

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2013

Audience: Alison Veldkamp, Troy Giesege, Michael Sanders, and Nate Rosin

President Jen Kurtz called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

The November meeting minutes were approved and have been posted on the website. 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. There is some concern about pledge payments being paid on time. Additional collection calls/follow-up needed. If anyone should be getting invoices and isn't, please let Gary know. Dave noted that SPYHA has met with MBE about accounting. MBE has been hired by SP Ice. Wipfli will still be doing end of year audits. MBE is located in Sun Prairie. The current accountant is on the west side of Madison.

c. President Elect – Karen Welling

Karen thanked people who have been helping, and made a plea for more help. There is so much to paint!

d. Past President – Dave Batterman

- SP Ice Update

Dave apologized for the frequency of the eblasts. Information is coming available on a daily basis, and this is the most efficient way of communication. We are making progress on painting: about 2/3 down the main corridor and just starting down the varsity corridor. It looks like one more day of work is needed on Rink A, as they ran out of sand over the weekend. Tuesday the boards are being delivered, and work will start as soon as we get a schedule from Athletica. Stevens' donation is now up to \$80k – it's important that people recognize that. They have been absolutely fantastic, covering the priming and texturing of the main upstairs corridor, painting the upstairs spine, and the interior red railings and exterior black railings to ensure the building looks finished.

Plans are to fire up the ice equipment Jan.2. We will be very busy between Christmas and New Year's. We are going for occupancy around Dec. 20. That requires all life-safety equipment, toilets, and sinks be operational, and then it is no longer a construction site and theoretically we could have volunteers younger than 18, but not much younger – too much supervision would be required. The question was asked about timing for future volunteer shifts. Dave is pushing for evening shifts around 4 or 5 pm to make things easier.

Jen clarified that the occupancy is not the same as taking possession of the building. She thinks the occupancy will be pushed back due to a delay in the arrival of the vanities.

e. President – Jen Kurtz

Jen thanked everyone who has stepped up to work at the rink. Some have really put in a lot of time. Jen extended a huge thank you again to Chuck, who will be retiring soon. She also thanked Dave and Jeff for all their work and the early SP Ice meetings. She thanked Gary for his work – Gary recently pulled an all-nighter for SPYHA.

Student coaching training for HS2 and bantam-age players will be Thurs., Dec. 19. She is still working on a location. Information has been communicated to team reps. Lisa asked that the information be sent to her as well, as there are some older siblings of kids in ADM who no longer skate but might be interested as well.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

No updates.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

Nate Rosin mentioned that he and Gary talked last night. No further updates.

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut

Ryan Smith will be SP Ice webmaster. Steve echoed Dave's sentiment: things have been fast and furious with posting everything. Lisa and Steve have worked to get hotel information on the website. Contract work is underway and restaurants will be next.

- d. ACE Director – Troy Giesege
Troy reiterated that the student coaches meeting is Thursday. Everything else is later in the agenda.

- e. Region 4 Meetings
Gary is slated to attend the next meeting. The new seeding process should be interesting. Copies of score sheets will be needed. A coach from each team should attend, with team rep as back-up should a coach not be available. It could be challenging for B teams, since they are in various leagues and may not have many common opponents at their levels. SPYHA was awarded four play down games on Sunday.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. ADM U6 / ADM U8 – Leah Phippen / Lisa Wendler
Leah is working on collecting information from New to SPYHA Hockey families to see who is continuing for next session. Ten have confirmed so far, one will move to U8, and four are not continuing (one going to McFarland, one to India, and one has an older sibling playing elsewhere).

Lisa and Leah have been asked if SPYHA has a policy on parents dropping off their ADM player and leaving. Jen confirmed SPYHA does not have a policy forbidding it; however, someone responsible should be available in case the child needs something. Betsy noted that coaches have specifically requested that parents be present in the past, because if a child has to leave the ice (sick, bathroom, etc.), losing a coach from the ice to care for one child isn't fair to everyone else.

Some New to SPYHA families have volunteered at the rink and want to make sure they can get volunteer credit for this. James asked for clarification on this, as he thought that rink work wasn't eligible for volunteer credit. Families who pledged volunteer labor hours would not also receive volunteer credit; however, if you didn't pledge volunteer labor, helping would qualify for volunteer credit.

