

EMHA Minutes – 7:02pm, June 11, 2019

Roll Call of Officers: President, Matt Bendall; Vice President, Allison Weder; Treasurer, Jeremy Cook; Secretary, Teri Chambers; Trustee, Mike Terry; Trustee, Kelly Kurtiak

Other Attendees: Mike Chambers, Mick Carroll, Joshua Clements, Rob Smeltzer, Candice Mitchell, Katie Cawood, Heide Fleury, David Sicard, brad West, Mike Hazel, Ben Jennings

Lady Firebirds Update:

The Lady Firebirds will be part of the EMHA next year.

Peewee House Team/Draft for the 2019-2020 Season:

Katie Cawood asked via email to be added to the agenda to discuss the PeeWeeB house team, player skill levels and possible expansion of (PeeWee) program to better meet the needs of all players. She explained that with the many (youth hockey) changes in the area, including the closing of Lapeer and the high turnouts for 07/08 travel tryouts, the Association may be able to offer more than one PeeWee House team for the 2019/20 season. Her child was part of the Peewee house team and explained there was a very large range of skill levels. In addition, some families and players are looking for a longer season with tournaments, while others may be looking for something less intensive. She wondered if it was possible to create teams based on skill/interest levels and said she and other parents came to the board to see what options are available. Cawood passed out documents to the suggesting Compuware has minimum requirements to play on a house team. Based on the documents, Compuware uses Learn to Skate/Play as a foundation, next filters players to the House league and then to travel. She confirmed with Matt Bendall, EMHA does not have a similar requirement in place and that Learn to Skate/play is not affiliated with EMHA but is a rink-ran program. Several PeeWee parents were in attendance and shared their observations and experiences including safety concerns, player frustration and “set” travel rosters. PeeWee Coach David Sicard asked if EMHA could push for more numbers by offering potential players different options. He suggested offering parents a team with a longer season and more tournaments and another team with less commitment. The board asked for clarification on the option. If a player was better suited for one team, but chose another what would happen? Sicard said the parent would determine the placement based on the player’s interest level. Several on the board pointed out, the EMHA must follow MAHA rules which are in place to keep hockey available to everyone. The rules state a draft must be held. If there are enough players for two teams, the players are assigned numbers/rankings based on skill level and then be evenly divided among the two teams.

President Matt Bendall pointed out - The comparison of Compuware to Flint doesn’t work because of numbers. We must have the numbers first to even think about creating a second house team. Matt pointed out nothing will happen today (6/11). Matt agreed to speak to the D5 rep to get his recommendation and if other associations have brought up this issue.

Mike Chambers suggested a “select team” as an option. Jeremy Cook acknowledged that had been done in Lapeer. There would be a regular overall peewee house team roster and a select sub-roster used for tournaments. Not all players would be on the select roster. Monthly fees would be less for players not selected to participate in tournaments.

Concern was voiced by Joshua Clements, that a major part of house hockey is developing players who may not come to the program with a high level of skill. Joshua Clements pointed out how his son, “who could not stand up on skates”, showed major improvement and development from day one to the last day of the season. He also shared that he, personally, was offered a spot on a varsity hockey team with no previous skating experience.

When asked about numbers, Cawood nor Sicard were able to give solid numbers for the players they believe would be better suited for a Learn to Play/less skilled/less commitment team. They did state there are 16 players who would agree immediately to be on a “plus” team in the fall, and possibly many more based on the number of players not offered spots on the 07/08 EMHA travel team rosters and players that were dropped.

End of discussion: Bendall will make some phone calls. He’ll call our MAHA rep and to see what he recommends, including whether a skills assessment or a minimum requirement is possible for PeeWee and Bantam level house players. He will communicate back with what he finds out.

Side note: registration for EMHA teams will be open July 1st.

Financials with Treasurer, Jeremy Cook:

Currently \$19,458.88 in the account

Owe \$250 to the ‘05 team for coaching grant

Still Need to Pay:

Business License and new checks

Free Goalie Clinic:

On August 31st – Jordan Uhelski – will offer a free goalie clinic – he, along with 4 other goaltenders will host a 90 minute session for all EMHA goalies. He needs an idea of who will be there. Time TBA.

Pink Out the Rink: October 12, 8am-8pm

Teri Chambers reported Shea Chevrolet will help with something..a donation or raffle

Jeremy Cook mentioned we should contact RMI and McLaren should sponsor the jerseys again

Allison Weder will ask Advanced PT to provide – Concussion Screenings \$25/player

Season Kickoff Program:

Sheets were handed out about the USA Hockey recommendation on how to get your season started with a fun day around the rink. Open skate, bounce houses, vendors etc.

USA provides a list of previous try hockey for free players and marketing materials.

When should we do it? Before or after the draft? Tabled until next meeting.

New Managers Training

Randy Meyer – asked if we would do some training for new managers.

Brian Cistaurus – will come and help with coaches and managers in August. Date TBA.

Flushing Parade

Wednesday 19 – Summerfest parade...\$10 float registration fee. Teri Chambers will see if we can get in.

IF WE CAN GET IN – Allison Weder will send an email asking for volunteers. The EMHA team with the most volunteers will get a FREE sheet of ice. They will need to check with Coach Mike Hazel to be counted. Players should wear jerseys and postcards with draft skate info will be handed out.

MAHA Meeting in Traverse City – Thursday...July 11th - \$200 cover a hotel room for the EMHA member who goes. Approved for Teri and Mike Chambers to go.

8:13 motion to adjourn/support

Next meeting – July 9th 7:30 – at Flushing Valley Golf Club