

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2016, 6:00 pm

Board Attendees: Karen Welling, Betsy McCrary, Brenda Egli, Stacy Hollfelder, Lisa Wendler, Becky Lemke, Misi Watters, Jason Ledford, Nichole Jesberger

Absent: Patsy Zielsdorf, Gary Brendemuehl, Sheri Witt

Public Attendees: Sue Culbertson, Aaron White, Suzanne Doody

Meeting was called to order at 6:05PM.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none

2. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. **Secretary Report** (Lisa Wendler): March meeting minutes edited and sent out. Jason made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, Misi seconded. Motion passed.
- b. **Treasurer Report** (Gary Brendemuehl): In Gary's absence, Betsy read all account balances per the treasurer report sent to the board. Jason asked about moving some of the money in savings to an account in reserve for either capital expenses or coverage for some of the personal guarantees that some past and present SPYHA members signed in order to guarantee the loan for the mortgage. This is something we can consider in budgeting for next year. Gary had sent the actual vs. budget summary, we are below budget on costs but over on expenses, net income is a little lower than projected but very close. Most of the lower income is due to dues not yet paid. Concessions net income is approximately \$29,000, which is about 10% over projected and May has several bigger tournaments as well coming in this fiscal year. Jason made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Misi seconded. Motion passed. We received the last invoice for ice time for March, this needs to be proofed and reconciled before payment. Overall the ice budget is on track with projections. Gary has continued to contact families with unpaid dues. We will discuss later in the agenda. Anyone on the list who is not paid in full is not in good standing with SPYHA and will be unable to vote in the elections for next year unless paid in full. Gary also sent information on returning the \$35 payment plan fee for those who made all payments on time, board level reps should review this and checks will be returned to those who are eligible. The board will need to approve the audit firm WipFLI to complete our taxes. Gary would like them to do a full audit every two years going forward. We had been required to do a full audit every year when we were running the capital campaign through SPYHA with the volume of donations that included, but we now are under that level. We do still have a requirement to have financial statements reviewed by an outside CPA. This will be new business later in the meeting. Total expense for full audit and tax filings is approximately \$8500.
- c. **President Elect** (Stacy Hollfelder): Nothing to report.
- d. **Past President** (Karen Welling): SP Ice update: latest meeting last Tuesday. No news on the bleacher order/install. Still targeting install before next season. They discussed hiring of an admin assistant, targeting early fall (before hockey season). They approved purchase of MaxSolutions rink management software and are interested in having SPYHA donate to this if we'd like. Setup fee is about \$3500 and yearly fees would be \$4500. Betsy asked about other equipment necessary for maximum benefit like tvs for locker room assignment display, etc. Next meeting is May 17 at 6pm. Betsy had proposed a joint meeting on June 14 so that incoming board members could attend. Misi proposed 8-9PM so that people with other commitments could make it. Betsy will check with Dave Batterman on that date and time.
- e. **President Report** (Betsy McCrary): Betsy reminded the board that since we only meet once per month it is helpful to have all assignments complete and materials read so that the meetings can run smoothly. Please read and review meeting minutes if you miss a meeting to keep up to date, and do not rush motions or cut off discussions regarding business being conducted.

JV Hockey Update: The presentation discussed last month was presented to the athletic director. Jeff Thornton really wanted the girls JV program to be presented at the same time, however the

