

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2013

Audience: Dale Ripp, Troy Giesege, Chuck Wilson, Sue Culbertson, Kellie Feiler, Molly Breyer, Marcie Rauls, Steve Traut, Jason Ledford, Betsy McCrary, Dave Batterman, Jennifer Kurtz, Gary Brendemuehl, Karen Welling, Leah Phippen, Stacy Hollfelder, Lisa Wendler, and Nate Rosin

President Jen Kurtz called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

The October 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.

Betsy has taken the SafeSport training to satisfy the requirement for a representative from each association to be trained. Next year, all coaches will be required to take it. This is another “requirement” that is becoming burdensome on our volunteer coaches. Concerns were shared at the WAHA annual meeting last May, and will be shared again this year. Jen concurred.

The training was advertised for 90 minutes, including quiz time, but Betsy thought it took between two and three hours. The training and subsequent survey to WAHA indicated that there are some gaps in travel program policies. For example, while it’s discussed in coaches training/meetings that there should always be a minimum of two adults present with a child, SPYHA doesn’t have a formal policy stating that.

Background checks were quite painful this year – it took a lot of effort to reach coaches and get them done. Three coaches were removed from the coaching list as indicated in the minutes follow-up, because they did not complete background checks; however, two of them indicated that they would not be able to complete training due to other commitments. Betsy was unsuccessful in reaching the third despite email and phone messages, although coaches had confirmed that he had not been on the ice.

Betsy has received a scholarship request, and it will be added to the agenda under New Business; however, it will require going to closed session.

b. Treasurer – Gary Brendemuehl

Gary reviewed bank balances. He was asked why the balance in the PayPal account was so high: it’s because that account has a higher interest rate. The equipment fund had been tapped for a \$55 goalie stick suitable for ADM, but Gary still needs to issue the check for the goalie equipment. Refunds will be discussed later.

c. President Elect – Karen Welling

The new president elect had nothing to report.

d. Past President – Dave Batterman

- SP Ice Update

The board is meeting weekly and has hired Lisa Wendler as the advertising director for SP Ice. She will work closely with Paul Swalve and Mat Harms. They have also hired MBE, a local Sun Prairie firm, as accountants. Phone interviews for the rink manager were held, and they have narrowed it down to two. The full board will interview the two candidates.

e. President – Jen Kurtz

Jen thanked to Board for handling the email votes. She appreciated everyone stepping up and getting the business items addressed. She also recently received a call from Terri Benisch, who is willing to take the training – a one-day class - to receive a food handling license, something we need for the concession stand. She and Brian are looking to start transitioning the concession stand management to others. Anyone interested, particularly young families, should contact Jen. SPYHA will retain the concession stand earnings, which will be very important. Jen thanked Terri and Brian for continuing to serve in this important role.

If anyone has not received their pledge invoice, please let ecomm know. We are trying to figure out if they are going out or not.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

Sue Culbertson and Mary Jo Blumer have met with Kathy Thornton and are waiting for things to add to DIBS. They can be added to the “vcomm” email list. Grand opening hours will be added soon. Jason asked if there would be a New Year’s Eve event. Dave explained that contrary to various news reports, SPYHA was not hosting any skating events/US Bank Eve activities this year.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

Nate Rosin indicated that nobody likes the cards. He is willing to be on the fundraising committee after the season. Gary agreed to help with it. Betsy handed off some undelivered cards to Lisa for ADM families. Jason asked if there were extra cards for families who were in New to SPYHA Hockey and would continue: there are. Betsy distributed cards to most families in the association personally, and she thought that most people were receptive to the cards. Marcie Rauls shared that they are helpful if you keep them in the car.

Other things have been tried over the years. For years SPYHA had a raffle, and even a car raffle which required a Class A license. We have maintained both licenses just in case. The car raffle tickets were \$50 each, which was a very hard sell. It was suggested that dues just be raised another \$200 across the board. Betsy noted that fundraising cards are a family commitment, rather than a per player assessment. The other challenge is to find something that would raise the kind of money the cards do (\$15/card) while still keeping hockey affordable.

