



USA Hockey Board of Directors Meeting June 7, 2023

Attendance

Present: Mike Trimboli, Keith Barrett, Ryan Bedford, Cheri Bonawitz, Julie Chu, Dwayne Dillinger, Joe Eppolito, Declan Farmer, Don Gould, Donna Guariglia, Donna Kaufman, Kris Knauss, Jen Lee, T.C. Lewis, Taylor Lipsett, Mike MacMillan, Kevin McKee, Don Mulder, Steve Oleheiser, Jenny Potter, John Tobin, Andrew Yohe.

Absent: Bill Daly, Brian Gionta.

Staff Members: Pat Kelleher, Kevin Erlenbach, Casey Jorgensen, Bob Mancini, Scott Monaghan, Tony Driscoll, Kelly Mahncke, Tami Tranter and John Vanbiesbrouck.

Call to Order

Mike Trimboli called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

Minutes

None.

Strategic Plan

Tony Driscoll and Donna Guariglia are presenting on the review updates to the Strategic Plan. We want to do an annual follow up to the plan so we know what is complete and what has not been done, and so we do not forget about projects that were planned. The staff went through their individual areas and provided updates on the “main goals” for their areas, including green, yellow and red scoring to reflect the status of each goal (green = 80% or more complete; yellow = 50-80% complete; red = less than 50% complete) and plans for moving forward. The Board discussed, in general, of the connection between the strategic plan and our annual budgeting based on the plans.

The staff and volunteer leadership provided brief updates on the 26 plans in each of their respective areas.

Mike Trimboli summarized this process of reviewing the Strategic Plan, the importance of regularly going through the plan and being committed to this process. It will be important for each new board member to receive the plan for review when they are onboarded. Athletes suggested having the new AAC have a section in the Strategic Plan.

USA Hockey Foundation & Arena Report

Tami described the Foundation, how it is related to USA Hockey and the support it provides.





We are launching a campaign to raise \$5M for the Arena to help pay for long term capital expenses. With the Olympics and Paralympics coming up in 2026, we are working with board members to create some large gifts. Our Circle of Champions mailing has gone out and we have had great success so far. We have created an Affiliate Assistance Fund from a donor in the Atlantic Affiliate that can help members in that area, and it could be replicated in other Affiliates. We have an upcoming Foundation Board Meeting in late June.

Donna G. talked about the benefits of the Foundation having donors from the USA Hockey Board and Foundation Board. This helps with obtaining gifts and grants from outside parties.

Mike discussed the USA Hockey Board members on the Foundation Board, and how we have historically had officers serving as the USA Hockey representatives on the Board. With the changes in people serving in different officer positions, some officer's terms will be adjusted based on their new term with the new USA Hockey position. The Board will be ratifying the Foundation candidates after the USA Hockey elections at the Congress meeting on Saturday.

Mike also advised that he has appointed a committee of John Tobin (chair), Donna K., and Paul George to update the Foundation Bylaws.

On the Arena, Scott talked about the positive year and turn around in the Arena and restaurant. Our ticket sales for the NTDP were also very strong, with the goal to continue to increase sales. As discussed, we have some significant capital expenses upcoming.

Legislative Submissions and Playing Rules Proposals

Casey discussed the process for the two Playing Rules Proposals.

Playing Rules Proposal #1 would allow officials to nullify icing when a team is shorthanded. The proposal would apply to the 14U categories and above.

Playing Rules Proposal #2 would allow officials to waive off offsides when the players tag up at the blue line. The proposal would apply to the 14U categories and above.

Because these Playing Rules Proposals were not submitted in a rule change year, to be considered by Congress this year they require 2/3 approval of the Playing Rules Committee and 2/3 approval of the Board. The Playing Rules Committee has approved each of the proposals for consideration by Congress. Pursuant to USA Hockey Bylaws, it also takes 2/3 vote by the Board to approve the Playing Rules Proposals for consideration by Congress.

After discussion, Steve Oleheiser. moved to approve submitting Playing Rules Proposal #1 (Icing) to the Congress for consideration; second by Cheri Bonawitz. The motion requires a 2/3 vote and was approved by a vote of 17-3.

John Tobin. moved to approve submitting Playing Rules Proposal #2 (Offsides) to the Congress for consideration; second by Steve. The motion requires a 2/3 vote and was approved by a vote of 17-3.