girls program structure was very different from the boys proposal. The girls program is a co-op and is not allowed to cut players who try out, and there are multiple high schools involved. Projecting the number of players in this situation is a challenge. There are also only 3 JV teams in the Big Eight, so there are not as many teams to play. In addition, with the addition of 30 minutes per practice added to last year's girls varsity practice schedule per session, they were projecting to share ice time and had a much lower cost, but needed multiple different school boards to approve to move forward. Therefore, the boys JV program was presented separately from the girls. The SPYHA logo was taken out of the presentation. Jason noted that everyone on the SPYHA board will continue to fully support girls hockey in Sun Prairie. Betsy noted that in the past there were multiple barriers noted by the athletic director in the past to block the reinstitution of the boys JV team. After the proposal, the only remaining concerns were that the program is not sustainable past the first season, and that the program should not take outside money for programs. The response to these issues has been prepared, noting several different sports supplementing or accepting money by outside activities or groups. The follow up meeting is being scheduled. The 10 day window previously mentioned that is required for response started on Thursday April 14. If at that time the JV program is still not approved, the next step is to meet with the assistant superintendent, Erik Olson. It is noted that the Title 9 objections disappeared. Also, there are several other sports facility improvements going on that are not being borne by individual sports. Brenda asked about the chance of success for this program given the numbers at that age level projected for next year. With the timelines in the official process, this proposal should be acted on before the end of May. There have been some JV teams scheduled, as we do every year for the Midget team currently. Brenda asked how this would affect our Midget team, Betsy noted that there are still teams that would want to play our Midget team. Midget hockey will continue to be very challenging to schedule and most likely is heading towards being a tournament team rather than a weekend game team. Proposal highlights were: filed a recommendation to reinstate JV Hockey in Sun Prairie. The proposal recommended \$85 fee per player in line with many winter sports. History is that JV started in 1984, dropped before the 1993-1994 season. In 1988, total enrollment was 1300 for the high school, and there were not a lot of JV programs. There are now 1000 more kids at the high school, which is 80% growth, and there are 89 high school hockey programs in the state, the vast majority of these offer JV hockey. In contrast, there are approximately 90 youth programs and only 9 offer midget level teams. About 30 or more players are cut from the varsity team every year in Sun Prairie. SPYHA is growing and we have had to go to a sit rotation in recent years. Recommendations included: 3 days a week practice on average (due to game days other days), players would have a team bus provided but would continue to provide their own equipment. Team size was recommended at 20 players, and given the expenses minus the player fee the first year would come in right around the \$15000 cost projected in prior discussions. Sun Prairie is one of only 2 schools in the Big Eight without a JV team, and many smaller high schools support a boys JV hockey team. Hockey is also the only sport that does not have a boys or girls JV team at Sun Prairie. Proposal formally acknowledged the support of a girls hockey JV program. At the end of this proposal, the athletic director declined to support the proposal. This will now continue in the official process to the next step.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Volunteer Committee: The hours for the tournaments in May are being posted this week, they are currently posted through May 1. There were some cancelled volunteer hours for next weekend based on the tournament size.
- b. Annual Fundraising Committee: nothing to report
- c. Communications Committee: would like to get annual election postcard with save the date announcement for golf outing out soon.
- d. Cardinal Cup Committee: Room Roster is a company that contacted Betsy that provides a registration platform for room reservations, tournament registration, etc. They will not charge us anything up front, but would give us a percentage of room rental fees back. Lisa had a conversation with a local hotel sales manager regarding these types of programs, he indicated that in general these programs would inflate the hotel rates. Lisa also has concerns that this

would reduce the SP Ice hotel advertising income. The board decided not to take action on this idea at this time.

