



Board Meeting

East Metro Area Youth Hockey Association
7 p.m. Sunday, April 14, 2024 | Blue Line Room at Tartan Arena

Present:

Brian Arrigoni, Mike Launderville, Bao Vang, Kacie Schmidt, Casey Regan, Ann Hackman, John Ellingson, Bill Burkhart, Erik Petersen, Sean Cunningham, Brent Baar, Brett Lothian, Steve Moose Younghans, John Maslowski, Shannon Larsen, Nikki Bennis

Absent: Laura Kirchoff

TAYHA Meeting

The TAYHA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Brian Arrigoni at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review of the February 2024 TAYHA meeting minutes.

Mike L. motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. John E. seconded. Motion carried.

GAMBLING MANAGER REPORT (John M.)

Sales \$657,417.10

Prizes \$566,094.94

Gross profit \$91,322.16

Lawful purpose expenditures \$34,800.44

Total allowable expenses \$54,100.33

Net profit \$2,421.39

See report for details.

At the time of this report, charitable gambling has been taking place at The Cherry Pit for 14 days. Owner has ideas to market the offering to the community and is considering ways to broaden services, like horse racing and more.

Recently, White Bear Lake's Youth Hockey Association's proposal to enter The Burrow with charitable gambling offerings was denied by Oakdale's City Council. John M. said subsequently to that decision, he called and wasn't successful at reaching his contact. He will follow up.

Jerseys are in to distribute to hockey association sponsors.

Mike L. motioned to approve gambling manager's report. John E. seconded. Motion carried.

John E. motioned for the pre-approval for the allowable expenses for the month of May. Mike L. seconded. Motion carried.

Public Forum



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Guest #1

James M.:

- EMS 8U & 10U hockey coach and parent, suggests additional parent education for EMS families so they can understand what resources and tools are available to grow and develop youth athletes.
- Additionally, he is inquiring about the future of the girls program. Is there a pipeline for girls to continue with this sport beyond 10U? Should the girls' high school program be doing more to nurture and build a connection with the youth players.

Casey R. responds: it's a numbers game. Declining girls numbers are evident in every sport in almost all associations. Most have entered into co-ops or agreements with other associations to boost teams. As it stands now, there may be 17 10U EMS players in the fall, which is too big for one team and too small for two teams.

Brian A. responds: The Board feels the same frustration. Situation is not isolated to our EMS association.

Brian B. responds: JCNSP has had multiple co-op partners in the past to build their numbers and they simply don't sustain the program. Co-ops are a trying thing.

Guest #2

Connor M.:

- Bao has invited Connor to co-chair the recruiting and retention committee
- Connor is eager to help and support the growth of the Mite program, especially the MiniMite program to build a pipeline for the upper levels.

Idea of previously held Town Hall Meetings for families to return is a suggestion from guests.

Ann H. motions to close the open meeting at 7:47 p.m. Kacie S. seconded. Motion carried.

Co-Op Meeting

The East Metro Youth Hockey Association Co-Op Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Brian Arrigoni at 7:48 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Billy/Brian)

Days are winding down before TAYHA and JCNSP will operate as one association.

Next steps:

- Need to shut down JCNSP operations
- Need to reactivate paperwork and finalize
- There was a discussion about revising the fiscal year dates, if so, update the Green Guide.



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GIRLS PROGRAM REPORT (Casey R.)

- Casey R. reported that he's working on securing a future for 12U+ players, however no clear solution is available at this time.
- White Bear Lake Youth Hockey Association is unable to confirm if they can take our girls
- As it stands, EMS will not have enough players for 12U, we may have 17-19 players eligible for the 10U team. 8U and 6U teams will also have enough EMS players.
- Cottage Grove is the only other association that reached out to potentially discuss a partnership, however that was last year.

Waivers going forward

- District 2 update on waivers: any school waivers will be grandfathered in.
- The only school waivers presidents have to sign are for first year squirt/10U years.
- Bill B. said EMS will request the support of District 2 when denials are made.

SUMMER ICE:

- Discussions were held about whether EMS would set aside ice time for players to continue development.
 - Who would lead?
 - Would there be enough interest?
 - What would we charge, if anything?
 - When would it be best in the summer?

ICE SCHEDULER REPORT (Lea K.):

Lea K. requested information to do preliminary ice scheduling for the upcoming season.

Details taken into consideration:

- A continuation of Skills workshops and Goalie clinics for Mites and up
- Team numbers:
 - Likely 2 Bantam teams
 - Likely 3 Pee wee teams
 - Possible 4 squirt teams
 - One 10U, 8U and 6U girls teams
 - Mite 3, Mite 2, Mite 1 and Minimites

CONCESSIONS & DIBS (Shannon)

- Communication will soon be released that EMS Board is reviewing fulfilled volunteer hours and which families have opted out of volunteer duties or did not meet the minimum hour requirement. Ultimately, some volunteer checks (that were submitted at the beginning of the year) will be getting cashed.

RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT REPORT (Bao)

- Bao is building a committee to support Recruitment and Retention initiatives, including Connor McHugh.



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- Wrap of STAR SPOTLIGHTS initiative
 - Nominations for 27 individuals, parents, coaches and volunteers
 - If you missed the social media posts, here's what some said about this program:

Brock Finn, Bantam B1 coach: "First and foremost I just want to thank the coaches, parents, fans and most importantly the kids from this season. This nomination means so much to me and I'm blessed to have received this nomination. Hockey has and always will be important to me, and I'm beyond happy to have found my new home coaching at East Metro. Go Stars!"

Matt Bucholz, Bantam C coach: "In the eight years I have coached, all I ever wanted was to be a positive role model and influence for the players and watch them grow in a sport they love. I have got to make life long friendships with fellow parents along the way, too. The hockey family is a tight knit group that is unmatched to any other. The cherry on top was getting to spend time at the Wild game. Thank you EMS and GO STARS!"

- The majority of Teams successfully requested and were awarded \$100 for team building.
- We're preparing for promotion of our participation at Oakdale's Summerfest, Try Hockey, Stick and Puck, and more!

MAJOR REPORT (Sean C.)

- Discussion was had to continue the same jersey distribution, collection and cleaning process or change it up?

MITE REPORT (Kacie):

- Mite Jamboree was a success and EMS earned about \$2,000 in profit from event.

DISTRICT 2 REPORT (Mike L.)

- District 2 is reviewing the format of its year-end tournaments. Feedback included the single elimination games seemed abrupt.

OTHER:

- Discussion of whether EMS will offer scholarships for former EMS players who will be graduating from high school and planning to attend college. Do we want to continue. Mike L. will follow up about remaining funds.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- EMS will continue to host our Board Meetings on Sunday evenings, perhaps with a 6 p.m. start time.

Adjournment

Mike L. motioned to close the meeting at 9:27 p.m. and John E. seconded. Motion carried. Brian Arrigoni adjourned the meeting.

Recording secretary, Bao Vang