

New Prague Hockey Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting held via WebEx
Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

NPHA Board

President	Sam Blank	present
Vice President	John Prokopec	present
Secretary/Registrar	Miranda Vertnik	present
Treasurer	Krystal Beedle	present
Manager Director	Brian Christensen	present
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	present
Fundraising Director	Brian Vosejka	present
Board Member at Large	Brad Breggemann	present
Past Board Member	Jason Ashley	present

Coordinator Positions

NPACC Manager	Kevin Cassidy	absent
Gambling Coordinator	Nate Borwege	present
Ice Time Coordinator	Tyler Kienow	absent
Assistant Ice Time Coordinator	VACANT	
HDC Coordinator	Joe Franck	present
Volunteer Coordinator	Jen Mushitz	absent
Concessions Coordinator	Brea Applen	present
Mite Coordinator	Brad Breggemann	present
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	absent
Tournament Coordinator	Eric Steinhoff	absent
Sponsor Coordinator	Sam Blank	present
SafeSport Coordinator	Mike Franklin	present
Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Sarah Hartman	absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	Mike & Sara Westing	absent
Concession Stand POS Specialist	Erick Christianson	present
COVID-19 Point Person	Cameron Stoltz	present
COVID-19 Point Person	Sarah Donovan	present

Others present: N/A

I. REPORTS

- 1. Secretary's Report (Miranda Vertnik):** The Meeting Minutes for August 2020 were shared with the Board on August 16th. A motion was made by Brian V. to approve the August 2020 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Jess. Motion carried (all in favor, two Board members absent for this vote).

2. **Treasurer's Report (Krystal Beedle):** The Treasurer's Report for August 2020 was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. We now have only three families who remain blocked from registration due to having an account balance not paid from last year (the total amount due for those three accounts is \$1,379.51), those accounts will not be returned to active status until they have paid their remaining balances. Our cash is up significantly due to Preseason and the 2020-21 Hockey Season Registrations being open. Moneys have been paid out to Butch Kaebel for his Preseason work, xHockey for Preseason work as well as an Ice Deposit, Team Genius, Brad B for HDC Equipment, and two Squirt tournaments to replace the Fargo tournament. We are expecting a \$7,000 refund from Fargo. A motion was made by Jess to approve the August 2020 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Brian C. Motion carried (all in favor, two Board members absent for this vote).
3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege):**

Nate shared the July 2020 Gambling Report prior to the meeting. It was noted that the pull tab machine at the Fishtale has been repaired and seems to be working well (repairs cost \$2,378.99). Nate met with the owner of Smoke in mid-August to discuss the possibility of setting up lawful pull tab gambling at the restaurant. The meeting went well, but the restaurant ultimately signed with the Lonsdale Fire Department as they are more local to the restaurant. Startup of lawful gambling at Carbone's continues to be unknown at this time. Nate and Susan Murphey are soliciting donations for the raffle calendars and hope to go to print in mid-October. A motion was made by Jess to approve the July 2020 Gambling Report and the Lawful Expenditures Pre-Approval for Payments, which was seconded by John. Motion carried (all in favor).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Junior Gold Updates:** We may bring in the Junior Gold representative from D6 to talk about this possibility for next year with our Bantam parents. We are still waiting for updates on the start dates for the High School teams.
2. **Registration Updates:**
 - i. **PRESEASON** – Sessions sold out quite quickly and we have players who have been placed on a waitlist. Brad has been working hard to accommodate these players. An association member reached out to see if we might be able to offer "mini" clinics to offer prior to tryouts for those who weren't able to register due to sessions being sold out. Brad indicated that at this time, he believes he has been able to accommodate most people who were on the waitlist with offering partial sessions and/or moving players to a different session to make room.
 - ii. **REGULAR SEASON** – At the time of this meeting, we have 126 players registered for the regular season. Team declarations due to D6 in a week, John will be submitting this.
 - iii. **Coaching Applications** – At the time of this meeting, we have received 37 coaching applications thus far.
3. **COVID-19 Planning Updates:** Since the last meeting, we have released our COVID-19 Notice and our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan with the members of the association.

Brad reported that Preseason Clinic sessions began this week and that he felt association members were doing a good job overall with following the social distancing rules etc. that were outlined in the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, but noted that he did have to give some reminders to folks about the expectations. It will be important for us all to follow the expectations laid out in the Preparedness Plan.

During the meeting, our two COVID-19 Point Person specialists, both of whom have extensive background working on COVID-19 planning issues in their employment, explained what is considered to be a true exposure. A true exposure is close contact (less than six feet apart) for more than 15 minutes with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. In the event of a true exposure, folks will be asked to refrain from participation in NPHA activities for 14 days. With all of the precautions we are putting into place with our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan (social distancing, no use of locker rooms or drinking fountains, masks for all coaches, masks for players while not wearing helmets, one-way traffic flow within the facility, limitations on the number of spectators, etc.) the chances of a true exposure are reduced. Of course it will be important for every NPHA member (coaches, parents, players, Board Members, etc.) to respect and follow the NPHA COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, but if we do, we are hopeful that this will significantly reduce the possibility of having *true exposures* and we will be able to have a successful season and keep our players on the ice as much as possible.