- e. Concessions Committee: The annual inspection was April 2. There were 3 violations: the lower concessions stand cappuccino machine had not been cleaned satisfactorily, the lower concessions stand sink did not operate at all, the SafeServe sign was posted but the food handler license was not posted. All violations were addressed. Andy Uttech came to investigate the plumbing issues and recommended brass fixtures to replace the existing ones, and it was found that the cold water is not softened, which was the cause of the sink not working due to scale buildup. We will also be buying a spigot for the upper concessions sink on the current spray nozzle. Andy will do all work for volunteer hours.
- a. ACE Directors: Aaron White came with an update. He asked if there were plans to get new jerseys for next season, Marcie Rauls is looking into getting new white (home) jerseys. Aaron would like to have colored jerseys with numbers for evaluations, so if there are old jerseys to use for that he would request them. Betsy had asked for a new jersey proposal by May or June. We may also consider doing different colors, especially since the white has been difficult to keep clean. Suzanne is looking for board direction on the Mite/MiniMite meeting. They discussed trying to make the younger programs more family friendly and possibly reducing time on the ice. For MiniMites, half of the families are supportive of less practices but the other half is very interested in the same amount of ice time as last year. The challenge comes in when new kids continually need to be added to teams to accommodate new players throughout the year. Jason recommended that the MiniMite program use the Red, White and Blue levels to help the issue with accommodating different skater levels. There was discussion about how to handle the Dane County League for MiniMites. The coaches are more concerned about the practice time, not the games. Jason reiterated that the different levels will take care of most of the concerns the coaches are expressing about not being able to develop skating skills with existing skaters while still encouraging new skaters to grow the game. Brenda asked Jason if he was willing to help the coaches set up the program next year to help with the concerns and he agreed. The only other comment was that parents would like to see earlier ice times on Saturdays if possible. Nichole wanted to confirm the interest in the Dane County League for next year. There are scheduling issues at both levels, and the additional problem of travel distance for the Mite level. There was discussion about contacting other associations to form a smaller group of MiniMite or Mite associations for a league. Brenda and Nichole will see if there are parents who would be willing to contact other associations to possibly get a smaller league going. There was also discussion about doing a Learn to Play Hockey session for the newest beginners.
- b. Region 4 Meetings/WAHA Report: Misi attended the March meeting. She received all patches except the blue line patches which were still on order. They talked about referee abuse getting worse and encouraging associations to sanction parents to help address the problem. There were coaches that participated in games after suspensions, which is not allowed. The April meeting is the last one before annual elections, all positions are up for reelection. They congratulated all state tournament teams and congratulated our state champion Bantam C team. There is a meeting this Wednesday for April. Betsy asked if anyone objects to the bylaw changes for this year, which include associations registering online and having a penalty if it is late, and a proposal about how appeals are handled. Betsy recommended no objections and the board agreed. The rules and regulations age limit change is again up for review. USA Hockey gave a grandfathered agreement to MN, ND and SD only for their age limits, the entire rest of the country goes by birth year. Region 5 again asked for a change that once a region has reached 2 teams in a state tournament they no longer can have another team, instead of the current 3 limit. SPYHA will continue to oppose both of these changes. New wording about game misconduct penalties being served depending on the next opponent will be supported by SPYHA, since the current wording

allows teams to get around serving suspensions in meaningful games. New wording about not sanctioning tournaments during playoffs will be supported. There is another change regarding scheduling referees for state tournaments, which essentially won't affect us since DCHOA will continue to do our scheduling. Betsy asked for and SPYHA will support the change of repeated submission of paperwork for player release to two consecutive years, then being grandfathered. The last one is that WAHA will not sanction jamborees, tournaments, and full ice games for 8 and under players between September 1 and April 1. This is a progression of the current date of March 1. Jason recommended SPYHA not support this.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS:

- a. **MiniMites** (Nichole): Nichole sent the list of families keeping equipment for the summer, they are paying for rental with a \$25 check. Other families have arranged equipment return with the managers.
- b. **Mites** (Brenda Egli): Brenda also has a list of equipment return families.
- c. **Squirt** (Becky Lemke): nothing to report
- d. **PeeWee** (Patsy Zielsdorf): nothing to report
- e. **Bantam** (Misi Watters): nothing to report
- f. **Midget** (Sheri): nothing to report
- g. **Coaches' Rep** (Jason Ledford): nothing to report