Casey briefly reviewed each of the other legislative submissions and that they are only set to be discussed and amended this week and at Saturday's Congress meeting. Proposals will then move on for ultimate consideration in the January 2024 meeting.

Council Chairperson Reports

Youth: Keith Barret reported that the Council is very engaged and ready for these meetings with plenty of participation.

Girls: Don Gould advised that the Council is also looking at some new initiatives, including looking at how to grow membership in under-served communities for girls hockey, and in what we can do to help address mental health in our hockey communities.

Junior: TC Lewis and John Vanbiesbrouck provided the update on junior hockey. The Jr Council has approved of the sanctioning of the Buffalo Jr. Sabres to play as an independent team in the OJHL. They had been dormant during Covid. TC Lewis made the motion to ratify the Jr. Council decision; Dwayne Dillinger seconded. The motion was approved. The Board approval will be on the agenda of the Congress on Saturday for ratification.

Adult: In addition to the written report, Kevin Erlenbach reported that ISI is no longer offering hockey programs.

International: Dwayne Dillinger discussed the success of our international teams with three Gold medals in six events this year. He also discussed some of his impressions after attending various events over the past year and the positive impact of our teams and athletes.

John Vanbiesbrouck reported that the Women's August camp will be in Lake Placid after significant renovations of the arena. Tony Driscoll discussed planning for the Women's Worlds in Utica, New York and the organization of volunteers. The RFP is out for the 2026 World Juniors and the timeline for submissions, evaluation of the proposals and awarding the host rights. We are having ongoing discussions with the IIHF about hosting the U18 Men's tournament on a more regular basis.

Our Sled teams have represented us very well both on and off the ice. We are very proud of our Paralympic efforts and the quality of our team and players. Pat Kelleher explained some of the possible future dates and hosting for upcoming World Para Championships. USA Hockey is looking at potentially hosting in 2025. Declan Farmer commented on the grassroots programming by USA Hockey and how that has helped increase the talent of our national team.

Membership: Donna Kaufman and Kevin Erlenbach reported that the Council has had a great start under the new Governance structure and is having its first in-person meeting this week. We have had strong growth to catch up after Covid. The officials have also had strong growth (15% increase) despite the challenges in officiating retention in other sports.

Legal: Casey Jorgensen summarized matters on the Legal Council agenda for this week and work it will be undertaking on the billeting/housing policies, education of Affiliates, updates to the guidance we can provide to Affiliates, and a process for Affiliates to approve Tier I and membership status in Affiliates (not related to substantive considerations, but on the process). The Center for SafeSport will be auditing a Girls Development camp in late June. The USOPC audit will start in full at the beginning of July, which





is a much more intensive audit than our past audits by the USOPC. The Congressional Commission will have a public hearing on September 6th and the Commission's report would come out in the Spring.

Casey also provided an update on the issues with the Colorado affiliate and our concerns with their governance and operations, financial issues and conflicts of interest. In early May they had elections that were observed by a committee of USA Hockey volunteers that resulted in large turnover on their board. We are continuing the forensic audit being performed to identify any financial concerns, and Casey described the incomplete responses we have received to date from CAHA's former president. Mike Trimboli and Casey summarized the potential options to address these issues if we cannot obtain the information we need.

John Tobin advised on the status of national appeals and the first year's operations of the committee.

US Ice Rink Association Updates

TC Lewis advised that US Ice Rinks has record membership and revenue is increasing. The NARCE event is upcoming and provides excellent education for rink staff and hockey director. They are expecting close to 500 attendees.

Future Meetings

We will have an in-person Foundation and USA Hockey Board of Directors meeting November 9-11 in a location to be determined. Pat Kelleher will update the Board on the location.

The next Winter Meeting will be in Orlando but will be held later than usual from January 25-28. This is due to contractual negotiations and availability when we amended the agreement after missing a meeting during Covid.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held June 5-8 in Denver.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The Board had a presentation from BoardSpan on Board Governance. There will be another presentation given to the attendees at Thursday's Town Hall.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session.

Adjournment

The Board returned from Executive Session; Mike MacMillan made the Motion to Adjourn (2nd by Kris Knauss). The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