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut

The practice schedule is on the website now, and Steve will email the team reps to double check the entries. Jen likes the new “container” look on the website. Lisa asked Steve for help adjusting the schedule for ADM U8 to reflect the two white and one blue schedule. Steven can show her. He also needs to update the “vcomm” distribution list.

Jen noted that we need to get advertising on the website – a big reason for the new “containers” system on the website. She asked Steve to put up whatever Lisa provides. He needs details/specifics for what is on the front page and what is on the tournament page.

d. ACE Director – Troy Giesegh

Troy handed concussion testing results to Betsy for distribution. He is still in contact with coaches regarding training modules. Jen asked about student coaches training. Chuck asked if an on-ice component was needed – it is not. Jason asked if it could be an online module. There isn’t anything now, and with the younger ages there is value in discussions. Info will go to the team reps when times are worked out. Focus will be to assist squirt and ADM, although it might be possible for high school 2 players to work with peewees.

e. Region 4 Meetings

There were no Region 4 meetings since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is Wed., Nov. 20 at 7 pm at MIA. Jen will send the Board an updated list.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

a. ADM U6 / ADM U8 – Leah Phippen / Lisa Wendler

Leah noted that there are some minor adjustments needed for jerseys and equipment, but otherwise she has nothing to report.

Lisa reported the Dane County League is going well and parents have had rave reviews. The Badger game was fun, with seats in the center section of the third row. Sun Prairie is on the waiting list to do the on-ice “mini-mite” game for next year.

Lisa has a 13-year-old who want to do U8. She can skate, but hasn’t played hockey. Lisa will check with the Dane County League about any restrictions. It might be that the skater could do the team segment for Learn to Skate thorough SP Ice in late January. Marcie Rauls noted that in her experience a player that old wouldn’t be allowed in jamborees. Maybe practice with the Diamonds would be more appropriate. Jason asked if Nate Rosin could check in with the Diamonds about that possibility. He also added that the look on the kids’ faces indicated that they were loving the Dane County League as well. Jen asked if anyone had any experience with the ref system that the Patriots were using. No one had seen any games there to comment.

b. Squirt – Stacy Hollfelder

A team is 1-2-1 and had no games this weekend, as Waunakee’s B team cancelled their only game. The B team is 0-3-1. Both teams are going to tournaments in mid-December in Tomah. Jason is planning a team activity based on the schedule, when it is available.

- c. PeeWee – now vacant
Karen reported that both teams went to a tournament in Cedar Point. The A team is 1-5, winning one game at the tournament. Most games have been close: if games were just two periods long they'd have a winning record. The B team is 0-5, but Lisa said the kids are improving and having fun. They think they have identified a kid who really wants to play goalie. Two players are out hurt. It was a good weekend to have both teams together. One thing that was interesting was the requirement that the teams supply someone to man the penalty box. The Patriots said no, and the tournament hosts said okay and did it themselves, but thoughts were that it was odd to require teams to have off-ice duties when they are paying to attend a tournament.
- d. Bantam – Steve Traut
The A team is 6-1-1, and lost three players to varsity – one each from forwards, defense, and goalie. The B team is 1-5-0 after attending an A tournament in Appleton, where the scores tallied 46-4 cumulatively. Jen added that both teams now have one goalie.
- e. High School – absent (James Trent)
The team has a goalie, with about 12 skaters remaining, plus one who registered today. Betsy noted James has indicated they need to pick a team rep. Jen will attend a team meeting if requested.
- f. Coaches rep. – Jason Ledford
Jason has nothing at this time, items are on the agenda later.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Rink / Building Committee
Piping project for Rink B has been lead by Scott Hamale and Jay Harbort. They were there the whole time as volunteers, and the project finished five day earlier than scheduled. Rink Tec also supplies a contract crew to lead the work. The Rink A project should start Dec. 2, hopefully with the same success, and this time no tying wires. The building is now temporarily heated. Next tasks will be painting and rubber flooring. No solid dates are available yet, but Dave should know more tomorrow. There is an urgent need for someone with a construction background tomorrow. Scott and Jay aren't available. Jason suggested trying Todd Draws or Dave Ziesldorf. Dave apologized for all the ebcasts, but they are the best way to get the word out.

