

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2013

Audience: Chris Finkler, Mike Culbertson, Chris Gehrmann, Scott Halbleib, and Aaron White

President Jen Kurtz called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

The September meeting minutes were approved and have been published. Ecomm meeting minutes were distributed to Board members. Most ecomm meeting topics are also on the agenda.

b. Treasurer – Gary Brendemuehl

Gary reviewed bank balances. All teams have been invoiced for the applicable tournaments. Team reps should collect the appropriate amount from their teams and then send a check to the association. James asked if there had been any scholarship requests. There have been none.

Jen asked how collections were going. Gary will check, as he just received some checks and needs to reconcile things. He will let level reps and coaches know as appropriate, but there are only a very few who might remain.

c. President Elect – Angie Hadley

Angie extended her thanks to anyone who has had anything to do with the new rink. It is just amazing: kudos to all. She was recently at LaBahn Ice Arena and it was cool to think that it will be amazing. Angie is helping on the grand opening committee.

Angie announced her resignation from President-Elect. It is hard to give this position the time necessary. She plans to do everything else: coordinating volunteers for the rink work, helping on capital campaign, etc.

d. Past President – Dave Batterman

- SP Ice Update

The next order of business is to hire a rink manager. They have 9-10 applications from throughout the US, and they've narrowed the pool to four. They will phone interview these candidates and then select some for in-person interviews. They wanted someone by Nov. 1, but that's not practical. It will be as soon as possible, so that the rink manager can watch major components go in. For now, Kevin Weisensel will manage the z-team. They are also looking to hire someone to do marketing – banners, dashers, and advertising. Steve Traut will be asked to send information out to membership. Likely it will be a commission-based position.

Only 7 of 24 glass block openings will be filled at opening. The open areas would be great advertising space. Lisa Wendler asked if she can pitch the space. Dave said yes.

e. President – Jen Kurtz

For the benefit of the two new level reps, Jen reminded everyone to respect one another and their decisions. Cell phone use must be kept to a minimum. Situations like sick kids are understood. It is expected that the final decision of the Board be supported in public as a Board decision.

The team rep meeting is Thurs. at 5:30 pm. It will include web training for team pages. Jen will review Region 4 game entries. Kelly Chlebowsky will not be able to attend. She put together a handbook, which Jen will try to share. Betsy has a copy she can forward.

Chuck will continue to schedule referees.

Wreath orders are due Wed., Oct. 23 to Terri Benisch. Pick-up will be at Hensen's. This is a dues reduction activity.

- Grand opening plans

Chuck, Angie, Jen, Lisa Henning, and Candy Diaz have been meeting to plan the grand opening from 5 to 10 pm on Jan. 18. It will be free to the public, and there will be door prizes. There won't be entry fees, and both sheets will be going, with 15 minute demonstrations planned, particularly for figure skating and ADM. The open skate will be free. The idea is to show off the arena. There may be some commemorative items, but they really want it to be free. Steve updated the rendering on the website. Kevin Mengelt is allowing us to use the kettle corn machine. The event will need a lot of volunteer hours. Lisa thought it would be important to start

communicating to the families to save the date – maybe send out an email. Unfortunately, the DC Diamonds families will miss it because they are all going to a tournament.

The next meeting is Friday – if you're interested in helping out please contact Angie and Jen.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

Betsy indicated that Kathy Thornton has scheduled a meeting with Sue Culbertson and Mary Jo Blumer, who are going to join the committee. Terri Benisch is still willing to lead the concession stand, but will likely be looking for some help. We may want to work on a transition plan. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

Most cards have been delivered. Jen thanked Scott Halbleib for coordinating the card order. Scott clarified that any of the businesses listed should honor the coupons within the counties listed. There is also an on-line component.

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut

Steve reported that there was a small website issue, and he had to restore some things. The links may be broken in some spots. If you see something, please email Steve so he can fix it. Email blasts on Schwanns, skates, and the grand opening are in progress. Facebook has been huge, and Twitter has exploded. Things are set up to automatically go from Facebook to Twitter. Rink tours will be put on Facebook/Twitter as well. The next one is in two weeks.

