

Armstrong Youth Hockey Association
Monthly Board Meeting 10/09/06

Called to Order: 6:40 p.m.

Attendance: Todd Pannek, Ann Breitenfeldt, Tom Keller, Delia Anderson, Kevin Roddy, Sandy Pofert, Mike Terres, Kathy Hewitt, Matt Deterding, Larry Gonrowski, Todd Krough, Tom Hewitt, Ramon Aguirre and Paul Antonenko.

New Business: A motion was made and carried approving the waiver of Dan Stai's volunteer hours for this season due to a recent family hardship.

Todd Pannek proposed making \$3,000 to \$5,000 available for scholarship situations to cover up to \$535 for ice fees and warm-ups, after which the family would be put on an ice payment plan in order for the player to continue playing hockey this season with his/her team. Last year \$5,000 was distributed for approximately four scholarships. Historically, scholarships have been granted for various reasons including unemployment, too many children in the program, etc. The current scholarship process requires the family to complete a form that confirms they qualify for assisted lunches at school as the first step and after that is confirmed, the Youth Director takes each application under consideration. There are currently six or seven requests being made for scholarships. A motion was made and carried approving making available up to \$5,000 in scholarship funds for financial hardship for this hockey season.

AYHA/CYHA Discussion: Todd reported that the Board needs to consider what AYHA would do if CYHA were to request a merger or dissolve altogether as a hockey association. Todd reported that he had sent a lengthy email to John Perry seeking his input on the Cooper hockey situation as it relates to the continued viability of CYHA. John Perry indicated that District 3 would never force a merger between CYHA and AYHA. The question was raised as to whether it would be beneficial to pull together the Cooper and the Armstrong coaches at the high school level to discuss the situation since this would affect both programs at the high school level in the future. A lengthy discussion took place among the Board regarding how best to respond to CYHA's situation. Derrick Olson has indicated that CYHA's numbers next year, less ten to twenty percent for attrition, would be approximately 24-27 at Bantams, 20-22 at PeeWees and 18-20 at Squirts. The Board concluded that AYHA is open to taking kids into the AYHA program that want to play hockey and may not have a CYHA team, thereby maintaining the AYHA brand identity. The Board agreed that the concept of a merger does not seem to be an appropriate term to use since CYHA's viability is at stake, not AYHA's as it is a strong and growing program. The final consensus among the Board members was that it would prefer that CYHA present AYHA with a proposal relating to its situation, and the AYHA Board would take it under consideration.

Hockey Development Committee: Paul reported that the Committee voted to increase the voting members to include 11 total voting members. This includes all of the traveling A coaches for boys and girls' teams, the high school coaches for the girls and the boys' teams, the Skills Coordinator, the Travel Coordinator and the Director of this Committee.

It was reported that there is a shortage of skaters at the Squirt level so they are considering, and a vote will be taken by the HDC, on moving 3-4 Mite 3 skaters (that skated at the Mite 3 level last year) to the Squirt level. There will be 13 skaters, plus a goalie on the Squirt A team. The best option to stay competitive at the Squirt level with Brooklyn Park/Tri-City, Hopkins, St. Louis Park/Southwest, and Maple Grove/Osseo in the district would be to pull up several Mite 3 skaters.

Charitable Gaming: Tom reported that the auditor would be attending the next Board meeting to report on the audit of AYHA's charitable gaming. Tracee deNeui is going to attend a gambling convention. The Gaming Committee paid \$10,000 to the City of New Hope for ice fees on October 9, 2006. A motion was made and carried approving the Gambling Committee's October monthly report. A motion was made and carried approving estimated gambling expenses in the amount of \$26,430 for November 2006. A motion was made and carried approving the payment of \$10,000 to the New Hope Ice Arena for ice fees.

It was discussed and agreed that all donation requests should be held until the end of the hockey season and a limit to donations outside of AYHA will also be considered. One of the agenda items for next month will include creating guidelines for spending AYHA's charitable gambling money. Todd Pannek suggested and Mike Terres agreed to survey other hockey associations to check what their charitable spending guidelines are.

Girls: Tom and Ramon reported that the committee meetings are going well. The parent meetings have been well attended. There are a total of 74 girls registered for U10, U12 and U14 hockey this year. Cooper has 15, St. Louis Park has 25 and Armstrong has 34 of these 74 girls registered. There is currently one goalie per level. The coaching staff is very good, aside from some issues at the U12 level, however that is getting better. Tryouts are October 13-15 at New Hope. There is a need for U10B and U12B coaches. The tournaments for the girls teams have been booked.

Tournaments: The Thanksgiving tournament is a U10A, Squirt B and Squirt C tournament with 14 teams currently registered. There was not enough Squirt A or U12 teams registered for the Thanksgiving tournament at New Hope so these levels will not participate in this tournament. The February Annual Invitational is for Bantams, Peewees, U12 and U14 A teams. 32 teams may participate, 29 are currently registered. Approximately 8 AYHA volunteers have stepped up to help with Tournaments.

Secretary: A motion was made and a vote passed approving the September minutes with one slight change to the Bantam update section of the minutes. Ann reminded everyone that we are looking for a Registrar, a District 3 Representative and a Secretary. Please contact a Board member if you are interested in any of these positions.

Treasurer: Delia reported that her computer has been on the blink so there were no updated financials distributed at the meeting.

Ace Coordinator: Larry is looking for a Bantam B2 coach. The camps are going well. Larry would like to pay half of the coaches' salaries in December, rather than wait until the end of the hockey season to pay the full amount. Pee wee B1 coaches have been hired. They are Lance Meyer and Mike Westby. Goalie coaches have been hired for each level. AYHA will host the Bantam A and B2 teams, the Pee wee A, B1, B2 and C teams, and the S squirt A, B, and C teams.

Traveling: Tryouts are all set. The S squirt tryouts will be complete by November 11.

Registration: We will have on-line payment for ice fees this year. Kathy Hewitt is working on this.

District 3: The District Presidents' meeting was held in September, the Wednesday after our last Board meeting. It was reported that the big are getting bigger and the small are getting smaller. Maple Grove is growing, while Osseo is shrinking. There had been talk of combining District 3 with other districts; that is not going to happen in the near future. Brad Newell has expressed interest in the District 3 Representative position for AYHA.

District 281 Concessions: We need an Armstrong volunteer to oversee the financials. Kath Hammerseng is going to step up and take more of a leadership role representing Armstrong on this committee. Kevin Ott is also on this committee.

Equipment: Kevin reported that the bills are coming in for new equipment ordered this year. We will discuss new jerseys at the next board meeting.

Fundraising: Mike has received sponsorship money from Dave Arneson/Professional Instruments Company, Simply Elegant Catering, Pump It Up! and The Gutter Company. Twenty coaches bags were donated to AYHA from Dick's Sports.

Mites: The mite numbers look good. The Mite District meeting was held last week and all associations agreed it would be best to have 3 equal teams at the Mite 3 level. It was reported that all teams, but Wayzata and Maple Grove would move to more of a pond hockey format for Mite games. It was proposed that the New Hope Ice Arena host a pond hockey tournament and there was discussion around doing this over Thanksgiving since there were not enough teams registering to hold a S squirt A and U10 tournament at that time. There may not be enough time to pull this together for Mites by Thanksgiving, but Matt will check into it.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.