

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2016, 6:00 pm

**Board Attendees:** Karen Welling, Betsy McCrary, Brenda Egli, Stacy Hollfelder, Lisa Wendler, Becky Lemke (late), Misi Watters, Sheri Witt, Jason Ledford, Gary Brendemuehl, Patsy Zielsdorf, Nichole Jesberger

**Absent:** none

**Public Attendees:** Sue Culbertson, Mary Jo Blumer, Suzanne Doody, Matt Knutson, Mike Tamboli, Shawn Nelson Rick Nesbit, Tim Krull, Jen Kurtz, Mark Breyer, Greg Leatherberry. Ryan Smith. Aaron Kostichka

Meeting was called to order at 6:01PM.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Matt Knudtson came to discuss the possibility of having a program for younger skaters that does not involve the level of time commitment of the current MiniMite/Mite programs. There are families and parents that would like to see fewer sessions per week and possibly one game per month. He commented that his daughter did not want to play again because she was burned out. Jen Kurtz (past president of Region 4) came to the meeting to inform the board that she and Dave Batterman are submitting a letter to WAHA regarding the use of only two officials at the Bantam 1A state tournament, which is not what is generally expected.
2. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a. **Secretary Report** (Lisa Wendler): February meeting minutes edited and sent out. Stacy made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, Jason seconded. Motion passed. Lisa thanked John Handlen and Kollege Town Sports for helping us with last minute printing of the PeeWeeB State Tournament programs, bracket board, team posters etc. Their help is much appreciated.
  - b. **Treasurer Report** (Gary Brendemuehl): Gary sent out all account balances and read them at the meeting. The liability and director's insurance audit is ongoing. Our workers compensation audit is complete and we received a refund of about \$430. Gary has started working with SP Ice regarding the remaining capital campaign account money owed to them and the transfer of all outstanding pledges from our balance sheet to SP Ice who will take care of collecting any remaining amounts. Lisa made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Jason seconded. Motion approved.
  - c. **President Elect** (Stacy Hollfelder): Nothing to report.
  - d. **Past President** (Karen Welling): Bleachers are still coming soon, there is an anonymous donor secured. The rink is looking at some rink management software for scheduling and other items. This would also allow us to have televisions in the lobby with locker room assignments, etc. Next meeting is April 12 at 6:30PM. Jen Kurtz thanked SPYHA for paying for the trim paint and labor in the rink. The SP Ice board appreciates it and it makes the rink look much better.
  - e. **President Report** (Betsy McCrary): Betsy thanked the many volunteers at the association that help make this association work. These include our coaches, the tournament director and committee, the concessions committee, etc. Betsy also asked the board to thank their spouses for all the time spent at the rink and they are taking care of other things for you. Betsy noted that she received a call from the president of the Waukesha association to apologize for a parent behavior at the Bantam C tournament. The parent took the state championship banner due to being angry at WAHA for inviting a team that had been classified as a "B" team (Ozaukee) to fill an open spot for the tournament. The banner was returned to SPYHA this week. Jen Kurtz noted that this problem can occur if you have numbers for three teams but choose to designate them as A and 2 B teams, where we were in the same position this year and chose to have a real C team.
3. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - a. **Volunteer Committee:** This has been a difficult year for scheduling volunteers. Sue recommended a policy with rescheduling issues for people. There was a schedule conflict today with an open skate time, which was handled but caused concern for people volunteering and coming to open skate. All volunteers who came at the original time will have their hours honored. Betsy thanked Mary Jo Blumer for her years of service on the volunteer committee since she is stepping down.
  - b. **Annual Fundraising Committee:** One drawing left in March.

- c. Communications Committee: There are many tournaments happening at the rink in April, we will be sending out emails and posting notifications of the volunteer slots needed regularly.
- d. Cardinal Cup Committee: All tournaments including the State tournament done and complete.
- e. Concessions Committee: Many people still need to complete their hours and have been asking for training at the end of the season. We hope people can complete more of their hours early next season. Last weekend at the Tier 1 tournament we took in \$3500 in concessions. The weekend before with the sectional high school game we made \$2000 in one day. Concessions are important to us for overall dues reduction.
- f. ACE Directors: Aaron will do an end of season recap for us. He asked about possibly doing Instagram or Facebook be more prominent in our communications, we would welcome a volunteer to help us with this. Suzanne reminded coaches to get their receipts in, and she will get the hours for student coaches to the volunteer committee this week. Suzanne has scheduled the first meeting to discuss potential changes to the mini-mite program this week.
- a. Region 4 Meetings/WAHA Report: there is a meeting this Wednesday for March.

