



# SAGINAW BAY ICE ARENA

*Home of the Greater Saginaw Amateur Hockey Association*

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6129 Bay Rd Saginaw, MI 48604 (989) 799-8950 [www.saginawbayicearena.com](http://www.saginawbayicearena.com)

## GSAHA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 9, 2024

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Saginaw Bay Ice Arena

**Members Present:** Kenny Benson, Elizabeth LaPoutre, Megan Kuhn, Jamie Furbush, Jim Bailey, Dana Causley, Kyle Smith

**Members Absent:** Kim Richter, Layne Neuwirth

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jamie Furbush at 7:30 p.m.

### Secretary's Report (Bailey)

Jim shared the minutes from the November 2024 meeting.

- **Motion to approve:** Megan Kuhn
- **Seconded by:** Elizabeth LaPoutre
- **Approved unanimously.**

### Treasurer's Report (Smith)

Kenny provided an update on the financials, noting the need for significant purchases, including a dehumidifier as the largest expense. Repairs to doors are also needed, and future plans should include parking lot repairs, especially if ball hockey is introduced during the summer.

### Arena Manager/Program Report (Benson)

48 participants are already registered for Learn to Skate, an exceptionally high number this early. Classes begin the first week of January.

The 5K New Year's Skate is happening again this year. Kenny encouraged board members to find sponsors quickly to ensure their logos appear on t-shirts. Efforts should focus on increasing registrations.

Team pictures have been completed, and the process went smoothly.

Team jackets have been distributed and were well received by players and coaches.

The board discussed the importance of ensuring locker room monitors, including in the girls' locker room.

### Referee Report (Smith)

The referee room now has a lock and clear signage indicating it is for referees only.

A question arose about player penalties. It was clarified that receiving four penalties in a game results in removal from the game and a one-game suspension.

### House Liaison (Bailey)

Congratulations to the Pee Wee 12U House B team, the Saginaw Jr. Wheels, for their victory at the 23rd Annual

Dearborn Thanksgiving Tournament. They went 5-0 and secured the championship with a 6-1 win over Honey Baked.

### **Travel Liaison (Bamberger)**

No update provided.

### **Coaching Director (Furbush)**

A SafeSport report was filed with USA Hockey. Upon review, it was determined not to be a SafeSport issue but rather a coaching conduct matter. The issue involved an assistant coach using profanity with players. Jamie Furbush addressed the matter with the head coach and reviewed expectations for appropriate conduct. The report was made anonymously, so no follow-up with the complainant is possible.

### **Marketing Director (LaPouttre)**

November social media activity included weekly posts promoting public ice time, the Salute to Veterans program, Giving Tuesday, and Skate with Santa. Public skating promotions and event details will continue.

- Facebook: 31 posts with a reach of 35K (up 50.4%), 1.4K interactions (up 1.8%), 39 clicks (down 27.78%), and 47 new followers.
- Instagram: Metrics are down, consistent with general trends this month.
- Top posts:
  - Hockey Hair Bantam post: 9.2K reach, 110 reactions.
  - Veterans Skate Highlight Reel: 1.4K reach, 47 reactions.

### **Skate with Santa**

169 public skaters and over 120 rentals, a notable increase from Spooky Skate. Plans are in place to improve for next year. The Giving Tree campaign launched during this event, and flyers received attention.

### **Upcoming Promotions**

5K Skate: Seeking interviews with past participants. The Facebook event and registration link are live.

Friendship Tournament: Travel parents are making friendship bracelets for participants. Decorations and a themed public skate are planned for January 10. A “party planning committee” meets at 6:15 p.m. before monthly board meetings. Volunteers are welcome.

Kenny and Elizabeth are collecting alumni interviews for social media content.

### **Safe Sport Director (Causley)**

No update provided.

### **Fundraising Report (Kuhn)**

Upcoming events:

- February 17: Buffalo Wild Wings fundraiser.
- April 12: Night at the Races.
- September 12: Golf outing.

### **Discipline Report (Lockwood)**

No report provided.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business for Next Meeting**

The board discussed hosting a pizza party in the fall to introduce players moving up to new teams. Further discussion and decisions were tabled for a future meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Saginaw Bay Ice Arena