



## USA Hockey Board of Directors Meeting July 10, 2023

### Attendance

**Present:** Mike Trimboli, Keith Barrett, Ryan Bedford, Dwayne Dillinger, Joe Eppolito, Don Gould, Donna Guariglia, Donna Kaufman, Kris Knauss, T.C. Lewis, Kevin McKee, Don Mulder, Jenny Potter, John Tobin.

**Absent:** Bill Daly, Cheri Bonawitz, Julie Chu, Declan Farmer, Brian Gionta, Jen Lee, Taylor Lipsett, Mike MacMillan, Steve Oleheiser, Andrew Yohe.

**Staff Members:** Pat Kelleher, Casey Jorgensen, Bob Mancini, Scott Monaghan, Tony Driscoll and Kelly Mahncke

### Call to Order

Mike Trimboli called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

### Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

### Minutes

The minutes from the two Board of Directors Meetings in June will be distributed for approval prior to our August meeting.

### President's Report

Mike Trimboli thanked everyone for a successful Annual Meeting in Denver. Related to the IT Subcommittee that was discussed in June, Mike has named Don Gould (chair), Mike MacMillan, Andy Yohe, Kelly Mahncke, Mark Hilberg and Terry Caron to the subcommittee. They will be meeting and reporting back in August. Another subcommittee comprised of Keith Barrett, Donna Guariglia, Kelly Mahncke and Bob Mancini will look at the financials related to Youth and girls Nationals.

Mike reported that the North American Rink Conference and Expo (NARCE), held in Buffalo the week after Annual Meeting, was a great success and very well run thanks to US Ice Rinks, TC Lewis, and Jeff Theiler. The Foundation Board Meeting was on June 20<sup>th</sup> was also successful with elections and presentations on Foundation programs. The appointments for Councils, Committees and Sections are still in progress. Significant changes to the process have been required with the new parameters of athlete requirements.

Mike was in Utica for the Women's Worlds IIHF visit and will be traveling the Advanced Officiating Symposium at the end of the month to do a presentation to the tenured officials attending.

### Executive Director's Report

Pat Kelleher congratulated Bob Mancini, Kristen Saegert and everyone else involved in Player



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Development Camps on the successful camps so far. Also, congratulations to Casey Jorgensen and his team on their work with the US Center for SafeSport Event Audit of the Girls 16/17 Camp in Miami. This week USA Hockey will be submitting an audit to the USOPC and has been asked to submit additional information for the Congressional Commission. There will be a public hearing on the Commission's work on September 6<sup>th</sup> in D.C. Pat will appear at the hearing to represent the NGB Council.

Pat and John Vanbiesbrouck Pat attended the NHL Draft in Nashville last month. There was an another excellent showing with six American first-round picks and 49 overall draft picks. Congratulations to Scott Monaghan and the NTDP group with thirteen members from this year's team drafted. Pat also attended the USHL Board meetings where Glenn Hefferan was welcomed as the new Commissioner and President. Pat attended a College Hockey, Inc. event with agents and advisors that was well received. USA Hockey was included in the historic announcement of Tennessee State University's plans to field a college non-varsity program, the first ever for a historically black college and university.

It was recently announced that individuals supporting the PWHPA have acquired the PHF and they will be forming a new professional women's ice hockey league. More information will be coming on that. We have been told that the plan is to launch the new league on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The new CEO of Hockey Canada is Katherine Henderson, who currently is the CEO of Curling Canada. Katherine will start her new role in September.

Tony Driscoll and Madison Brown are managing the process for fielding bids on hosting the 2026 World Juniors and there should be 5-6 strong bids to choose from. After the coming Winter Meeting, USA Hockey will be looking at changing locations. There will be more information to come on this in the August Meeting.

Finally, congratulations for Kendall Coyne-Schofield and her husband who welcomed a baby on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Donna Guariglia reported that overall, USA Hockey is tracking a little bit behind budget right now. The net income to date is \$170,000 less than budgeted. The total revenue is lower than budgeted by \$1.8 million dollars. Registrations are \$1.1 million lower than budgeted. Grant revenue is now under budget by \$680,000, but that is expected to even out when USA Hockey receives the other additional grants that are expected. Total expenses are only \$1.7 million less than budgeted across the board. Total operating expenses are over budget by \$80,000 this month. Grant expenses are \$1 million higher, which is a timing issue. Travel expenses are under budget by \$460,000. USA Hockey needs to continue to be cautious about travel costs. There is a lot of upcoming travel in August before the end of the fiscal year.

Kelly Mahncke noted that the Employee Retention Credit funds have not been received yet.

Kelly is working on insurance applications that is an important fixed cost in the budget.

