

## **RHA Board Meeting, 2/20/18    Thunderdome**

**Board members present:** Chris Dietrich, Hollie Hoffman, Mark Benson, Greg Chisolm, Tim Brady, Gordon Merchen, Steve Nolan, Konrad Reeder, Sean O'Conner, Mike Good, Christine Ritter

Call meeting to order: Chris Dietrich 6:02 pm

Approve meeting agenda:

Add a- Varsity Discussion ; b- Gary Stanley, End of the Road Discussion

Presidents Report:

**Varsity Discussion-** several parents present for discussion. Several calls this past weekend, social media posts. These upper level games can get heated & this spills into the stands.

They were short an official in Huron, had 2 local refs. Being down a ref couldn't keep up with the play, lots of calls people felt missed- this spilled over onto both sides.

Huron had only 1 security person. State will need to discuss and mandate security issues, this is statewide. (Looking at the MN model).

It was stated that neither side was appropriate. This is not how we want to represent RHA. We have not heard anything from the state at this time.

Discussion on the social media.

Code of Conduct was discussed- we all need to be better at this and we all need to represent RHA well. It was noted that this is not just an RHA issue, this pertains to other organizations as well. The only way to penalize when the code of conduct is not followed is to take ice time away from the kids. Was stated this is not fair and hurts the kids. Could probably see something coming from state in regard to these issues- like MN. They have pride points. This is an extra point- so players, coaches and even parents would affect this & this would affect their standings.

Was mentioned that coaches need to address the parents on their teams (all levels). It's okay to cheer and support your team, leave the refs out of it. When kids hear it, it's an excuse if they lose, etc. Not helpful. We can only control what we can.

Crowd control- separate fans, we do a good job of keeping them on opposite sides.

Was discussed that in Huron, nobody was thrown out, etc. Parents noted they walked into a tense environment. Our kids has drinks spilled on them, spit on, things thrown at them, swearing and name calling. Glass broken in Huron from their students hanging over the glass. Varsity Parents upset with the social media posts and RHA people who commented without checking into it first.

Discussion on social meeting and that it is not the place to air issues/grievances. Please bring things up at meetings, contact someone, and look at it more constructively.

Mentioned please do not drink on the busses, although the kids are on a separate bus, they look the same. People may get the wrong idea. Spoke about how we all need to represent RHA positively. After all the social media, people will be watching to see how we react.

Nolan spoke on behalf of the group—here with a group apology, there are no excuses, it was a hard game. Coaches did a good job keeping their cool and keeping players in check. Huron people were trying to tape our kids, rough crowd, very difficult situation, they agree it was not a one sided issue. They were upset with social media postings, and comments.

(Chris) Appreciates the group coming in to share their side of what happened. Behavior at games is something we can all do better. Was noted that we should avoid the social media volleys, no alcohol on the bus with the kids (all levels), and better representation at state as far as behavior- we will be under a microscope and need to put our best foot forward.

**Gary Stanley (End of the Road tourney)-** Gary is with Roosevelt, but was present at meeting representing Road Kill Hockey. This started about 2004. He did speak with Hollie & understood we wouldn't be able to do it this year, would like to see about getting onto next years docket. They have 16 teams from all over the Midwest.

It was discussed that it takes more than picking the dates. At the end of the season, most families are checked out, they are moving on to the next sport. We would need to look at concessions, zapping, off ice positions, cleaning, etc. It is very hard to get volunteers.

Gary stated in the past, they used to be the girls sponsor. The girls would usually help out. He will come up with some ideas. May look at having the teams help out. Gary will work on this & come back in a month or 2 for further discussion.

#### Presidents Report:

**Zamboni ordered-** Zam has officially been ordered and is being manufactured. We have an August ship date, there will be crew coming as well to train a few select zam drivers, who in turn will train the others.

**Varsity/Senior bios-** Bios are written, would like to get up on social media to share (some organizations do this)

**State Disciplinary Committee report-** Sioux Falls JV1/JV2 issue. They were at a tournament in Wisconsin. JV2 goalie had no skates- options they had were to skate 6, use another goalie, or the JV1 goalie- which was the option they chose. This was in direct violation for dual roster. They are faced with forfeit of season and state tournament. We are going to support them. The coach has been suspended for the remainder of the season and will appeal per the bylaws.