Kerrie Sanders was looking for some tournament registration forms updates. Betsy has converted it and made the updates. She doesn't have updated letterhead but will load what she has.

d. ACE Directors – Chris Finkler

Nothing that's not already on the agenda.

e. Region 4 Meetings

September's meeting included the WAHA reps and a Region 4 meeting. Seeding will no longer be done by the Region 4 Age Level Directors (ALD's), coaches will. Karen will get information to Chris Finkler. Either coaches or team rep for each team/level must attend. It's recommended that coaches go. They will have to come to an agreement on seeding – that way the ALD's won't face the heat.

Squirts – Jan. 7, 6:30 pm MIA
PeeWees – Jan. 8, 6:30 pm MIA
Bantams – Jan. 8, 8:30 pm MIA
HS (not sure if needed) – Jan. 7, 8:30 pm MIA
All girls – Jan. 7, 8:30 pm MIA

This was a big topic. Current thought is that if no one shows up from a team, they may be seeded last. Coaches must bring scoresheets. Every game must be entered on the website by Jan. 5, 11:59 pm, in order to be considered. This message needs to get out to the team reps – Board level reps need to take care of this.

Most rosters have already been verified, but there is a new process for sharing the information from annotation to get them verified. Once verification is done, it's done for the player's career. Annotations won't be needed at playdowns.

Coaches will need to take Safe Sport training starting next year, and it requires a test. Betsy will take care of it for the association this year, when only one person is required. They have waived the test this year, so if you want to take it now you can – it's good for two years. Cost is unknown. There also is a policy component that Betsy is looking into.

The officials presentation highlighted rule changes. Charging, boarding, and head contact are now 2 + 10 (misconduct). That puts them in the same category as checking from behind. Two misconducts in a game leads to a game misconduct. The HECC certified helmet interpretation has backed off a bit as it pertains to the sticker – but it still has to appear recent and can't be expired. Lisa asked how this impacts helmets for ADM. We'll know more when we're in the new rink and can assess.

The October Region 4 meeting notes were distributed. Stacy, Karen, and Steve went to the scheduling meeting.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

a. ADM U6 / ADM U8 – Leah Phippen (absent) / Lisa Wendler

Lisa is working with Leah on U6, but they have separate email lists. They have 52 players going to the Dec. 7 jamboree in Stoughton for both U6 and U8. They have a “team building” activity at the Badger Hockey game Nov. 1, with 96 tickets already purchased. Lisa coordinated it so they could get tickets together. Squirts weren’t able to go with the group because they have practice in Sauk. They are also wearing their jerseys.

There are three U8 volunteer team reps that Lisa is helping train to be involved. They will be also help with the mite tournament. They seem to be willing to dig in. She also has someone working with her to take over the restaurant nights.

b. Squirt – Stacy Hollfelder

Stacy was able to get most league games scheduled. Staci Mariani is the Squirt A team rep and Deb Ayers and Sue Culbertson are sharing the Squirt B responsibilities. They will work it out so that the total allocation doesn’t exceed 30 hours.

Tournaments are scheduled. One game may need to be rescheduled.

c. PeeWee – Karen Welling

Three players were injured and unable to go through tryouts – they still need evaluations. Two kids have broken arms – one broke it during practice and will be out 6 to 8 weeks. Scott Halbleib wanted to make sure the family with the skater injured on the ice gets information about the USA Hockey insurance benefit. When his son was hurt in a game, the USA Hockey insurance program provided \$10,000 in benefits, which was great with their high-deductible plan. Tom Hansen, Region 4 registrar, needs the injury report notarized to start the process.

Karen said it’s been a heck of a start with so many injured players. They have no games next weekend. Their numbers are big, thank goodness, because they haven’t had all 34 players on the ice yet, and won’t for a while.

Molly Breyer is the PeeWee A rep and Allison Veldkamp is the PeeWee B rep.

d. Bantam – Steve Traut

Team reps are Pat Reid (A) and Kelly Chlebowski (B). Tryouts are done, teams are set. Bantam A’s have a game next Sunday in Janesville, and based on the current schedule the B’s don’t have a game until the Appleton tournament. Each team has four tournaments, with open dates for deer hunting season.

e. High School – James Trent

HS2 started practicing last night, and kicked off with a parent-player-coach meeting. The coach reviewed his team rules and plans to put them in writing. Some concerns were raised about players driving to late/early practices, so there is talk of them getting a bus.

There is a concern about the goalie situation, but not much can be done until varsity is picked. There is a game that week. Perhaps a goalie could be double-rostered in the interim. Dave said there is goalie equipment in the trailers, but he wasn’t sure of the condition. They did not pick a team rep, so James will act as the interim rep until they do. A large amount of scheduling is already done.