#### 4. LEVEL REP REPORTS:

- a. **MiniMites** (Nichole): MiniMites went to a cross ice jamboree in Sauk which was very fun. The Try Hockey for Free players came to a few sessions this past week and that was great to see. The parent kid game was well attended and very fun. There were equipment return times this past week and parents wanting to keep the equipment over the next months are putting a check for \$25 in the drop box, Nichole will put together the list of names for the equipment managers. There were about 10 travel skaters who came to help with the additional skaters at this level.
- b. **Mites** (Brenda Egli): Mites attended a cross ice tournament in Waunakee and a full ice (for eligible players) tournament in Beaver Dam. Brenda will have more equipment return times available. Betsy noted that for the full ice tournament, there were some comments/questions about how the teams were divided and practice times that were added for one team. Betsy apologized for any hurt feelings this may have caused. Brenda indicated that SPYHA was told that the tournament would have multiple levels of competition (red, white etc.) and there were not as many teams who attended, which may have been part of the problem. Going forward, the priority for the full ice tournament will first be for the players aging up to travel level.
- c. **Squirt** (Becky Lemke): nothing to report, arrived after level reports (excused).
- d. **PeeWee** (Patsy Zielsdorf): PeeWee A 16-10-5, 7<sup>th</sup> place at state in Beloit. PeeWee B 19-21-0, , 7<sup>th</sup> place at state which we hosted, tournament was well run and fun.
- e. **Bantam** (Misi Watters): Bantam A team took 8<sup>th</sup> place at state, Bantam B team got 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and BANTAM C TEAM WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP! Congratulations!
- f. **Midget** (Sheri): Midgets are 17-24-4, they play in the state tournament in Hudson next weekend.
- g. **Coaches' Rep** (Jason Ledford): There is a Level 5 coaching symposium in St. Louis in August. Jason asked if there would be any reimbursement for this, Betsy noted that a coach could ask at a future board meeting.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a) 2016-2017 Scheduling: In preparation for next season's scheduling, these estimated numbers by level are expected: Midget eligible – 32, including 2 players who qualify by birth year but are graduating seniors, and 2 girls, one in district and one out of district. Bantam age AND JV/Varsity eligible – 13 including 2 girls and one out of district player, Bantam only – 20. This gives a total of 40 JV/Varsity players in SPYHA (not including any remaining AAA players) where it would be expected to have 6 open varsity spots and 16 JV spots. This means we will have enough players for 2 Bantam teams and 1 Midget team and the JV team. PeeWee – 26 players plus one possible New to SPYHA Hockey player. Squirts – 44 at the 2006-2007 birth years, plus 2 New to SPYHA Hockey possible players. There is one girl planning on doing DC Diamonds but the other girls are planning on staying at SPYHA. Last year we had the same approximate number of potential players but lost more than we expected at registration, which made numbers challenging. This number could be challenging based on how many age eligible families make a commitment to do travel hockey next year, and how many families petition the board to play up to the travel level at the 2008 birth year. There will be a tremendous push from SP Ice to take more morning ice next season, but are not planning on expanding the number of hours we take for morning practices. We will anticipate 4 Squirt

teams for planning purposes. Mite level – 55, MiniMite 19. Another scheduling note is at the Squirt level to do skills practices a bit less than once per week, especially when there are varsity games at home, etc. Aaron asked about the classification of 4 Squirt teams, Betsy noted there is a Squirt 2C state tournament next year, and most likely we would have an A, B and 2 C teams, but we will not have to classify that team until after tryouts. There was a question about ice time for the JV team and how it would affect SPYHA scheduling. Generally the school teams have their games scheduled in the spring, and the practices are right after school or possibly before school in the morning like the girls varsity program had been doing.

- b) **Golf outing:** We are still looking for a chairperson for this event.
- c) Proposed edits to the Policy manual: tabled for next meeting
- d) **2016 – 2107 volunteer Hours Proposal:** This season totals were about 5600 hours available, 500 were unclaimed. Currently travel families have a 40 hour requirement, 10 of which are required to be in the concessions stand. Mites/MiniMites are 20 hours, 5 in concessions. There are a lot of hours that go unclaimed in the beginning of the season (April – summer) but many people struggle to find hours to fill their requirement at the end of the season (Jan – Mar). As directed by the Board in February, EComm evaluated the total hours available, total hours claimed, and total hours left unfulfilled and developed/presented a draft proposal for the 2016/2017 season. This proposal included a reduced-hour incentive to encourage members to fulfill their volunteer commitment earlier in the season. The Board did not approve of the plan and took no action (there was no vote to formally approve or reject). Rather, Board members insisted there be a second opportunity to review the data previously provided and present alternative plans. It was stressed that it was imperative that any plans that proposed less than 40 hours total would need to be presented and approved (via email vote) by March 31 to allow proper loading to the DIBS system prior to the start of the next volunteer season. Lisa asked that as the board considers incentives ideas, to keep in mind that the math must work for both travel and ADM families easily and be easily and clearly communicated in the registration information.

