WAHA annual meeting, held in WAHA. We can have a booth there.

An addition is being proposed for the Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame in Eagle River.

Registrar forms are available from Tom Hansen. Betsy will check in with Marge Gross.

The Red, White, and Blue ADM ALD position is still open. Courtney Corning is again Region 4 President, and Jen is serving as Vice President for another year. Kevin Fons from Waunakee is Secretary, and Pat Baldwin from the Patriots is Treasurer.

Bill has all the trophies – PeeWee A and Squirt A teams won their leagues.

e. ACE Directors –Chris Finkler & Troy Giesege

Chris Finkler explained that the ADM Task Force, led by Jason Ledford and Lisa Wendler, has met and talked about what things went well and what could be done better. Topics discussed included:

- Ice times didn't really fit: 1 ½ hours was too long.
  - Joining the Dane County League seems likely, so we'll need a well-thought out plan. Chuck will need to know by the June Bard meeting.
  - The ability of second year ADM players to skate up – no association has a less strict policy than what we do
- Chris has sent out surveys to ACE Directors at associations in Wisconsin, asking them to describe practices, numbers, and games in and outside of their association for ADM-age players. He has 5 of 15 back. He sent surveys to 1A associations and other similar reputable programs. He is getting good information so far.

The ADM Committee will pick up the remaining actions on this. Chris is looking into when the Dane County League starts. Jeff reminded Chris to keep the exit plan for the rink in mind. Timing will probably be a challenge. Other questions like how much ice is needed require answers. Jen thought that Kevin Fons, the outgoing ADM ALD was planning an exit meeting, so he might have information.

Dave added that perhaps a hybrid of the Dane County League was possible, but Chris noted it may be difficult to come in to an already-established program and say what we want to do. Jen agreed this may be sensitive, but

they also may be open to it if there is a strong initiative/leadership. Chris Herwig thought that there may be drivers from Madison's west side.

#### 4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. ADM – Marcie Rauls and Karen Welling  
ADM U6 – Marcie had nothing to report.

ADM U8 – Karen reviewed Sun Prairie's ADM jamboree. There were six teams not from Sun Prairie. The event was well-received. She did hear one parent upset because their team had to play a red team; however, the coaches from the team were fine with it (knew in advance) and they told Karen not to worry about. There was an ambulance called, although not for a player. A child standing on a railing slipped through and sustained a concussion, but is okay.

Marcie noted that no one signed up on DIBS to grill, but one of the ADM dads started the grill up, and that went well.

- b. DC Diamonds – Angie Hadley

Angie mentioned that if someone is a social media buff, she could use some advice, as she's working with the Mengelts to set up a memorial page. Jeff thanked Angie for her help, as we recognize this is a sad and difficult situation.

Angie reported that numbers continue to be a concern for U10 again this year. There are not enough for a U10 team, but there may be for two U12 teams gain. The U14 would have a big team. They are looking for ways to have players commit earlier so they know what they have. Double rostering may be a concern, although they may be allowed to double roster even as an independent association.

- c. Squirt – Bill Gilbertson

As noted earlier, the Squirt A team won their league.

- d. PeeWee – Steve Traut

The PeeWee A team won their league.

Steve is the Northern Edge camp ambassador. We need more mite camp goers. Some families may not know the difference between mites and ADM. Right now, there are only four signed up, while the full day camp has 20. Marcie and Karen agreed to send emails. Steve indicated they would take 2003 newer skaters in the half day camp, but it is NOT a learn to skate camp. Even the older kids are grouped. It is an outstanding camp, different from anything else.

- e. Bantam – Jim Ternus

Jim had nothing to report. Jen noted that the Bantam B team missed the league championship by one point.

- f. High School – Chris Gehrmann

Chris believes the HS2 numbers next year will be similar to this year, as there is only one graduating senior.

- g. Coaches rep. – Chris Herwig

Chris didn't have anything to report.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Rink / Building Committee

Jeff stated it has been a tumultuous month. We had \$80k in the budget to paint the steel structure. However, as we were more than six feet below ground, this was a @A type building, so the structure required intumescent paint so the steel doesn't melt. The paint was \$400k. The architect and Stevens Construction went to work, and were able to pull the building up six feet, making it a lower level first floor and a mezzanine, which removed the requirement for the special paint. It doesn't help thermally, but now the Zamboni door will be on-grade and there will be a front side walkup. It allows the walls to be 8" instead of 14", so we may actually save \$50k by doing this. Our architect is fantastic!

We're still short of fundraising objectives. The building is at/just under \$7 million, with no volume under the retail space and no synthetic ice sheet, to save \$60k. Due to very aggressive bidding, the difference in the ammonia system is now down to 25k, where it usually is \$150k. Sun Prairie Utilities would like to see ammonia.

We're chasing a junior team. They needed to know in mid-April for the upcoming season, but would like to be here their second year. They could utilize ice from 1-3 pm. We're working on an agreement. Their league is kind of like the Big Ten in area.