Leah and Lisa asked when invoices would be sent out for second session and if there would be a similar check-in/payment table. There will, and Gary will work on invoices in the next few weeks.

Lisa has given out all the U8 cards – she has one more who is no longer skating, it appears. The child also had been on the non-payment list, so that might explain why. Lisa will confirm with the coaches and get back to Gary.

Lisa confirmed that we can add teams to the Dane County League. This will allow some movement of levels. The experience has been fantastic. Mike will talk more about tournaments later in the agenda. Waukesha will be their second tournament/jamboree, but we're hoping for better game times. The Stoughton jamboree was really fun, and they did a nice job. It was only one day, which was nice. The Dane County League is done at the end of February, and then there will be the tournament/jamboree.

- b. Squirt – Stacy Hollfelder
The A team finished third in Tomah, and the B team finished sixth. It was an okay tournament. The B level teams had most of their games in Sparta, and there were issues with referees. There wasn't a lot of experience and some were quite young. Jason said the kids had a good time, but he did have a conversation with the tournament director on the refereeing, because someone could get hurt. The A team is 3-5-1, and the B team is 3-3-2, excluding the tournament, where the A team went 2-1 and the B team went 1-1-1. It was also noted that when the B team was in Sparta they were asked to do the penalty box, and said no. After refusing twice, Tomah did supply someone.
- c. PeeWee – now vacant
Karen shared that the PeeWee A team went 1-1-1 in Green Bay, giving up the tie with 0:11 left in the game. They played well. Allison Veldkamp added that the PeeWee B team is 0-13, but Wausau was a good tournament and they had fun. There was an injury, and Betsy was given a copy of the incident report.
- d. Bantam – Steve Traut
The A team is 9-4-3 on the Region 4 website, and went 1-2 at the tournament in Green Bay. They beat Houghton and lost to SHAW. It was a 24 team tournament. The B team is 6-8-1, but nothing is on Region 4 yet. In the Hudson tournament they went 1-2, losing the second game in overtime. It was really cold! Steve was asked to email team reps about reimbursing SPYHA for their tournament fees.
- e. High School –James Trent
HS2 is either 3-2 or 2-3, James wasn't sure. The goalie is doing well, coaches are getting set, more on that later in the agenda. Their first tournament will be the Culver's Cup.
- f. Coaches rep. – Jason Ledford
Jason deferred discussion, as he has a topic on the agenda later.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. New Rink / Building Committee

Most details were provided earlier. Tiling is going up in the bathroom. Likely we will not have practices in the new rink before the first games. We did not purchase ice the week before opening, so teams are encouraged to find an outdoor rink.

b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz

The committee will continue to meet once a month. New members are still welcome to join, and there is a whole heck of a lot to do. Kerrie Sanders has spoken with Jeff Thornton and they are working on signage. Bill Blumer is working on printing banners. Lisa Wendler and Seth Blahnik are working on the on-ice logos and Shelly Smith and Seth are working on Zamboni wraps. There was some question about the founders wall. The Friends of SPYHA advertising will likely be temporary to start. Glass blocks should be coming in early January.

The next meeting is tomorrow night.

c. 2013-2014 Season Schedule Updates

Betsy got 2014 practice schedules from Chuck today, and will be providing information to Steve. Team and level reps will be responsible for checking the website entries against the schedule when Steve gets it entered.

d. Grand opening update

We are looking for a chair. Grand opening is scheduled for Jan. 18 from 5 to 10 pm, after games are done for the day. Lisa is getting save the date cards emailed to donors. The afternoon of Jan. 19 varsity will host a Skate with the Cardinals event, which will include a locker room tour.

6. New Business

a. Cardinal Cup Update – Mike Sanders

Jan. 24-26 – Bantam A

Feb. 7-9 – HS 2, fifth team interested, Middleton hopes to bring some of SHAW's JV kids. Probably will only be a 5-6 team tournament. We'll see where things are Dec. 31.

Feb. 21-23 – Squirt A and PeeWee A

Feb. 28 – Mar. 2 – Squirt B/C – 6 B teams/7 C teams. We'd like 8 & 8

Jason mentioned that Tomah asked about the B tournament.