#### - **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Membership Changes:** Andrew and Kristina Accardo came to ask for a player transfer for next year for their son who will be a first year PeeWee (2005 birth year). They have requested a transfer from the Patriots organization, they have granted a financial release but can't formally approve the transfer until they pick an organization. SPYHA has one out of district player at the PeeWee level, so we do have room. Jason made a motion to approve the transfer of the Accardo player to SPYHA, pending the financial and formal release from the Patriots organization. Sheri seconded. Motion passed.
- b) **Refund for Midget backup goalie:** The Midget team rostered a supersenior goalie as a backup plan for the team and he paid fees with the understanding he would be available often. He played in two full games and reportedly only attended one or two practices. Jason made a motion to refund the family \$275, Misi seconded. Motion passed.
- c) **Hiring of Scheduler:** Jim Sullivan is no longer available to schedule for SPYHA next season. This position requires the person to propose the schedule to Larry based on available ice times, confirm and communicate the practice and game times to the board members and webmaster for uploading to the website, and also requires the scheduling of the referees for games and tournaments. We have a candidate willing to take the position for \$12 per hour. The risk is that the amount of hours required could be an issue, as well as the new scheduling system possibly coming to the rink. Jason made a motion to approve Becky Lemke as the SPYHA scheduler for 2016 – 2017 at a rate of \$15 per hour, with a cap of 100 hours unless she brings a proposal at a later date for more required hours. Sheri seconded, motion passed.
- d) **JV Program Support:** Mark Breyer recorded the requirements from committee meetings to reinstate the JV program at Sun Prairie. We are only one of two schools (Madison West is the other) in the Big 8 conference that do not have a JV team. In addition, most other surrounding Division 2 schools also have a JV team. There is no current budget for the JV team for next year. The hockey expenses for the Athletic Director include ice time, while the buildings and grounds expenses for other teams is absorbed in other parts of the budget. The current hockey fee for varsity is \$85, the same as several other boys sports (football, basketball, baseball). Some sports, such as swimming (\$65) softball, tennis, and track are less. Mark requested SPYHA's support of the proposal. The hope is to bring the proposal for boys' JV hockey reinstatement to the school board since it is not part of the current proposed athletic budget. Families could also come and provide support at that time. The varsity and JV families would each also increase their fees above the \$85 to between \$200 and \$300 each, and

the remainder would be asked of the school board at the level of approximately \$5000. The JV team will cost approximately \$15,000 total per year. SPYHA's proposal includes a \$5000 donation for two years to help fund the program to get started. The varsity and JV families would each also increase their fees above the \$85 to between \$200 and \$300 each, and the remainder would be asked of the school board at the level of approximately \$5000. One thought is to have the proceeds from the golf outing to go to the JV team expenses. Jason asked about the ice time infringing on the SPYHA practice times, but since other than Monday skills for the Bantam/Midget teams we did not have early afternoon practices, this is not thought to be much of an issue. There is a formal process with the school district that the group presenting hopes to utilize, which will present the proposal as a "request for improvement." There are required response times for each step/person involved in the process. Information is also being shared with the varsity parents. Jason raised a concern about the timeline of the proposal as well as the cost to the JV/Varsity families, if no other sport was being asked to make such a significant jump in fees. The proposal is a starting point for the discussion with the school district. Jason made a motion for SPYHA to donate up to \$15000 to the Sun Prairie School District to reinstate the JV hockey program for the 2016 – 2017 season. During discussion, it was clarified that the \$15,000 could be distributed in various options: \$15,000 upfront for the first year, \$7,500/years for the first two years, or \$5,000 for each year. After discussion, general consensus was that the board would prefer to hold the family commitment at the \$85 dollar level to be equitable with other sports at the high school. Mark also noted that the proposal does not include a formal ask for the a girls JV program, but does state support for it. The Board indicated that some funding could be considered for a girls' JV program as well. Jason made a motion to donate up to \$15000 to the Sun Prairie School District to reinstate the JV hockey program for the 2016 – 2017 season. Misi seconded. After discussion, general consensus was that the board would prefer to hold the family commitment at the \$85 dollar level to be equitable with all sports at the high school. Jen Kurtz thanked Betsy, Greg Leatherberry and Mark for all the time spent on the proposal. Mark also noted that the proposal supports a girls JV program as well. Motion passed.

- e) **Survey Plans:** Gary has led the survey initiative with Survey Monkey the past couple of years. Usually the survey questions go to the board and ACE directors for approval. Generally the idea is to get an idea for improvements in the program, not to be a performance review for coaches. The cost for the survey program is \$25 per month. Becky made a motion to spend up to \$200 for Survey Monkey for the end of season survey, Nichole seconded. Motion passed. Gary will send the survey for edits to the board. Aaron asked about percentage of completion, generally it is around 40-50%. He asked if there could be some incentive for more people to complete or to provide more positive feedback.
- f) **Mite Play-Up Request:** Several families came to petition the board for their 2008 birth year players who will all be in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to play up in the 2016 – 2017 season: Mike Tamboli (Joey, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Shaun Nelson (William, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Tim Davis (Brogan, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Aaron Kostichka (Wyatt, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Cameron Thompson (Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Casey Rufener (Dillon, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Rick Nesbitt (Mason, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Tim Krull (Brady, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade). Jason made a motion to allow all players listed above to play up to the Squirt level in the 2016 – 2017 year provided no age eligible player is displaced from a team. Patsy seconded. There was discussion about when the families would know whether their player would be eligible. There was a lot of discussion about the evaluation process and how players would be evaluated and team sizes set. Motion passed.

Jason made a motion to adjourn, Karen seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:36PM.