

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2013

Audience: Gary Brendemuehl, Troy Giesegeh, and Chris Finkler

President Dave Batterman called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Chris Gehrmann, Angie Hadley, Chris Herwig, and Paula Walker were noted as absent at the start of meeting. Angie arrived at approximately 7:10 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Finkler asked if there was information on the start of the season. Previously, he and Troy had run a pre-season conditioning camp, but he wasn't sure if it would be feasible this year. There are plans for a September start. Waunakee does have some availability this early in the season.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

The May minutes and the annual meeting minutes have been approved and posted. Ecomm meeting minutes were distributed. Additional information for later in the meeting is on the back page of the Ecomm meeting minutes

b. Treasurer – absent (Paula Walker)

Paula was absent. Dave reviewed the financials Paula had sent out earlier in the week. There were no comments.

c. President Elect – Jen Kurtz

Kimberly Trent has offered to organize an Ice Melt party on Aug. 5. The idea is an open skate with a per-person charge. The compressor would be shut off that night.

Jen confirmed that moving the meeting from July 21 to July 28 because of numerous conflicts worked well for everyone, so the July meeting will be July 28.

d. Past President –Jeff Thornton

Jeff didn't have anything not already covered.

e. President – Dave Batterman

Dave thanked the crew of 18 people who worked from 8 am to about 1:40 pm Saturday to remove the bleachers. Dave wished Jen luck in her new role as President. He would have thanked Paula if she had been there. He thanked the entire Board for their service.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

Betsy has someone who is interested in helping out. She will get the information to Kathy Thornton. Dave asked if we had any idea on how we're doing on volunteer payments. Dave will request a current list, and level reps will be asked to follow up.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

Nothing

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut

Steve is trying to update information and keep construction and other information current. He wants to show off some of the progress that has been made. Jeff will get Steve updated renderings to share. As things are done or tasks are needed, he'll also post updates on Facebook.

Steve asked about doing a newsletter. He didn't want it to be as late as it was last year. Betsy noted she doesn't have time to tackle it this year. Jen will work on a letter from the president. The big thing is the timetable.

Betsy suggested that we use a postcard to notify people that registration is open and point to the website for the newsletter itself, rather than spending \$500+ on printing and postage. Jeff would like to see some dates included.

Steve agreed this is a prudent approach. Some information can also come out by email and it buys time.

d. Region 4 Report

No meetings until August.

e. ACE Directors –Chris Finkler & Troy Giesegeh

Nothing not already on the agenda.

#### 4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. ADM – Karen Welling and Marcie Rauls  
Nothing to report
- b. DC Diamonds – Absent (Angie Hadley)  
Jeff noted that the DC Diamonds have a summer program. They are now their own association, but will have some challenges, as both ladies who have been key in developing the program are leaving the association, as their daughters have joined the Capitals.
- c. Squirt –Bill Gilbertson  
Bill came across an article that he found interesting. He would like it added to the website and passed it to Steve.
- d. PeeWee – Steve Traut  
Nothing to report related to PeeWees, but Steve noted that the Northern Edge Camp is coming up, and there is still space. They will take registrations up to the day before the camp. Currently the full day camp has 27 players, and the mite-only camp has 6. Last year they had 28-30. They could use more mites especially. Karen and Marcie have sent out emails several times, but will again.
- e. Bantam – Jim Ternus  
Nothing to report.
- f. High School – Absent (Chris Gehrman)  
Nothing
- g. Coaches rep. – Absent (Chris Herwig)

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Rink / Building Committee  
Groundbreaking was a beautiful day, there was a great turnout and a u-tube video available. The mayor, several council members, and representatives from youth hockey and figure skating were all there. Right now there's a hole 6-7' deep with some footings. The subcontractors for electrical, HVAC, fire protection, and plumbing have been selected. Right now, things are about a week behind schedule due to weather and equipment breakdowns. The design is pretty much done, and things are crazy in a good way. In about a month, we'll start to see the building.  
  
Steve asked about pictures. He can get some, but needs to check in at the trailer. Jim noted that Steve should be cognizant not to get people in pictures, as some contractors are sensitive about that.  
  
Troy Giesege asked where the dirt was going. Some is going to Renk Seed, some to state farms. He asked if Angell Park was contacted. There are plans for some to go there, but it has been too wet.  
  
We can't take possession before Jan. 1 because of the bond. Currently the paper schedule has us in the third week in January. Stevens knows that we might pay extra to add weekend work, but it's too early in the project to know.  
  