There has been some concern about the Squirt B families trying to run a 16-team tournament. Betsy noted that this was a unique situation because there is one team trying to cover what two teams normally would do. With their 12 teams, they would need everyone to work pretty much every game, which isn't possible. All agreed that as long as they covered the same number of spots that a team running a regular tournament would do, the other slots could be covered by other volunteers, maybe ADM families.

Mite full ice tournament has two associations interested. Right now he will plan for just one Sun Prairie team, as he doesn't need to know right now, but will after the holidays.

One item to discuss going forward will be the structure of the tournament committee and if there will be memorial or honorary tournaments. We are working on options for Chuck-a-Puck, as the nets will be in the way. Hotels include Holiday Inn, NCG, and Quality Inn.

Lisa shared some challenges about the mite tournament. The Board has approved 2005 birth year players to participate; however, at this time there are only eight age-eligible players, which really isn't enough. It could be a great opportunity to offer to others. Jen suggested that it be investigated with parents and coaches. The next Board meeting is probably soon enough; however, how many 7 and 8 year-olds would there be? This would be departing from the original intent if we had a lot of 7-year-olds doing the mite tournament. Would this be setting things up for five or six more kids to be petitioning to play up next year? Jason thought it would be better to be more inclusive. Jen pointed out that many associations are staying firm and staying no to squirt play up requests. She is sensitive to situations where 8-year-olds playing up are causing situations where second graders are playing with fifth graders. Jason doesn't feel parents would put their kids in dangerous situations, and we should reach out to parents to see what they say. Jason wants Lisa to have the conversations. Lisa noted that the more limitations you put on families, the more you push them to petition. The Dane County League took some pressure off, and hopefully more will be motivated to stay in ADM. This would be their own tournament in the new facility, but 8-year-olds should have that opportunity first. The question was asked if maybe it could be opened to all the reds.

Stacy wondered what if we got six new ADM U8 players who were age-eligible, and already had younger players who wanted to play. Jason didn't see what the concern would be. James was concerned about allowing younger 7-year-old players would invite more interest in petitioning the Board to play up, contrary to the objectives of USA

Hockey. Jason wanted to know why we were holding to USA Hockey on some things and not others, based on his next discussion item. Jen suggested that we continue to see where registrations are and revisit it at the next meeting. Lisa noted that there are no parents of the 8-year-olds who are coaches.

b. PeeWee Rep Appointment

Alison Veldkamp expressed interest in the open PeeWee Board level rep position. She was a squirt team rep last year, and is the PeeWee B team rep this year. She also has a first year, 9-year-old skater in ADM. Alison grew up in Sun Prairie and has brothers who were on the 1997 Sun Prairie State Champion team. She has nephews who skate too, and is interested in being more involved. Dave made a motion to appoint Alison Veldkamp as the PeeWee Board level rep. Jason seconded the motion. There was no public comment. All approved. Alison was welcomed to the Board table and it was noted that generally Board meetings were the third Sunday of each month.

c. Coaching Additions

Preston Berg has volunteered to assist the HS2 team. He has been a coach in the association previously, at both the PeeWee and squirt level, about five years ago. He would mainly work as a goalie coach. Preston's availability is somewhat limited, as he works in the early morning as well every other Saturday. He has registered with USA Hockey and passed the background check. James made a motion to accept Preston Berg as a HS2 assistant coach. Karen seconded the motion. There was no public comment. Motion passed 10-0-1, with Jason abstaining.

Betsy noted that it appears that a coach working at the ADM U6 level, Mike Gilbertson, was overlooked in coaching appointments. He had submitted the background check and the coaching application, and has been helping out, but wasn't on the list. His child will actually be continuing the second half of the season in McFarland, but Betsy would like to go through the formality of approving him since he had gone through the process and had been on the ice and was willing to finish the first session. Betsy made a motion to approve Mike Gilbertson as an ADM U6 coach. Lisa seconded the motion. All approved.

d. ADM Second Session Dues / U6 Moves

The original plan was that ADM U8 was a full-year commitment with the Dane County League; however, there have been people asking, and there wasn't a second session only dues fee set. Lisa also explained that we can add a team and also change levels of the team in the Dane County League, so having new ADM U8 skaters for the second session won't be an issue. James made a motion to set the U8 second session fee to \$350 (including the \$75 registration fee), plus 7.5 hours for volunteering and six fundraising cards (\$120). Leah seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. All approved.