There are no budget software updates at this time, other than staff is working on uploading a lot of historical budgets and financials.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report**

Donna Guariglia reported that the new committee spoke at Annual Meeting about exploring how USA Hockey communicates DEI in relation to safety in environments. USA Hockey wants all of its players to





feel safe. The DEI Committee is looking at meeting again in October.

The USOPC is continuing to establish new research about transgender rights in the sports community. There will be more updates to come on this.

### **Legal Council Report**

John Tobin reported that there are no outstanding appeals. There is a case out of New Hampshire that should go back to the Affiliate for an appeal before they can go to arbitration.

The legal team staff have been working on the Center for SafeSport, USOPC and Congressional Commission audits.

The Colorado Affiliate continues to be reviewed. The communication and work done by the new leadership in Colorado is a positive step forward. Kris Knauss, John Coleman and Kathleen Smith are involved in oversight of the affiliate. There is still a forensic audit being conducted. Not all the required documentation has been submitted by Randy Kanai. There are firm indications that several programs and financials that should have been operated under the affiliate were operated under a separate LLC.

Based on the lack of responsiveness, a letter will be sent to Randy to suspend him from all USA Hockey activities.

### **Youth Council Report**

Keith Barrett reported 17 Camp was outstanding on the coaching and staff side.

### **Girls Council**

Don Gould reported a successful first camp in Miami, OH for the Girls. They will be having a Tier I meeting for Girls in the next few weeks.

### **Junior Council**

TC Lewis notes that the published report will be uploaded soon. Junior Council is monitoring the junior situation in Canada, in particular the BCHL and possible defections by other leagues. National Camps are running very smoothly.

### **International Council Report**

Dwayne Dillinger announced that John Wroblewski has agreed to stay on a head the Women's National Team through the Olympics. At the end of the month the World Juniors Summer Showcase will be held. Then, the Women's National Team will start their camp in August at Lake Placid.

Dwayne traveled to Utica for a site visit with Tony Driscoll and Madison Brown, who did a fantastic job.

This spring, there were 10 American officials who participated in the IIHF events, all of whom had successful tournaments. Right now, there are 36 men and 28 women working on certification through the IIHF for officiating.

John Vanbiesbrouck added that the Hlinka Gretzky Cup and selection process in Plymouth will be from July 20<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>. Then, the World Junior Summer Showcase follows shortly after.





Scott Monaghan reported that the coaching search is still ongoing. Rod Braceful was offered the position of Director of Player Personnel. Rod previously was an assistant with NTDP but went to Chicago to scout. He will be starting his position next week with USA Hockey.

### **Membership Council**

Donna Kaufman reported that Membership is waiting for the testing of the registration software to be completed so that the portal can be opened for registration for next season.

### **Strategic Plan Report**

Going forward, Pat plans to have an update at each meeting on a different portion of the Strategic Plan for the Board to examine, so that the Strategic Plan continues to be a living document.

### **Old Business**

The IT subcommittee will be looking at having the Trello Board available to Board members on a regular basis.

### **New Business**

All NGBs must complete a USOPC Board Assessment this year. All board members will be receiving an email instructing them how to login and complete the board assessment. Please check spam folders. Board members will have 20 days to complete the assessment, ending on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Last year, there were requests to allow Ukrainian players who were displaced by the war opportunities to play hockey in the US. There are two requests to continue 1) allowing international transfers from the Ukraine, without a transfer fee and without the players being counted as imports, and 2) to allow displaced players from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus to complete in the United States under less stringent visa requirements. These are continuations of policies from last season. Donna Kaufman made a motion to approve the prior agreements for the 23-24 season. Dwayne Dillinger seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

The Wenatchee Wild was a team that USA Hockey approved to play in the BCHL years ago. USA Hockey was not notified in the proper route that the Winnipeg team in the WHL was sold to the owner of the Wenatchee team and that the team would be relocating to Wenatchee. It is USA Hockey's understanding that the franchise is no longer the BCHL, but that there will be another WHL team in the US. This should have been first approved by USA Hockey. USA Hockey needs to confirm that they will follow all requirements for US-based team in the WHL and CHL. The Board will need to approve the sanctioning. Donna Kaufman made a motion to approve the sanctioning of the Wenatchee Wild in the Western Hockey League. TC Lewis seconded. There was one opposed. Motion was approved.

The Annual Meeting survey was uploaded for Board members to review. There were a lot of positive comments about Annual Meeting. Moving forward, there will be a closer look at the number of closed meetings, the schedule and the overlaps of various meetings.

### **Adjournment**

Dwayne Dillinger made the Motion to Adjourn (2<sup>nd</sup> by Kris Knauss).