Stevens is planning to turn over the building by Dec. 31, but it could be as easily as Dec. 21. That doesn't mean volunteering won't be necessary in the meantime. Asphalt should go in this week, but the rain may have had an impact. The sound system will go into Rink A soon. Most of the drywall is up and the lobby is pretty much enclosed. The retail space is a gray box, and they are working on a tenant. There is a ton of work to do, we're just not sure when we can do it, so please stay tuned. In addition three semi-trailers are stuffed and have to be unloaded. Stevens was asked to do locker rooms in sets so that we can start working on them gradually instead of having them all to do at once.

Jen said if you haven't been through the rink, or if it has been a while, request a tour. Jason asked how the budget is looking. Currently they are over \$134k, but about 15 proposals came in on Friday. We have the \$142k needed for mortgage money, and expect to be able to get back down. Nate Rosin asked if the 2-9 pm times would go on for other projects. Dave explained that was a Rink Tec staff request, and we can set our own hours for other activities going forward.

Steve was on the last tour, and will get pictures up. Dave mentioned that Rink Tec has put in 100's, possibly 1000 rinks, and said we were the second best arena they have ever worked on.

- b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz
Lisa hopes that everyone doesn't ditch us, because the committee will stay together even though she has taken the role of marketing director. It is only a part time position. Lisa and Betsy have a lot to work on contract-wise. Jen welcome thoughts and suggestions, and noted there are still volunteer hours available for committee work. We've sold more glass blocks recently, and there are many available. Sales will continue even after we're in the rink.

The Day One Pizza Night raised \$228.

Zimbrick and the Nitty Gritty toured. Please let her know if you have other business suggestions/leads. Steve mentioned Middleton Cycle and Fitness might be interested in a tour.

- c. 2013-2014 Season Schedule Updates
Chuck said now that HS2 numbers are known, he will work on a 3-way rotation with bantams instead of HS2 practices alone. This helps keep costs more reasonable with a smaller team. He has a master schedule which will be shared with team reps after it is proofed, but he needs them to check it as well. ADM schedule is done with only minor changes.

d. Grand opening update

A meeting needs to be scheduled. Chuck proposed Friday at 9 am. The schedule needs to be finalized so that it can go on DIBS. There will be free admission and drawings for door prizes. Sunday there will also be a varsity skate with the cardinals (Jan. 19), likely 1-3:15 pm, and tours of the varsity locker room will be included.

6. New Business

a. Houle Release

Paul Houle is ADM-age and his family lives on the outskirts of Sun Prairie. His dad is the ACE Director at McFarland, and the kids are all open enrolled in McFarland schools, with plans to move at some point. Dave made a motion to release Paul Houle to McFarland. Lisa seconded the motion. It was noted that this is a one-year release, for the 2013-2014 season only. There was no additional public comment or board discussion, and all approved.

b. ADM second session registration

Betsy explained there are registration options available for second session. Players who were in New to SPYHA Hockey first session can continue by joining ADM U6. Betsy has a way to switch registrations to indicate this – families should NOT re-register, as this causes challenges with our USA Hockey numbers. Instead, she has used a form that families can fill out to indicate their preference to either continue or to return equipment and be done. The form also allows families who continue to be reminded of the fundraising and volunteer hours commitments. She will get last year's form to Leah for updating.