There was some discussion about a player moving from U6 to U8. This has to be communicated, so that families are aware of the increased cost and invoiced appropriately.

e. Dues review

Betsy explained that she has received the practice schedule from Chuck, and as agreed upon when dues were established, she evaluated the projected ice fees against the actual costs, taking into account actual team numbers as well. With the reasonable prices at Sauk and the low charges for the Stoughton practices, the costs for squirt and HS2 were less than projected: about \$50 per player. PeeWees and bantams tied out. James made a motion to provide a \$50 credit for squirt and HS2 players. If the dues had been already paid in full, the amount could be held on account for next year or donated to the association. Gary seconded the motion. All approved.

Level reps were asked to communicate this to the teams.

f. Squirt A request for additional games and/or practice sessions to align with USA Hockey recommendations

Jason noted that USA Hockey was recommending 95 to 100 ice touches for squirts, and currently he feels there are only about 75, and we are about 15 to 20 hours behind. PeeWees and bantams should probably get more, too. Jason is asking permission to get the Squirt A team closer to USA Hockey recommendations. He has received an offer to practice on Brickl's pond, and would like to ask for additional practices and games. He understands that SP Ice has very little ice time for sale. If he is able to get practice time he would invite Squirt B players too.

Betsy calculated the current practice/game schedule to be at 56.25 hours, with another 36 hours of practice scheduled for the new rink: the 92.25 hours (excluding playdowns) does bring things pretty close to the USA Hockey recommendations.

Jen said it is fine to have practices at other locations, especially if it is outside and at no cost.

Jason made a motion to allow the Squirt A team by any means necessary to find 10 extra hours of ice, whether it be games, practices, or any combination thereof, at their own expense.

Karen noted that this was awkward, as this involved her child and his coach. Betsy noted that typically there would not be discussion until there was a second to the motion; however, it was the Board's prerogative.

Jen reminded everyone that the association had already allowed an additional five non-cost games. It had not been the intent to schedule those five extra games at the beginning of the season, but to allow the team reps some flexibility to pick up a game when a team calls. There was not a stipulation to add extra practices or dryland, but that was also an option. What is happening, now, though, is that these games are being scheduled at the beginning of the season.

Betsy noted that adding 10 extra games would make things personally extremely difficult. Weekends were already packed with three kids playing travel hockey, and there were several families who have multiple kids playing hockey, so this wasn't a concern only for her.

Lisa had an issue with the "any means necessary" portion of the motion. With no second, the motion died.

g. Other business

Jason would like to have four coaches on the bench for the Squirt A team. He feels that it would be a cohesive unit, and with two guys managing the door, there would still be someone to talk to the kids while he watches the game. Troy thought that there was a limit of three for WAHA state tournaments and playdowns. We would have to stick to the limits of anything mandated. SPYHA's policy is only three coaches on the bench. Jason thought that adding Chad Schneider to the bench as a fourth coach adds a lot of value.

Lisa made a motion to allow an exception to SPYHA policy and allow the Squirt A team to have four coaches on the bench where permitted. Leah seconded the motion.

Troy noted that it would be helpful to know about requests like this in advance, so that it could be researched before it came to the Board. There was no other discussion. With Betsy, James, and Jason abstaining, and Dave, Steve, Gary, and Alison voting no, the motion failed 4-4-3, with Jen voting no based on the SPYHA and WAHA policy.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leah seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 pm.

Post-meeting action:

After consultation with the WAHA Directors, it is acceptable to have up to four coaches on the bench for games, playdowns, and state tournaments

There was a subsequent email motion to allow any team to have four coaches on the bench for the current season provided they meet all certifications for coaching and have board approval; however, that motion failed.

Dave made a motion to allow either/both Squirt teams to have up to four (4) coaches on the bench for the 2013-2014 hockey season, assuming they are certified and approved by the SPYHA Board of Directors. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-1-0.

James made a motion to double-roster Eric Blumer, from Bantam A, to HS2. Eric's addition to the HS2 team would be as a backup goalie in an emergency situation during the State tournament. Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0-2.