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a) 2016-2017 Scheduling: Becky is working with Larry, there is ice time already reserved especially for Cardinal Cups but we can't finalize anything yet for a number of reasons.
- b) **Golf outing**: Mark Breyer and Greg Leatherberry are co-chairing the event. The date this year is Friday July 22. Registration will start at 11:30, ball toss will be at 12:45 and shotgun starts at 1PM. There will be a box lunch and 2 drink tickets included. Cost per golfer is \$125, or \$500 per foursome. There will be additional activities after the golf with a band and dinner. Dinner is included for golfers or can be purchased separately for \$30. Contract is still pending. Board will likely need to approve via email.
- c) Proposed edits to the Policy manual: Changes discussed as follows: 1st change: a) ACE Director section related to discipline policy and reporting violations, b) Player conduct section regarding coaches who have situations that get to a fourth offense and/or multiple game suspensions would be recommended to the Disciplinary Committee, c) moved Parent Code of Conduct to the section near the other code of conduct discussions, d) order of steps in reporting disciplinary violations. Jason made a motion to approve the above changes, Misi seconded. Motion passed. 2nd change, Volunteer section: a) tightened language regarding who may work volunteer hours and the information required to be provided by each individual as volunteers for the organization. This will now required the person fulfilling the hours to be identified on the signup and to sign in on the volunteer sheets. Also, it indicates that SPYHA does not condone families hiring other people to fulfill their hours, since this could lead to certain legal issues. b) DIBS cancellation policy changed to seven days advance notice minimum, or else replacement must be found and communicated or penalties may be charged. Jason made a motion to approve the above items, Becky seconded. Motion approved. 3rd change: discussion about specifying criteria for evaluators for levels. Lisa made a motion to put in wording regarding the ACE director presenting a list of evaluators to the board for discussion prior to evaluations. Misi seconded. Motion passed. 4th change: specifying parameters for double rostering of players. This change will be tabled so that Sheri can participate. 5th change: addition of wording to stipulate that volunteer requirements do not release families from team related activities such as Cardinal Cup, etc. Jason made a motion to approve the wording, Misi seconded. Motion approved. Additional changes could include minimum or maximum team sizes, volunteer statements being sent and paid before Feb. 28 as per current policy.
- d) 2016 – 2107 volunteer Hours Proposal: tabled for another meeting.
- e) End of Season survey: Survey from last year was edited by Gary, changes made at the Mite/MiniMite levels to not include Head/Assistant Coach designation. Jason made a comment that any specific comments added by a parent be asked the question "Did you have a conversation with the coach related to this?" as a follow up question. Lisa made a motion to approve the survey as submitted with the addition of a follow up question for

any coaching issues noted of whether the family had a conversation with the coach. Stacy seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Membership Changes:** none
- b) **Equipment Requests:** Jason would like weighted vests, cones, and other equipment for next year. We will put this in the list for next year's budget. Betsy noted that the mini nets have been secured in the SPYHA equipment room. Nichole asked if the lower level coaches could submit equipment requests, Jason asked her to send a list to him. Misi pointed out that we still don't have stick holders.
- c) **Annual Meeting:** Per our bylaws we have to do the meeting between May 1 and June 30. Brenda made a motion to have the annual meeting on Sunday May 15 at 5pm, with the regular board meeting to follow. Misi seconded. Motion passed.
- d) **Nominations Committee:** Betsy and Misi volunteered to be on this committee.
- e) **Photography Contract:** Jason made a motion to sign and complete the Empire Photography contract. Becky seconded. Motion passed.
- f) **Other:** 1. Misi made a motion to conduct an annual audit in alternate years and approve WipFLI services to prepare and submit our taxes. Jason seconded. Motion passed. 2. SP Ice requested money toward the MaxSolutions rink management system. Betsy recommended that we possibly consider providing some of the hardware required (tvs, etc). We will request more information from SP Ice. 3. Becky will look up cost of yard signs to email to the board for a vote on spending money to get these made for the JV team.

Jason made a motion to go into closed session, Misi seconded. Closed session began at 9:50PM.

Board reviewed families who still have outstanding dues. Board approved a scholarship for remaining dues for a Bantam player. Board approved refund of payment plan fee to all families who were current in payment plans within a grace period of 7 days.

Jason made a motion to adjourn, Karen seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:03PM.