**Task force groups-** Look at getting people onto groups, by appointment & volunteer

Fundraising: group to network & work as a team.

Substance Abuse policy: State hockey Assoc defers to the local assoc. Can't find policy on new site. Look to other assoc, for example Sioux Falls & Brookings and also the local schools for perimeters.

Discipline Committee: need to set perimeters & enforcement. Need guidelines.

Director of Coaching: Chris spoke with Danny a little on this- to work with players/coaches, power/speed skating, structure practices. Danny volunteered, also some of the HDC people and Dick Novak had some ideas. Looked at what other places pay their person, Brookings pays this position about \$68,000; Sioux Falls pays about \$89,000+ extras from Scheels. If RHA were to look at something like this, would need to increase about \$330 extra per player including house & mites

**Handbook-** No RHA handbook- we need to get this done & online. Nolan stated he has a copy of an old handbook & will get it scanned.

House update (skipped ahead due to people here):

**Board Representative-** This is a position that would have a vote, was put out to the house group that they would not get a vote. Stresse4d would be a regular board position so each group has representation. Tree has been invited to the board meetings & hasn't come, have had some parent's/coaches. Trying to keep a good line of communication.

Parents questions on ice time, getting more ice time- Chris gave breakdown per level on ice time and cost. This will also go out to the house families. This level is large, but have the most ice time- it's in how they use it, most teams do not use full ice and share, which means they can fit in more practices. That is something up to coaches. Also looked at cost & volunteer commitment.

Parents asked about ice time at Roosevelt--- the only ice time left is early morning. There have been comments about inconsistent times, but all levels feel the shift when needed. Some teams only practice early morning, some barely at the Thunderdome, we squeeze in as much as we can get for the ice we have.

**Hours/Replacement-** Chris went over the ice time in depth & explained how the state schedules the league games- we do not bump anyone for practices- house is not bumped for anything like this.

Scheduling is out of our hands for league & the ice time has more than been made up to them. This also doesn't count all the times refused that were offered. Hollie also mentioned offering the house league to put a team in the squirt tourney last year & they refused. There are opportunities.

Parents asked about getting money from RHA- where does the 20% go? Can they get some of these funds? Chris explained the scholarship program, and many house members do benefit from this program. Parent also asked about Rush foundation and money/support—Chris explained they pay for the mite jerseys, is a deal they worked out & have been doing for a few years. Funds from the Rush preseason jersey auction were about \$6,000. We get this from the Rush Booster- majority of the funds go out as scholarships, about \$5,000—and a majority of that goes to house registration and fees.

Discussion on a movement from some in house to break away from RHA- some house people went to Roosevelt about ice. Notes on the ice cost from Chris.

Danny did ask why not let them practice the travelling teams to get more ice time—Chris stated they would need to come up with a plan on how to do this, and present it.

Mark did mention that the 20% of house fundraising was to go back to them for equipment, there was a check that returned, once that clears up- the funds would be free to them.

**Future Direction-** We are appreciative of all that Tree has done for the house program including the jerseys. Stress that we need to keep positive communication open. Chris asked the house parents/coaches present to please have a person ready to come to all the board meetings and ready to present updates on their group. We may need to look at ice time, but also look at volunteer commitment hours, and rates.

#### 2017/2018 Budget update/report (Benson):

Financials from Mark, pretty close to right on. Total Cash \$25,000 of it is for the zam from BH Energy. We are pretty close to the same at the same time last year. We do have a reserve, \$160,000 for capital expenditures. Some will go to zam & some to new compressor.

Debt below \$900,000. Registration #'s are only off about \$4,000, total revenue down about \$45,000. Rev also included Hockeyville money and zam donations. Travel for coaches about \$8,000- per diem on non parent coaches, utilities down with no construction in the spring/fall & lights helped.

Mark spoke about tracking—advertising/income. All info into a spreadsheet & we go from there- this comes from bookkeeper. Also in need of bookkeeper next year.

### 2018-2019 Registration Fees:

Haven't gone up in 3 years, we aren't close to what is appropriate. This is at all levels. Discussion on jerseys, lockerrooms for varsity, perks at each level, ice time & paid coaches. Mark stated we need each level to let us know what they need, including paid coaches, so we can plan for it.

