

**Soo Michigan Hockey Association
Monday January 29, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Big Bear Hospitality Room**

1. Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by vice president, Renee Labadie
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Shaun Schummer, Dennis Eby, Tim Labadie, Renee Labadie, Heather Klever, Cheyenne Holappa, Joe Esson, Chris Lane, Diane Maleport
Motion made by Heather, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.

Dan Crimin had an unexcused absence tonight.

3. **Approval of agenda:** Marks resignation was added to the agenda.
Motion made by Renee, seconded by Chris. Motion approved.

With Mark Kavanaugh's recent resignation of President effective today, January 29, 2024, Joe Esson has put in to fill this position until the Marks term is up in April 2024.
Motion made by Dennis, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.

Meeting was taken over from Renee by Joe at this point.

4. **Approval of meeting minutes from December 18, 2023:** ***Motion made by Renee, seconded by Chris. Motion approved.***

5. Director Reports

- a. **President** – Joe mentioned that the Midget State Tournament is being held in Howell, Michigan March 8-10.
- b. **Vice President** – Renee had nothing to report. She did mention that she would get in contact with Alan Suggitt who is making the trophy case and see what the status is on that.
- c. **Treasurer** – Cheyenne mentioned that SMHA has not yet received an ice bill from LSSU all season.

She also mentioned that our current accountant Chuck Leonhardt is retiring, and effective May 2024 will no longer be our association's accountant. The association would like to find a new one that would be responsible for writing checks, balance bank statements, preparing financial statements, mailing out 1099 forms, preparing our tax returns and other accounting related jobs that may arise.

- d. **Secretary** – Heather got the schedule for the upcoming SMHA board meetings for the year.

Monday February 26, 2024 @ 5:30 pm	Monday March 18, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Monday April 29, 2024 @ 5:30 pm	Monday May 20, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Monday June 24, 2024 @ 5:30 pm	Monday July 29, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Monday August 26, 2024 @ 5:30 pm	Monday September 30, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Monday October 28, 2024 @ 5:30 pm	Monday November 25, 2024 @ 5:30 pm
Monday January 6, 2025 @ 5:30 pm	Monday January 27, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

***NO DECEMBER MEETING**

All meetings will be held in the Big Bear Hospitality room. (Email was sent to Tammy Graham with confirmation of these dates on January 30, 2024)

It was suggested to Heather by a parent if Cabin Fever could possibly be considered being changed to a different weekend next year? It seems to fall during the week of high school exams. Cabin Fever can't be pushed back further any weekends because you run in to districts playoffs. If teachers are notified in advance, they were all very willing to work with students and there didn't seem to be any problems.

Heather brought up having a better system next year when it came time for ordering sponsor backtags. Knowing who sponsors the house and travel teams in September, there is no reason why back tags can't be ordered within that week. Tags should be held off on being ordered and sewn on jerseys in January. It is the responsibility of the equipment manager, which falls under the job responsibility of the Vice Presidents job duty to see that these tags are ordered and given to the coach and/or manager for the team they were ordered for, and it will be the teams responsibility to have them sewn on within a certain amount of time. Also, sponsor back tags should remain on all jerseys and only be taken off if a business is no longer going to be a sponsor.

- e. **Coaching Director** – Dan was absent.
- f. **Travel Director** – Dennis would like to know how much the trophy case is going to cost to be built.

He also thinks that when the association goes to order new jerseys for the season, we should go to the Pro Shop at LSSU and buy our jerseys locally.

Dennis also suggested that those jerseys whose backtags were just ordered should be contacted and told that they will not be charged a sponsor fee next year.