Jason asked to confirm the number of volunteer hours for ADM. It is 7.5 hours per session, or 15 hours for both session. Volunteer hours are also a family commitment, so the number doesn't increase, but tracks with the oldest player.

Flyers for learn to skate have been designed by Lisa Henning for the SP Ice-led programs, and will be going out soon. U6 skaters looking for more practice could also enroll in a skating class. On Saturdays SP Ice has an extra hour that would be open to both U6 and U8 skaters that would strictly be for skating improvement. There is separate programming and registration from SPYHA. The plan is for it to be led by figure skating coaches, rather than volunteer hockey coaches. Jason thought coaches might be willing to pitch in too. Jen thought this could be explored, and if necessary student coaches could help, too.

The city will also have a learn to skate program.

Jason wondered why the figure skating director was leading a learn to skate for kids who wanted to play hockey, rather than having hockey lead it. Chuck explained that we had agreed that SP Ice would run the program for beginning skaters.

Jason said that we have taken kids who can't skate in the ADM program before. Chuck explained that per the SPYHA-SP Ice agreement, players should be able to skate before joining ADM, and if they need to learn to skate, they should go through the SP Ice Learn to Skate program. The plan had been for this to be the year to begin that, but because the rink is opening mid-season, we again had a learn to skate program in the form of the New to SPYHA Hockey program; however, that deeply discounted program was not going to be offered in second session. A blurb to cross reference the two programs on each website would be helpful. Jen didn't see that as a problem.

Jason asked if the long term goal is for SP Ice to run the learn to skate for everyone. Lisa explained that they have hired a skating director to do that. Jason asked if USA Hockey had a Learn to Skate (LTS) program. Chuck explained some history and noted that USA Hockey and US Figure Skating Association had actually worked together on a learn to skate program that got skaters to a point with skating basics where they then could choose their path, and at that point, when they had some skating skill, they could move to ADM. It would be something like LTS 1 and LTS 2 as a pre-U6 program.

Jason wondered about older kids . . . if they are over 6, do they skip U6 and go to U8?

Lisa noted that one way to make this work well going forward would be to start a LTS program in September, so that by the time ADM started, they would be ready for the first session. Jason worried that someone could be "stuck" in a LTS class and not be able to play hockey if they wanted to. Chuck said the start point is challenging. Jen remembers that skaters used to have to "test out" of a level of LTS. Lisa explained that in previous years, the number of kids who couldn't skate could outnumber those who could, which made it hard on the coaches. Jen didn't think it was unreasonable to say, if you're new to skating, start here as an approach. Stacy mentioned that her daughter did a similar LTS program to what's being proposed in hockey skates, and there was a 2:1 ratio of students to instructors, which was great. Jen also stated that this is what we had agreed upon. Chuck didn't think it should be a big issue for 4- and 5-year olds.

For older kids, this actually opens up some real possibilities where we have struggled before: 11-, 12-, 13-year-olds could take LTS (sessions are planned for older skaters too), and then potentially they could be incorporated into a travel program now, maybe just for practices, but perhaps at some point rec/house leagues could redevelop. Chuck noted that LTS sessions could go up to three times a week, or four hours.

Dave said we have lots of options. Chuck said there are plans for LTS for everyone from age 4 to adult. Right now, a 10-year-old who goes from LTS to travel hockey has a challenge to be successful. Jen agreed that the long term goal of a rec league would be awesome. There are local associations with teams at the U14 and U10 level. For a 7-year-old, maybe for this year, we'd look at placement in U8, but generally speaking, if they can't skate, they should go to LTS from this point forward.

c. Dues refunds for varsity players

The registration information indicates the following:

For players that leave our association after registration/tryouts because the player has made a high school varsity team, travel team skating dues will be refunded, minus the nonrefundable registration fee, the \$55 contributions for the capital and scholarship funds, and an amount determined to be commiserate with the player's on-ice participation. Volunteer requirements and mandatory fundraising requirements will also be waived. Refunded amounts will be issued by check from SPYHA within 90 days of the player leaving the association. Notification of this situation is requested in writing/by email to the Executive Committee before any refunds will be issued.