In the first 1 ¼ practice, only 5-6 kids got sick, but there were no pucks until the last 6 minutes of practice, and then they were not allowed to shoot. The new HS2 assistant coach, Mike Mosso, seemed to enjoy working with the kids.

f. Coaches rep. – Jason Ledford

Jason said he had several coaches approach him with concerns about the evaluation process and he will provide feedback come April-May-June, as that seems like a better time to discuss that.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. New Rink / Building Committee

Dave reported that the project is going really well. The roof is one, and the holes in Rink B will be covered soon. Coil installation should start Nov. 4 for rink B, which will be the first volunteer task. Six to eight lead volunteer coordinators will be trained Wednesday at 6 pm by Stevens, and they will pass information on things like policies. Volunteers will be issued hard hats so that other can identify them as volunteer workers. More information will be coming from RinkTec regarding schedule/number of volunteers needed. A consistent crew for certain jobs would be really helpful. Likely times will be around 3 to 9 or 10 each day.

Student section in Rink A is poured. About a section of bleachers/day can be poured. As soon as they are finished with bleachers they can close the north side hole. The lobby area trusses are currently being painted. The lobby will have a lot of glass and stained concrete in a coppery color. There is some interest in the retail space, as well as interest in a pro shop within the facility itself. It may not do skate sharpening. SP Ice is working on that service down the road, the skate room plans include ventilation. The thermo break wall is moving along quickly. The glass blocks

should be really cool. They will be in sets of 30. About 210 blocks will show up on site ready to install, and Chris Van Syckel will have a crew to install. They will be randomly placed.

Everyone should try to come on a tour. The first few were for major donors, but they are now public. The Star has taken pictures. Chris Gehrmann asked if you still had to be 18 to go on a tour, and that is still the case. Dave will work to get access for players as soon as he can.

The atmosphere for visiting teams should be very intimidating. The first varsity game isn't until the following week. Stevens has typically gotten commemorative shirts for big projects, and the hope was maybe that would be something we could do, with admission for the workers to the first game, which is part of the Groundhog Tournament, as recognition. It's a Tuesday night, so there is time to work out the details. All trades would be welcome.

Steve asked about pictures – Gary will share his most recent.

b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz

The team needs to meet – Jen thinks maybe next week. Lisa is working on an organizational spreadsheet to organize contracts and payments. The new website architecture has some great advertising options too. Mary Sheehan sent a \$10,000 donation for the scorer's table.

The Schwann's USA Hockey fundraiser starts next week: 20 to 45% of sales will be donated. You don't have to be a member to participate. The campaign ID is on the website. It runs for 45 days, and then 5 to 10% of purchases going forward are donated for the next year. Steven indicated 300 people have seen it on Facebook.

Day One Pizza night is Nov. 13. Carrie Nesson is taking over scheduling restaurant fundraising nights.

c. Baseline concussion screening

Chris Finkler had 34 kids take the screening. Everyone had to have a parent in attendance. The list is out with UW Health – he's not sure how the records are handled. Certainly kids with UW Health can have it pulled up.

James clarified that the test doesn't determine if they had a concussion. It determines if they are ready to return. They will provide results to the families. A few kids did have invalid results, so it needs to be determined what to do there – they may have to go somewhere to retake it. There was no charge for the screening, and if there is a building charge for use of the computer room, the association will cover the building. Jen thanked Chris for his work on this.

d. 2013-2014 Season Schedule Updates

There have been a few updates to practice schedules, but none until December.

6. New Business

a. Coaches approval

Chris Finkler had emailed the list earlier. He had one addition to the list – Matt Meyer for U8. Dave noted there was only one lead coach on ADM U8 – would that work with the traveling teams? Chris said there are coaches identified for each group within U8. As far as practice coaches and DIBS, he is fine as long as they are showing up at every practice – then he doesn't have a problem. Jen has no disagreement either, but the head or assistant coaches would need to be aware if some only come occasionally. Chris noted that the first people to throw someone under the bus who is identified as a coach and who isn't showing up will be the parents. Jason said with the younger levels and larger teams, the extra coaches are very helpful. Chris said having those coaches also helps build the coaching corp. This year a previous practice coach agreed to step up to head coach when there was a need. There are quite a few new U6 coaches. As long as everyone gets their modules in, and there are never more than three coaches on the bench for travel games, it's good to afford the opportunity to those interested.