- g. **Tournament Director** – Chris felt that the Cabin Fever tournament went well, with exception of the Negaunee team incident Saturday evening at LSSU and Sunday afternoon during/after the championship game. The Cadillac hockey association president reached out to Chris and the incident with Negaunee is being handled by their district representative.
- h. **Bantam/Midget Director** – vacant
- i. **Squirt/Pewee Director** – Tim mentioned to Cheyenne that he will need extra ice for the Squirt & Bantam AA teams as they advanced to States.
- j. **HIP/Mite Director** – Shaun reported that Kaines Klassic went well this year, however they did end up moving games to the Pullar due to the ice melting. They made a profit of \$3,300.

Shaun mentioned again reaching out to Hiawatha Skating Club to see if they would be interested in maybe partnering up to help the HIP kids that aren't able to stand up on skates learn how to stand up.

Shaun also suggested next year considering HIP & U6 be free of charge. He also thought that if the association did a fundraiser to help make that possible it wouldn't be a total loss.

Shaun also suggested doing the SMHA board meetings via zoom.

- k. **Ice Scheduler** - Cheyenne mentioned that the last date of the hockey season was February 29, 2024, except those teams that have advanced to States.

Cheyenne also mentioned that neck guards will be mandatory for all hockey players effective August 1, 2024.

- l. **Registrar** – Diane mentioned that any coach or manager that was on the roster will be submitted to get reimbursed for safe sport, coaching clinics, background checks and modules they paid for over the season. Diane also mentioned that next year Cabin Fever needed to be organized a little better, she did not feel that things ran smoothly.

Diane also wanted the board and the members of the audience to know that the squirt coaches had nothing to do with the teams being picked. That the list of players was sent to a MAHA representative who signed off on the two teams and how they were split up and she typed up the rosters.

6. **Old Business** – Nothing to report.
7. **New Business** – Board of Elections, letters were submitted for open positions. There was only one applicant for each position, therefore they were voted in by the board.
Joe Esson – President ***Motion made by Dennis, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.***
Cheyenne Holappa – Treasurer ***Motion made by Renee, seconded by Tim. Motion approved.***
Damon Whitten – Coaching Director ***Motion made by Heather, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.***
Matt Parker – Bantam/Midget Director ***Motion made by Renee, seconded by Chris. Motion approved.***
Chris Lane – Tournament Director ***Motion made by Renee, seconded by Tim. Motion approved.***

SMHA will be putting in a 12U girls team for the Katie Robinson showcase. It will be coached by Tim & Addyson Labadie.

Public Comment:

Nancy Robinson spoke with regards to the upcoming tournament. They have a total of 19 teams registered to play the weekend of February 9-11, 2024. There was a team that dropped out and Nancy turned back the ice to the Big Bear for Friday & Saturday evening. Nancy also asked if we would advertise the showcase on the SMHA Facebook page. Cheyenne told her she would take care of getting it on the Facebook page.

JJ Schmitt suggested that maybe next year Cabin Fever having welcome baskets and put Laker hockey tickets in them.

Mike Gordon commented on the numbers being down in the HIP program.

James Killips suggested having a Learn to Skate programs for all levels of hockey. Contact some Greyhound players or have Klem Kelgar come and help.

Damon Whitten commented that USA has “try hockey for free” that maybe that could be looked in to.

Andrei Sawruk wanted to know why a couple of parents showing up at a board meeting with a concern is enough to have a board vote an on issue based on their concern. A few parents do not represent the mass of SMHA. Is there way the board to make a petition process for a board votes for changes?

Rob Horn spoke how our association needs to work on getting more participation from the school district. We need to get more transparency with the parents and coaches to find a retention and try to keep them from quitting. Rob mentioned that it would be beneficial if the association had a parent liaison. They could have someone that parent could go and talk to with concerns or issues rather than bringing them up with the coach. Rob also mention that USA hockey states hockey associations lose 30% of their players when it comes to body contact. He would like to see us prepare these kids for what lies ahead and try to keep them from quitting..

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm. Next meeting scheduled for Monday February 26, 2023 @ 5:30 pm at the Big Bear.

Minutes taken, typed, and submitted by:



Heather Klever, SMHA Secretary