- i. **Refund Policy:** We have had a couple families reach out about the plan for refunds should the season be cancelled due to COVID-19. While we hope it won't be the case, should our operations be ceased due to another government shutdown, our intention is to provide prorated refunds to players based on an evaluation of the association commitments and the remaining season. There are some expenses for which we would not provide refunds, such as the annual NPACC usage fee, tryout fees (assuming tryouts have already happened), jersey fees, or any fees paid to USA Hockey, but efforts will be made to provide refunds to association members as outlined in our refund policy in the NPHA Handbook.

III. COORDINATOR UPDATES

1. President

- i. **NPACC Manager (Kevin Cassidy):** No updates at this time.
- ii. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege):** See Gambling Report above.
- iii. **SafeSport Coordinator (Mike Franklin):** Is up to speed on reviewing the SafeSport training materials. He is prepared to present at the Season Kick Off meeting when that occurs. The meeting with the D6 liaison has been cancelled twice, unfortunately. Jess encouraged Mike to review the SafeSport information on the NPHA website for any necessary revisions. He will plan to put together a brief video introducing himself to coaches, managers, and association members explaining his role and how folks can reach out to him should the need arise.

2. Vice President

- i. **HDC Coordinator (Joe Franck):** At this time all tournaments and hotel blocks have been booked. The HDC did a great job with organizing this. Of note, the out of state tournaments have been cancelled as questions had come up on whether or not we would be able to attend. The HDC decided to proactively cancel these tournaments and book within MN instead to better ensure that our players will have the opportunity to compete in tournaments. It was noted that we need to sign our contract with MEGA, Sam will look into this. The HDC met with Butch last night to discuss scheduling, a plan is in place where he will alternate Monday evenings with MEGA. He plans to hold a coaching clinic first and then start working with our hockey teams. Dan Witty has worked to get our Team Genius software up and running, we will be using this software for our evaluations of players during tryouts. We are working out the details for smaller tryout sessions, due to Covid-19 guidelines, this will allow evaluators the opportunity to take a closer look at each player. At this time, we have 5 evaluators confirmed and we are waiting to hear from one other. We are planning to share bio information for each of the evaluators soon. It was noted that there has been some difficulty with coordinating jersey orders for those players who missed the fitting event. It would be helpful to have extra jerseys on hand in every size. John indicated that he would reach out to the Equipment Coordinator about these issues. Joe also reported that the HDC continues to pursue out of town ice options for our players. It looks like we will be committing to Wednesday evening ice at Fairbault. Brad reported that, at this time, the plan is not for our 10U and 12U players to participate tryouts with the PeeWee and Bantam teams. We do not have enough 10U and 12U players for multiple teams at their levels, so tryouts do not make sense, especially with Covid-19 guidelines limiting the number of players we can have on the ice at one time. Our 10U and 12U players will still get a score on Team Genius at the beginning of the season. The association saved \$3,000 by cancelling the Fargo tournament and rescheduling elsewhere. The HDC is considering setting up Google Meet account for classroom training, and will be seeking funding to pay for this account. This format could also be used for coaching players prior to games. The plan for Monday nights with Butch will include skills groups, rather than teams, this way we can have 25 players on the ice at a time. We will plan to cut the ice in half with Butch running drills on one side and Kevin Flaherty running drills on the other side. John reported that he had informed the HDC of the creation of the Disciplinary Committee. The HDC had requested that they appoint an HDC point person who can be a resource to the Disciplinary Committee, and they nominated Nick Backlund for this role.
- ii. **Mite Coordinator (Brad Breggemann):** The grant proposal Brad submitted for free equipment for new Mite level players was approved. The association will be getting \$1,200 to purchase hockey gear at Dick's Sporting Goods. He will be creating an application for new Mite families to submit request for free equipment. Brad received quotes from two different jersey suppliers for our Mite teams. One vendor offered a lower price for the same style jerseys, so we

will be going with that vendor. The design options were reviewed and there are some very nice options. We will be buying sublimated socks for the Mites this year as well. They are \$9 per set, but last longer than the traditional knit socks. The vendor also offers hockey face masks at \$6.95/each with an order minimum of 45. We are going to pass as these are not child size and because we have heard that ID Threadz in New Prague is going to be offering NP masks. The vendor also can provide us with One New Prague window decals to sell, we will be communicating with Brad Drazan about this to see if we can work out the logistics of where the money will go for these. Would we create a 1 New Prague account that can hold monies to be used to pay for speakers to come in a talk to our players, etc.?