For playdowns and state only four coaches can be listed on the roster. Chris will need to work to determine who will be listed in cases of multiple practice coaches. The SPYHA policy is also only three on the bench. Teams will need to relay the plans to parents. As far as coaching clinic charges, ADM only needs level 1, and some coaches are in an off years. James also noted from a volunteer hours perspective, several coaches are already covered. With the Squirt A coaches proposed, there is almost a 2:1 ratio – he wants to make sure some of that help is also given to the Squirt B team. Jason will ensure that they help when the teams are together. Goalie work will also be an exception – that will often include both goalies.

James made a motion to accept the list as presented. Dave seconded the motion. Betsy asked if the motion could be amended to add the requirement of a successful background check and completion of the appropriate modules. There was not public comment or additional Board discussion. Motion passed 9-0-1, with Jason abstaining.

ADM U6

Casey Compton

Suzanne Doody
David Fletcher
Matt Kunutson
Tom Mariani
Shawn Nelson
Rick Nesbit
Casey Ruefner (Lead Coach)
Ryan Smith
Mike Welch (Lead Coach)

ADM U8
Todd Koerber
Jason Ledford
Doug Maughan
Matt Meyer
Shawn Nelson
Tory Phippen
Alex Plumber
Casey Ruefner
Paul Vilwock (Lead Coach)
Jeff Wilcenski

Squirt A
Jason Ledford (HC)
Doug Maughan (AC)
Todd Draws (AC)
Steven McCrary (PC)
Bill Welling (PC)
Aaron White (PC)
Chad Schneider (PC)

Squirt B
Andy Ayers (PC)
Matt Meyer (AC)
Jerry O'Gara (AC)
Jeff Witt (HC)

Pee Wee A
Dan Carpiaux (AC)
Bill Gilbertson (PC)
Dan Rauls (AC)
Bill Welling (HC)

Pee Wee B
Brendon Baillod (HC)
Tyler Carey (AC)
Eric Leckel (AC)
Rick Smythe (PC)

Bantam A
Troy Geisegh(HC)
Shad Kernan (AC)
Tom Lee (AC)
Steven McCrary (PC)
Pat Telford (PC)

Bantam B
Brian Sullivan (HC)
Patrick Miller (AC)

High School 2
Mike Keegan (HC)
Mike Mosso (AC)

b. Jersey distribution

Jersey distribution will be Tuesday at 5:30 at Hensen's. Come to the front door. They will be sorted and picked up by team reps and their assistants. James said for sizes he's done the best he could, and you get what you get. It is okay to add stitches here or there that can be undone if it is necessary. All squirt and HS2 teams will have matching numbers.

ADM jerseys are ordered, and should arrive in time for the first game Nov. 3.

Jason asked as an association/coach, is it possible to get practice jerseys to use to group kids by line. The Degree jerseys might be a possibility, but they're packed. Betsy noted that we would be able to apply for Degree jerseys again if they run the program. They were free.

c. Student coaches

A lot of people have been asking about student coaching opportunities. Chris needs to get something out. It was noted that some kids are looking for this to fulfill service hours requirements for school. Student coaches must be 13, so it's primarily bantams and above, and most usually they would work with ADM. He just needs a room to hold it, and will get something out.

Varsity players will adopt a team and will have participation requirements. Chris is still working with the athletic director on the specifics, but they are covered from an insurance perspective. There has been no additional contact about Junior Whalers helping out. They are covered by USA Hockey, but may need background checks. One coach is billeting three players.

Karen asked if players went through training last year if it needed to be done again. Chris thought it would be up to the Board. Jen thought it would be a good idea, Dave and Lisa concurred.

Chris said USA Hockey requires one age level removed for student coaches, so Bantams can't work with PeeWees. Anyone who is interested can sign up with Chris Finkler. When he has it set up he will email the Board, and Board reps should also share with their teams.

d. December Board meeting timing

Betsy pointed out that many teams are traveling at away tournaments Dec. 15, and there is potential for many Board members to be gone. Board meeting has been changed to Dec. 22 at 6 pm. Steve will make the change on the website.

e. Other business

- Apparel

Angie has looked it, and Elite will do our spirit wear this year. She talked to multiple vendors and they had the best pricing. He will keep what sold best, and there will be new items as well. Angie will send out the order information as soon as it is available. Stadium chairs will be available for sale in the concession stand. The order form may also include what the amount that will go back to the association is.