We've been working to get building costs down. The proposal went to the loan committee at more than \$4 million, and it was shot down. Jeff and Dave sat down with the bank to see what they could learn, and it came down to SPYHA and Sun Prairie Ice being non-profit corporations, especially in light of the American Legion failure. Leadership and the year one income was also a concern.

Taking that information to heart, there is work on a package involving the city and the bank. Jeff thinks were close, but there isn't anything definitive yet. If we break ground May 1, we could be open December 1. May 1, though would be a struggle, and the next concern will be the exit strategy. Planning and permitting is as ready as it can be. The city level approvals are done, and the state should be done in early May.

At this time, PAC would take over Oct. 1, maybe earlier. Jeff does not expect us to be skating here in the fall. Chuck is in contact for early fall ice, and the school district is aware. It will be challenging for travel families. For learn to skate and ADM programs, they may start later. Major user groups may end a bit earlier – again, exact dates are unknown.

We have to empty the building, store the Zamboni, etc., so there will be tons of volunteer opportunities. Some things may be salvaged.

Jeff made it very clear that leaving the rink is NOT PAC's fault, it is on us. We didn't raise enough to make the transition easier. No one should think it is PAC's fault, and Jeff asked that everyone please squelch and correct anyone who expresses that thought.

Jason Ledford asked about U6/U8 contingency and timing. Jeff explained they will get preference for times, as they are our feeder program. Dave added that in the big picture, having a new facility makes it an easier pill to swallow getting out. Communication to parents will be critical. Jeff reiterated that we will have to travel some at first.

Marcie asked if we could do tryouts earlier. Jeff said we need a one-month shutdown period

Jeff explained this has been a rollercoaster, but he feels good about where we are right now, for the first time in a few months. He apologized for what some may see as a lack of communication. It's hard to give details when there is no information available. He thanked the Board and membership for being patient.

b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz

The next meeting is Wednesday at 6 pm. We've received a \$30k anonymous donation, and are looking at East Madison businesses. Jen thanked Gary Brendemuehl, Shelly Smith, and Lisa Wendler for their work. Jim Ternus has been talking to figure skaters, who are looking for ice for next year. A handful of glass blocks were sold at the alumni tournament, so about 10-15 have sold in the last few weeks. The parents and alumni at the Alumni Tournament are very supportive.

c. Baseline concussion screening  
Tabled.

During a break, Betsy distributed information on SPYHA's current play-up policy, as well as the game limit policy and tentative projections for next season.

d. ADM Task Force

Dave Batterman shared a proposal he had received from Jason Ledford:

' Upon completion of a minimum of 2 years in the ADM program an 8 year old player may tryout and play squirt hockey provided there are appropriate numbers at the squirt level to facilitate the opportunity. At NO time will the 8 year old player be able to displace an age appropriate player from playing at the squirt level. A good faith attempt will be made to place the 8 year old on a squirt level team'

It was noted that the ACE Directors were doing some fact-finding about the Dane County League, and it might be premature to discuss this proposal until more information is available.

Jason felt he heard loud and clear what membership told us: look at the ADM program. Jason would like to see more research done on how Minnesota does hockey. After two years of ADM, he feels it's right to allow some game experiences.

Dave restated that he didn't know that the Board is ready to vote on this tonight. Jen had a discussion at the Region 4 meeting, and was given permission to share that Waunakee is not allowing 8-year-olds to play up to squirt anymore, beginning with the upcoming season. Parents could still petition the Board there, but the player would have to be in the top 5 overall for the proposed level to be allowed to skate up. Jim Ternus noted that he's confirmed that Beaver Dam has the same policy, and Jen indicated that the Polar Caps share that philosophy as well.

Jen stated she is sensitive to cases where players started at 3-years-old, and noted that they can still petition the Board if they want their child to skate up, but doesn't feel it is appropriate to allow every child to skate up.

The Board made three squirt teams last year and didn't have the numbers for squirt limited travel, and it became the Board's responsibility to address the situation. There are number challenges ever year.

Chris Gehrmann confirmed that as it stands, any 8-year-old who wants to play up can petition the Board.

Jason Ledford wanted to know how the Board could say no to his proposal when kids got to play up last year. He felt MN kids were playing a lot of games, and 75% of ADM is excellent.

Marcie pointed out that skill level was a factor in the Board's decision – it was all 8-year-old reds who were moved up. She doesn't like a cut and dried allowance for any 8-year-old player to skate up, but prefers an option.

Jason felt that if he had an 8-year-old, he would want the Board to justify for him as a parent, why they can't have the same thing some kids had this year.

Bill Gilbertson noted that there is still a chance to request the option of moving up.

Karen noted that there are parents upset at team placement every year.

Betsy shared that the Board acts in the best interest of the entire association, and sometimes that means making difficult decisions. She made a motion to leave the play-up policy as it is.

Chris Gehrmann asked what WAHA and Region 4 have had to say? Jen said they had said not to have 8-year-olds, but now they are leaving it up to associations and not taking a stance. That could change, though. They have taken away the state tournament for mite age players.

Jeff seconded Betsy's motion, but asked that the ACE Directors be allowed to finish their research. This is something that could wait a month or so. Bill asked what would happen if a parent comes to the Board to ask? Right now, the current policy remains in place, so the Board would hear the request and make a decision.