- iii. **Ice Time Coordinator (Tyler Kienow):** Game draws are coming up soon. D6 is waiving the rescheduling fees if games need to be changed due to Covid-19. Still working out a plan for games against D4 teams, looking at New Ulm as a location. Tyler is only planning to schedule ice times a month in advance as there will likely be a lot of changes needed. We are still in need of an assistant ice scheduler, Mike Cloutier was suggested as a possibility, John will reach out to see if he may be interested.
- iv. **Equipment Coordinator (Troy Gilbertson):** We are in need of more pucks as the pucks from last year have disappeared. We will ask Troy to order more.

3. Treasurer

- i. **Concession Stand Coordinator (Brea Applen):** Brea asked the Board if our plan is to have the concession stand open in light of the Covid-19 guidelines that have been shared with the association. She will be reaching out to other rinks to ask whether they intend to open their concession stands. Discussion was given to the possibility of only having the stand open during games, not practices. The question was raised as to whether or not we are under contract to have it open during varsity games.
- ii. **Volunteer Coordinator (Jen Mushitz):** The first load of DIBS hours we were claimed very quickly. We were able to offer 165 hours for preseason clinics (positions included check-in station, rink supervisor).
- iii. **Concession Stand POS Specialist (Erick Christianson):** Erick has prepared his recommendations for a POS program, unfortunately we did not have time to review them at this meeting. We will ask him to write up a proposal with the system he recommends, the timeline of setting this up, and the costs.

4. Secretary/Registrar: N/A

5. Fundraising Director

- i. **Tournament Coordinator (Eric Steinhoff):** No updates at this time.

6. Communications Director

- i. **Sponsor Coordinator (Sam Blank):** No updates at this time.

7. Board Member at Large

- i. **Recruitment & Retention Coordinator (Mike & Sara Westing):** No updates at this time.

8. Past Board Member:

- i. **Clothing & Apparel Coordinator (Sarah Hartman):** See New Business below.

9. Manager Director

- i. **Outdoor Ice Coordinator (Jeremy Denzer):** Brian C will check with Jeremy to see if there are any needs for our outdoor ice. He will also let him know that we have set aside funds in our budget to make improvements to the warming house.
- ii. **COVID-19 Point Persons (Cameron Stoltz & Sarah Donovan):** See the Old Business section above for more information. Here are some items not noted above: we should have volunteers assigned during games to usher the flow of foot traffic within the facility; we need to plan for safety within the parking lot (pick up/drop off traffic); we need to be firm with our standards right at the outset of the season.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **All-Association Meeting Alternative:** We will need to have this put together for families in the coming weeks. Jess will put together a newsletter to be shared with the association. All Board members are asked to put together a brief write up of their information ASAP and send it to Jess.
2. **Concession Stand POS Recommendations (Erick Christianson):** Our Concession Stand POS Specialist has recommendations to review with the Board. Unfortunately, we did not have time to review his recommendations during this meeting. We will plan to discuss this at the next meeting.
3. **Hardship Applications [CLOSED SESSION]:** We received two applications for assistance. These cases were reviewed and voted on during a closed part of this meeting. Miranda will reach out to each of these families to share the Board's decision, she will cc Krystal on her communications to assist with the financial planning for these families.

V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

1. **Fundraising Director (Brian Vosejpka):** Fundraising packets are ready to go. He will plan to hold a packet pick up event outside in the HS parking lot.
2. **Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** We have ownership of the newpraguehockey.com domain switched over, so that is good to go. Jess wanted to make it known that NPHA received a \$300 donation in memory of Don Anderson. The association sincerely thanks the family for this generous contribution. Jess shared information with the Board on a vendor who has plans in place for operating socially distanced individual and team photos.
3. **Manager Director (Brian Christensen):** No updates at this time.
4. **Past Board Member (Jason Ashley):** No updates at this time.
5. **Board Member at Large (Brad Breggemann):** Brad shared that NPHA raised more money this year from our Preseason Clinic than last year. This was due to the fact that we had less expenses for ice and coaches due to the limits on the amount of players we could have on the ice at one time and because we did not offer a multi-player family discount or free clinics for goalies this year. He noted that we also could not pay any HS helpers. He noted that he had checked into the possibility of renting out space within the HS, but the school district is not allowing outside groups to rent space within the school until at least October 15th. The question was raised on whether we would like to return to in-person

Board meetings. Miranda will check with the Bank to see if they are allowing groups to rent their space at this time.

6. **Treasurer (Krystal Beetle):** No further updates at this time.
7. **Secretary/Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda reminded the Board to pass along their USA Hockey numbers as soon as possible so that she can finalize the Board Roster with USA Hockey. It was determined that due to the nature of the following Coordinator roles (they either have direct contact with our players OR have decision making authority over players) will be added to the Board/Coordinator Roster with USA Hockey: HDC Coordinator; Tournament Coordinator; Equipment Coordinator; COVID-19 Specialists; and Recruitment and Retention Coordinator.
8. **Vice President (John Prokopec):** No updates at this time.
9. **President (Sam Blank):** No updates at this time.

Motion was made by Brian V. to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Brian C. Motion carried (all in favor). Meeting adjourned at 11:54 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Miranda Vertnik, NPHA Secretary/Registrar