Brenda Egli is coordinating warm-ups as sets. They are through Suter's. If you just need one piece, please go directly to Mary.

- Request to release Benett Halbleib to the Patriots

Scott Halbleib read a statement to the Board requesting a one year release for Benett if he makes the A team at the Patriots.

It was noted the Patriots didn't release a player at our request. There was concern that honoring this request could set a precedent. Dave wondered what happens if Benett doesn't make the A team. Scott thought that would be a requirement. Jen said that is only a WAHA requirement if moving from a level 2 to a level 1 association, which is not the case. Some associations require the approval of the Board to come in. Do the Patriots know of this request? Scott said yes. Jason said if he was a parent and felt that a player would get appropriate development somewhere else, he would want to see the request granted. Parents have to look at what best for their kid.

Chris Finkler asked if Scott was certain they would have two teams, particularly if there no 9th graders. Scott said they only had two 9th graders and the Patriots are what he thinks would be best.

Lisa said this is our association, and we shouldn't make decisions based on what some else does, but she also realizes that this should be a case-by-case basis. This isn't taken lightly and at the end of the day requires us to act in the best interest of the association and a lot of the kids. James mentioned he had heard that there is possibly another Bantam B kid who is looking for a change, which could result in another loss.

Gary asked if this would be best discussed in closed session. Betsy made a motion to move to closed session to discuss the request. James seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-3, with Jason, Angie, and Lisa opposed.

Outcome of closed session:

The Board approved the request to release Benett Halbleib to the Patriots provided he makes the A team.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stacy seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm.

Post-meeting action:

Coaching:

Due to the resignation of Troy Giesege as Bantam A head coach (accepting varsity assistant position), Tom Lee was approved as the primary head coach of the Bantam A team, with Shad Kernan as his primary assistant and backup head coach. Steven McCrary and Pat Telford were named full assistant coaches (as opposed to practice coaches) for the 2013-2014 SPYHA hockey season. Steve made the motion, Lisa seconded, and motion passed 10-0-1, with Betsy abstaining.

Gary made a motion to change Bill Gilbertson's coaching status (as approved by the SPYHA BOD on 10/20/13) from practice coach (PC) to Assistant Coach (AC) so he can be listed on the PeeWee A USA Hockey Roster and be allowed on the bench during games if needed. Stacy seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0-1 with Dave abstaining.

One of the approved PeeWee B assistant coaches has not attended any of the team's practices. As a result, Chris and Troy have been in contact with other possible candidates to help out the team, and Kirk Wessel has expressed willingness to join Brendon Balloid, Eric Leckel, and Rick Smythe as a coach.

Betsy made a motion to approve Kirk Wessel as an assistant coach for the PeeWee B team, contingent on a background check and completion of necessary USA Hockey training requirements. Dave seconded the motion, which passed 10-0.

The following coaches, though previously approved, are noted as not coaching for the 2013-2014 season:

ADM U6

Tom Mariani – Tom is not able to attend any of the coaching clinics, so he will not be coaching this season (information from lead coach)

David Fletcher – David is not interested in coaching at this time (personal phone call)

ADM U6/U8

Shawn Nelson – no response (email and phone) – per ADM U6 lead coaches, he has not been on the ice

Other business:

Leah made a motion that we utilize the equipment fund to purchase a set of goalie equipment for the PeeWee B Team, seconded by Betsy. Motion approved 9-0-1, with James abstaining.

Heather Schmiere asked the Board to consider allowing Carson Schmiere, a second year bantam, to move up to the HS2 team as a goalie. Ecomm received comments from both Bantam B Coach Brian Sullivan and HS2 Coach Mike Keegan. Both coaches have indicated that they are comfortable moving Carson Schmiere from the Bantam B team to the HS2 team.

Coach Sullivan has further requested that this be resolved by the Board this week, as the Bantam B team has a tournament this upcoming weekend, and, given the challenges that the Bantam B team has experienced regarding rostered players, he would like this determined as soon as possible, so the team can move forward with tournament plans. (They have practice on Wednesday.)

Betsy made a motion to move Carson Schmiere from the Bantam B team to the HS2 team. The increase in dues is the responsibility of the family and they have been advised of the increase. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0-2, with James and Gary abstaining.