In-kind is still needed. Anyone who knows anyone who can help with anything would be appreciated. We are fighting an uphill battle on the budget.  
  
Chuck noted that we have soap dispensers donated.  
  
The deal with the city requires that we raise \$142k before closing in order to take possession. We have to raise that or we don't get in. Essentially, \$3.5 million is still the fundraising number.  
  
We're hoping that there will be positive response for sponsorships/advertising from businesses now that the ground breaking has taken place. We can't stop fundraising. We don't want to leave this to people 40 years down the road.  
  
Current plans are to sell the existing boards and glass and buy to used sets for about \$100k – they would be \$225k to \$250k new. The hope is to plan for staggered replacement. If you hear of a rink closing, please let Jeff and Dave know.  
  
Rinktech has been really helpful, and will be decommissioning the existing systems at the current rink.
- b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz  
If you have not pledged, please do. Lisa Wendler is working on finding businesses for the retail space – right now we're soliciting six different businesses to see if we can get someone.

Jeff noted that we will need to put an end date on the glass blocks, at least the ones that will be in place at when the building opens. Likely this will be some time in August. There will be continuous opportunities for glass blocks, but those who want them in by opening will have a deadline.

There has been some pressure on major subcontractors to donate toward the campaign. So far we have:

\$25k – RinkTech

\$15k – Dave Jones Plumbing

\$15k – Faith Technologies

\$30k – Steven Construction (\$80k total)

There are more subcontractors still to be had, and we'll look for more donations there.

Getting retail space sold is critical – it's part of the plans. There are hours restrictions for food vendors.

Jeff asked for a moment of silence, as the dumbwaiter is no longer in the plans.

Steve noted that Middleton Sports & Fitness wants to do something but doesn't like the location. They haven't signed up for any advertising yet.

c. Baseline concussion screening

Chris Finkler continues to investigate baseline concussion screening. It is generally not for kids under age of 12. UW Health would be willing to do it for free for anyone 12+. It would require a computer lab. Chris will continue to look into it. Dave asked how we would do it . . . maybe age group? Jeff thought birth year would work. It could be mandatory for bantams and up, optional for peewees. Tests are done over other year. A quick count estimated 112 kids peewee age and up. Troy thought if we kept everyone on the same schedule, everyone would need to do it. Dave asked if it would require a policy. Betsy agreed that if it were to be mandatory it would need a written policy.

d. 2013-2014 Player Transfer Requests

Dave indicated that we had discussed this before and asked if there were any additional thoughts for discussion. Jen felt it was a good year to consider this. If we release one player, it's much more difficult to refuse others. Bill asked if Capital players needed releases. This is not required for Tier I going from Tier II. Dave was asked if there were more received. Dave said we allowed one second year request, and the other one had been withdrawn. Jeff wondered if we needed to make a policy now, or we can hold off. He thought we could wait to see how many came forward and then decide. Dave thought since we broke ground when we did, we can leave it on as old business. Nothing needs to be decided right now. Steve wondered if timing or practice schedules could change minds. All agreed to continue to table it.

e. ADM program plan – Chris Finkler

Chris provided an overview of what the ADM committee talked about. Looking at the 08-09 program plan, the language is pretty dated. He would like to update the language and discuss with the coaches committee. Chris reached out to 25 different associations' ACE Directors. He received comments back from seven and compared to ours, found SPYHA is right in the middle, with the exception of Stevens Point, which is doing way more than everyone else.

No significant changes are planned for U6 – all other associations except DePere did 60 minute sessions. The first 5-10 minutes was unstructured skating time, which the coaches use for setup. The 90 minute chunk really didn't work out. Making it uniform would be nice for parents. There were some 45 minute sessions.

U8 ranged from 45 to 60 to 90 minutes, 16 to 20 game activities was fairly consistent, so 13-14 league games plus jamborees would bring us into that range. Other associations also took a similar approach to full ice games, allowing the squirts-to-be to play in a few late-season games or a tournament.

Jeff asked if we knew how the Dane County league felt about SPYHA's situation, with needing to travel. So far, Chris hasn't gotten much response and nothing from the scheduler.

There is probably a number of hours required per team, so we have to be careful with that. We will have a hard time getting ice, but maybe we can find something Sunday afternoons. Chuck doesn't have answers yet.