### Tournaments:

Bantam A (Viola/Krista): Dibs up, asked who to call to add any songs for team songs- Mike Malone.

Asked about using varsity lockerroom for the bantam A team, also girls varsity for the girls, only 3 girls. Spoke about assigning each team a room to keep for the weekend- \$50 deposit held till checking out.

Just dibs issue not knowing when we play per bracket and filling shifts then. Hiccups are coming out & Thursday will have things buttoned up. 12 games, keeping things simple & clean.

Squirt (Michelle): Sponsorships are down, that's the only issue at this time. Squirts tourney Dibs not online, they have it to him.

Was brought up this past weekend girls were here- not many people to work. This was paid ice time, also noted went thru close to 100 pucks. Nobody knows where they went. Donovan had stated they brought their own. Discussed pucks & supplying for tourneys, teams etc.

Concession:- not here

Dibs: Squirts not online

Website: need to get new bylaws & docs online.

### Building Committee report (Brady/Olson/Nelson/Fullerton):

**Compressor updates-** 1 compressor sprung a leak, Ben & crew came up with options. Spoke w/ BOT and about \$7,000 to fix or \$13,000 to remanufacture. Decision to remanufacture, funds came from reserves. Old one was 14-15 years old with about 23,000 hours on it. The other one is about the same & could go anytime. Have to send in to trade in for core.

**Dryland-** Room needs to be finished, we have plastic ordered, need it down. Need sponsorships.

**Flooring-** Possibly mats? Old floor installer will not warranty it, hard on skates. Discussed mats & mold, good seal on seams to avoid this issue, also Roosevelt closes for 1 month to deep clean it & dry out. Chris mentioned maybe ice time would be contingent to levels helping out—in the future.

### Fundraising (Ronda):

**Status update-** Pasta fundraiser – about \$200 and this is earmarked for dryland area. Running into people wanting to fundraise, but not actually contribute, has been the challenge. Maybe look at getting a committee? Same with sponsorships, people will start with ideas, but no follow thru.

Chris asked about a master list of sponsors? Ronda has a list & will get it to Chris. Need to look at banners & dashers also- some very out of date. Not sure how some are still up. Chris mentioned needing to get a list of fundraisers to cords at beginning of the year.

Hardware Hank? Nothing yet

**Raffle-** Social media came up. People who ran it in the past were not available this year. Had a hard time on this, decided to go cash route. Maybe next year bump up to \$5/ticket, different prizes?

Raffle to be drawn at mite jamboree.

### Proshop:

Nothing much to report, sock order discussed. Georg & Tressa Olson will go thru sock order. Old jerseys to go aways after this year. Keep for tryouts.

### Girls program (Kim):

Discussion on senior night & some were upset the boys and girls were split. It was discussed it was due to schedules and trying to get them all together, in the future will try to keep them together same night as in the past. Was discussion while girls were here over NYE, Brookings games are tough if they fall behind on schedule, the crowd gets upset. Chris said anyone can hang up their posters like that within reason, the girls are welcome to do the same.

Discussion on communication, breakdown? Was not intent to leave a group out, just the way the timing worked this year. Discussion on posters- again, stressed that was not meant to leave anyone out- was the last games for the boys & were on the counter, not meant to be hung up and not meant to leave girls out.

Discussion on the girls upcoming events and how they will continue throughout the rest of the season/offseason. Hollie mentioned the carinival in Main Street Square, 6/3 is a good one. There is also a BH Speedway contact per Kim. Budget for Girls Play Hockey is \$750. Kim would like a taskforce, mentioned that in their program is the best place to look for people.

Girls would like to look at holding a tourney next year. Will need to get dates in mind from Brady.

Wrapping up— question with ice sooner next year, tryouts change? No, we can't, there are other commitments & getting people out to run tryouts, etc.

Discussion on when ice will shut off- depends on if varsity goes to nationals, will not know till 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in March. Our state has not assigned it yet- between us & maybe Sioux Falls. Probably come down to after state. For now, do not schedule ice time after 3/11. We do have Roosevelt ice all Match.

End of season house tourney- possibly the week varsity leaves for state. Time TBD

8:51 pm motion to Adjourn made by Mark Benson, second