Chris Gehrmann recalled that in 13 years she had only seen one player petition to play up for personal reasons, and this was an extraordinarily talented kid who will be playing division one college hockey this fall. All other cases have been to help the association fill the roster of an older team.

Marcie pointed out that while playing on the squirt limited travel team as a U8 red was a wonderful experience for her son, it was also on a limited basis. Chris Gehrmann noted that it was necessary to move kids on to the limited travel team.

Jeff stated that there have been cases where kids have skated up throughout the association at levels when there was an association need, and occasionally for an individual interest.

Chris Herwig wondered if it was a good experience? Dave said that is why we're talking about it. While he can understand the interest, there is also the option of the Dane County League that's being explored.

Marcie thought if we're planning to do the Dane County League we should get the word out.

Dave thought the Board should wrap up discussion in June.

Angie added that her thought was that she wants for her kid what kids got this year.

Jeff looked at the timeline and feels like we can still explore options, with the ACE Directors looking into things. Troy noted they are also looking at programs in New York.

Marcie added that there should be a separate meeting of the ADM Committee to review this and maybe consider an altered proposal, something along the lines of it being an option for players at the red level or only a limited travel team being an option. At the same time, the option of the Dane County League may be a great option too.

Jason felt he hadn't heard any justification for the Board's decision to allow the U8 reds to play on the squirt limited travel team last season. He has heard it was a great experience – with 37 hours of practice and 17 games for \$100, other kids should have this experience and he felt it was a lightning rod for the association.

Dave stated that the ADM Committee will take over exploring the options and making the final recommendations to the Board.

e. Game Limits

The information on SPYHA game limit policy was reviewed, and the option of “trading” a tournament for extra games noted. Jen had again received permission to share that Waunakee also has game limits, and their PeeWees are allotted 10 home games, 10 away games, and 2 tournaments. They have allowed some flexibility if offered, but felt it hadn’t gotten out of hand there.

There was no discussion or further action.

f. 2013-2014 Player Transfers (discussion & requests)

As discussed at the last Board meeting, SPYHA doesn’t want to see an exodus from the association. Bill wasn’t sure, though: if people don’t want to be here, we can’t really hold them. It was noted, though, that some associations don’t release players.

Jeff is sensitive to all sides. We don’t want to be restrictive, but we have to protect our interests too. Other teams can only have two out of district players per level, so that mitigates some concerns. Bill noted, though, that some people would come back after a year.

We could leave this on a case-by-case basis. Bill thinks that in each situation the family should come and explain why to the Board. If there is a good reason, it can be considered.

Chris Gehrman noted it’s sometimes hard to tell the real reason. It was suggested that we keep the policy as is, and discuss on a case-by-case basis. We should know more about our construction timelines by June, and no one needs to know that early anyway.

There was some additional discussion on families transferring it. Historically, SPYHA has had no say on families transferring to the association – there is a release from the originating association, but no formal acceptance. This could be challenging, particularly in number-sensitive situations like HS2.

Jeff made a motion that all incoming transfers will be subject to Board approval. Chris Gehrman seconded the motion. All approved. This will stay on old business next month, with new transfer requests tabled.

There was a second year transfer request received for Isaac and Jonah Nett. As Jonah is a 2006, it not necessary for him to be part of the transfer request. The Netts went to Waunakee a year and a half ago, and would like to continue playing there. Only Isaac would need paperwork, and he would be a second-year transfer. Marcie made a motion to grant Isaac Nett’s second year transfer request. Angie seconded the motion. All approved.

Jason Walker is petitioning for the release of his two sons to Waunakee. They haven’t been very happy because they have to go out of the area for goalie development, making him drive, and they really want to develop their goalie. They didn’t come to the decision lightly. Their kids told them that they want to go, to try something different. Jason has done some research and they want to transfer associations.

Dave stated that as noted earlier, the Board won’t make any decisions on it now, but they will know well before hockey season. This isn’t anything against the family, but a desire to know what the rink status is before granting any requests. Jason Walker noted that every one of their friends were moving to PeeWees next year. Betsy asked if they had considered petitioning the SPYHA Board to play up to PeeWees instead of transferring. Jason said they had.

Jeff reiterated that the decision to allow transfers wouldn’t be made until later.

Jason Walker added that they don’t want to face a huge range of talent on a team as SPYHA has. They feel Waunakee’s smaller team, with more like-ability kids, would be better suited for them, and they’re not sure about AAA fees and travel.

Dave thought that they would have a decision on their request by the June Board meeting.

g. 2013 Annual Meeting / Nomination Committee

Marcie and Paula are serving as the nomination committee. Several nominations were subsequently given.

There was discussion concerning bylaw changes with the potential change of DC Diamonds to an independent association. Along with that, based on the desire to have both U6 and U8 ADM representatives, some language

changes could be made to harmonize bylaws with programming. Betsy will put something together for the Board to review.

6. New Business
  - a. Other business  
None

Jen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Gehrmann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.