Based on that, SPYHA could charge both the registration fee collected AND also charge for the ice time used; that would be good for SPYHA, but not so great for the families, who have been hit by quite a bit in varsity team expenses on top of what they are waiting for to be refunded. Ecomm had already received one email early Saturday morning wanting their refund right away. Although technically families should contact SPYHA, it would be gracious for us to initiate contact and process refunds promptly.

Travel registration payment fees through Pucksystems were about \$5 per person. HS2 ice cost came to \$95 per player based on the number of registrations, Bantams were more because of more practice time, tryouts, and games, at about \$185. Jason made a motion for SPYHA to refund the amount paid for first half dues less \$155 for early registration or \$255 for late registration for HS2 players who made varsity, and for \$240 for bantam players who made varsity. Karen seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The mandatory fundraising amount paid will be adjusted/refunded as well, based on the number of cards returned. All approved.

d. Possible team roster adjustments

Based on the numbers of both bantam teams being fairly even (one at 14, one at 16), comments from both teams' coaches solicited by Jen and confirming that they didn't feel the need for changes, and because no other requests had been formally received, no adjustments were proposed.

e. Other business

Jason asked for clarification on the five extra games allowance. As noted in the registration packet, they are for five away, no charge games. Jason was wondering if 10 of 14 kids on a team wanted to go play more games, could they do so, if they didn't claim to be a SPYHA team. Troy said they could play as much as they wanted to after the season. Jason asked about practices, too – if it is something that is not affiliated with a team, could he take other players for an extra practice. Troy was skeptical of picking and choosing. Jen asked if this would be offered to the whole team? Dave clarified that if you bought 10 hours of ice, then it's your ice. Jen used early release as an example – it was purchased ice. Chuck reviewed the WAHA guideline, which defined after the season as "last scheduled game." On page 42.

Jason was hoping to have this confirmed with WAHA.

Betsy encouraged a cautious approach with families as it related to other games, as she personally experienced some grief when questioning every possible game, including games swapped for a tournament, being added to the schedule, especially when some families had said no.

Dave wanted to note that Chuck has gone well above and beyond his obligations as SPYHA's rink manager. He wanted to retire over a year ago, but has not only stayed on through this transition, the temporary rink office is at his house and he hosts all sorts of meetings. Thank you Chuck!

- Scholarship request

Karen made a motion to go to closed session to discuss the scholarship request. Leah seconded, and all agreed. The audience was excused.

After the situation was discussed, a scholarship was offered, with the requirement that mandatory fundraising and volunteer hour obligations for the travel level apply.

Lisa made a motion to adjourn both closed session and the meeting. Stacy seconded the motion. All approved Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 pm.

Post-meeting action:

Coaching:

The original HS2 assistant coach approved by the Board, Mike Mosso, has decided to work with the HS varsity team as an assistant coach. Practice times are such that it isn't really possible to work with both teams, and Mike Mosso's preference is the varsity program.

Tyler Carey approached HS2 Coach Mike Keegan about helping out.

Dave made a motion to approve Tyler Carey as an assistant coach for the HS2 team, seconded by James. Motion passed.

Other business:

Darin Gardner asked the Board to consider allowing Dawson Gardner, a second year bantam and high school freshman, to move up to the HS2 team. Ecomm received comments from both Bantam B Coach Brian Sullivan and HS2 Coach Mike Keegan were amenable to the change. (Note: Board approval required because player registered and tried out as a bantam player, and was placed on a bantam team.)

Gary made a motion allow Dawson to transfer from the Bantam B team to the HS2 team. The increase in dues is the responsibility of the family. Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Board agreed to move the December meeting back to December 15 at 7 pm due to multiple members having family commitments on December 22.