Jen wondered if we could start late like in January? Dave thought there would be conflicts with other sports starting too early. The scheduling meeting has been in August, with league play starting around the second week in November. Karen asked what if they can't work around our restrictions. Jen noted that was Try Hockey for Free (THFF) weekend. Betsy wondered how THFF would work with the rink-based learn to skate – to give kids hockey equipment to try one day and then not let them have it for instruction is kind of a bait-and-switch.

Marcie thought the Dane County League would require one hour per week. Chris Finkler believes that there is a stipulation that the games be between 10 and 4, but he hasn't been able to confirm that.

We'll have to wait to see what's available for ice time. Chris will continue to try to find more information.

6. New Business

a. SP Ice Activities

- Approve bylaws

Jeff is the incorporator of SP Ice. SP Ice will be responsible for rink manager, z-team, marketing, skating director. Jeff explained how the initial and subsequent terms would work. The hope is that most of the single terms would roll into three more years or whatever the stipulated term is. SPYHA still has influence on the Board.

Betsy noted a typo that can be easily corrected. Dave reviewed the various positions. Dave and Jeff explained that creating this rink board was a requirement of our lending institution. Jen made a motion to approve the Sun Prairie Ice, Inc. Bylaws as proposed. Jim seconded the motion. All approved and motion passed 9-0.

- Approve SPYHA directors on SP Ice Board

As included in the Board notes, SPYHA is responsible for Directors 2 and 8, currently proposed as Jeff and Chuck, respectively. Jim made a motion to accept Jeff Thornton for Director 2 and Chuck Wilson as Director 8. Jen seconded the motion. Jeff wished to abstain from the vote. Motion passed 8-0-1.

b. 2013-2014 Registration/Dues

There isn't much that can be confirmed at this time, potentially U6 and U8 could be at the same time, at least for session 1. Wednesdays in Oregon may work. Chuck believes he can secure Oregon ice on Wednesdays and maybe find something for Saturday morning if he can get it. We also have morning ice at Hartmeyer from 5:30 to 6:30 am for \$150/hour, which will mainly be used by the varsity team when their season starts, but would be available for others on game days, and before the varsity season starts.

There was discussion about the \$15/player scholarship allocation. Given the challenges, is this something we want to continue, or maybe reduce a bit this year. There is a perception that hockey is expensive, so offering the scholarship opportunities helps with that.

Related to earlier questions about rink-based learn to skate, it was determined that for this year, u6 would not require skating experience.

Discussion on the scholarship fund was having it at either nothing or a reduction to \$5. There is already \$3,300 in the scholarship fund, and last year only U6 and U8 players applied for it. Betsy pointed out that last year we didn't have any applications to Region 4's scholarship fund, and that's usually a match situation.

Betsy made a motion to reduce the per player scholarship funding to \$5 per player for this year. Jen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-2-0, with Bill and Jeff voting no.

Betsy then shared that last year there was feedback that \$20/card might be easier to manage than \$25/card. Some families chose to sell them for \$20/card so that it was easier for the kids to sell. For travel, that would increase the number of cards to 12, which would be \$240 – a \$10 reduction. Betsy made the motion to increase the number of cards for travel to 12 per family at \$20/each. Jim seconded the motion. All approved 9-0.

c. 2013-2014 Cardinal Cups

Proposal is HS2 Feb. 7-9, as there are very few options for this age group

Squirt B/C first weekend in March, because there has been high demand/response

There would not be an ADM jamboree this year, instead of a home jamboree, ADM would be allowed another away jamboree.

All approved of the plan.

This schedule will help Chuck and Mike Sanders prepare for the upcoming season. There was a suggestion of a widow's tournament for teams that didn't make state. This isn't something that would need to be decided now, so it was tabled.

There is the potential to host Tier I playdowns March 8-9. We'll have more information on that in July.

d. Board meeting location (August through December)

With the rink being sold in August and the new rink not ready, we need a location for Board meetings. Angie agreed to check to see if we could use space at PAC from August through December. She will also see if they have any dryland ideas for November and December. Schools may be an option as well.

e. Other business

Troy Giesege shared that on August 24, there is an event, Mud, Sweat, and Beers, that needs 30 people for an obstacle run at Angell Park. They would donate \$25 per volunteer to the capital campaign. It would be a 4 hour shift. If we thought we could get 60 people we could make even more, but Troy isn't sure we could pull that off. He will check with the hockey boosters too. There is also a discount for participants after their shift. Troy will write something up to share.

Jen noted that Jerry Kennedy, Region 4 director, would be coming to the July 28 meeting.

None

Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting – his last one. Steve seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Reminder that July Board meeting has been changed to July 28 at 6 pm.