

## **RHA Summer General Membership Meeting, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Thunderdome, 6:00 pm**

**Board members present:** Chris Dietrich, Brad Eggers, Robert Steffy, Christine Ritter, Ben Nelson, Ronda Simmons, David Bender, Sandra Weaver, Rachelle Williams, Becky Mann, Rachael Hepper, (Dan Laughlin advised in advance he couldn't make it)

Call General meeting to order- Chris Dietrich 6:01 pm

Approve meeting minutes/agenda- Minutes didn't go out with the change over of the board. Christine will send out the May & June minutes together.

### President's Report (Chris Dietrich):

Chris went over numbers in association. Last year we had about 320 skaters, about 80 mites, about 75 house, and the rest travel squirt thru varsity. We had only 21 bantams and 2 peewee teams. Numbers are down. We are actively working on recruiting. New next season is a discount for 1<sup>st</sup> year mites, it will only cost \$100 for the season. Trying to encourage young players and grow from the bottom up.

Simeon Birnbaum has been awarded Gatorade player of the year and has received 2 separate Play It Forward Grants of \$1,000 each. He is a former RHA player and has chosen RHA to receive both. First one was used for more equipment to help with gear rental. We are just receiving the second one now.

The state is working to change how Sioux Falls divides their teams. SF has about 1,000 players and we have about 320 just for comparison. The state is working on how they should divide up the JV/Varsity etc.

There were not many rule changes this year, but there are new rules in Safesport.

State Fees and USA Hockey fees have all gone up.

Brad E spoke about the facility and dirt work going on around our rink. We are not sure if we will be annexed into the city at some point. It could affect RHA, we just aren't sure how much.

RHA has a set of new removable divider boards. They will be heavier to lift, take a little more time, better division for cross ice. We may need to figure a little set up time in with ice time. They are out in the rink for everyone to see.

BH Energy has reached out and requested to help with projects. Brad is working with them on getting some painting done around the rink.

Facility and board have been trying to determine when we can add ice in the fall. In late summer with temps, it is more expensive and harder on the equipment. Recommendation was made to wait till Sept. We like having Riley with his camp here, but last year we lost about \$13,000 with the utilities. We reached out and Riley understood and will host the late summer camp at Roosevelt.

Adding reinforcements to the doors.

Chris spoke about building insurance. We are member owned, we are not part of the city. When the dig in and surge happened across the road, it took our ice out. There was an insurance claim filed, not thru our insurance, but due to this, ours was dropping RHA. Steffy worked to find a policy and keep coverage, but it's getting more difficult to insure a private rink.

Another hurdle we face is getting volunteers. RHA cashed about \$17,000 in volunteer checks this season. We will have a lot of games at home this season and need the help on and off ice. About 1,200 Dibs hours went unclaimed.

We are in Good standing as an Assn, but we will need to increase our numbers to continue to be competitive in the future. We will have only about 22 bantams, hard to field 2 teams light at this level and too many for 1. It's hard to force all players on 1 team also with varying skill levels.

RC Sports Commission has been in contact with RHA to see what we need and what they can do for us. The benefit for us is that it's over the winter when there is less travel and tourists and businesses are looking to bring people in,

We have 3 sheets of ice in RC, but really we only control ours, we can rent from Roosevelt, but times are limited. Bill Holec is the ice scheduler and works with Roosevelt to rent ice. We can do the early am both here and at Roosevelt, but it's hard for some and nobody wants ice time at those hours.

RHA also has an agreement with Monument and the Rush and we are the only entity they will rent ice to. Rental costs will vary as they have to pay their staff and they are union, it depends on availability, etc.

RHA's price per ice hour is actually lower than around us for the most part.

We can look to use the Monument ice for squirt and mite tourneys if they are larger and need more space. We would need to factor rental into the overall cost.

Tourney Dates, we will look at changing up as the squirts have had issues and requested to move it. Corey Norris is working on this. Costs have gone up and it's harder to find tourneys close by. SDAHA rules allow teams to lock 2 weekends out when they work on the state schedule.

Fundraising Committee is working on finding new ways to raise money outside of RHA families. Chase the Ace has been in the works for a couple of years- we are finally cleared and

will be rolling out this season. We are hoping that being offsite for the drawings and making the push on it will help generate funds outside RHA families.

It costs roughly \$300,000 - \$500,000 for RHA to operate yearly. Currently we are viable, we are not losing money, but not making much either. We still owe about \$500,000 on the building. We are hoping Chase the Ace funds will go towards building costs.

On paper we are pretty similar to the other associations as far as numbers, aside from SF.

Christine went over the open board seats, there are 6 open. We try to balance the board and have representation at each level. We do not have an elected board member for house and need mites and squirts covered as well.

Due to the size of turnover this year, we emailed and posted online to all members the general election for board members. The general membership is able to nominate members in good standing to the board. You do not need to be a board member to make a nomination and you cannot nominate yourself. We had all nominees who were present introduce themselves. After this, we handed out ballots to every member in attendance and allowed for up to 6 votes per ballot.

#### RHA Board election

<b>nominee</b>	<b>nominated by</b>	<b>player level</b>
Dominic Janitell	Ben Nelson	1st year bantam/possible house
Cody Minnerath	Ben Nelson	2nd year PW & mites
Corey Norris	Brad Eggers	2nd year PW
Joelle Neutzling	Ronda Simmons	mite & PW
Josh Quigley	David Bender	2nd year PW
Loren Jensen	Ronda Simmons	squirt, bantam & varsity
Josh Nolan	Rachael Hepper	squirt (already played 2 years) & mite
Dan Krohn	Rachael Hepper	squirt (already played 2 years)
Stacy Turek	Rachael Hepper	peewee
Megan Archer	Rachelle Williams	peewee
John Rankin	Chris Dietrich	house

Christine Ritter, Rebecca Mann and Sandra Weaver stepped out to the concession stand to tally- we made sure not to select anyone who had made a nomination to avoid any conflict. Ballots were counted and doubled counted/verified. Ballots were held onto in case there was a request to recount or anyone asked to see them.

Christine welcomed new board members: Dominic Janitell, Cody Minnerath, Corey Norris, Joelle Nuetzling, Loren Jensen, and Megan Archer

At this time, we thanked everyone for coming to the General meeting, there were no further questions. Chris ended the General meeting, at 6:54 pm and requested all board members stay for the board meeting to follow.

Board Meeting called to order at 6:57 pm by Brad E

Christine reminded all board members that they will need to get a USA hockey #, volunteer unless they are a coach, and then get Safesprt certified and apply for the background check with the state. This is a requirement of all board members, and please get your USA hockey # to the new Secretary and she will make sure the registrar has this on file.

Board meeting minutes from May on hold, will go out to the new board along with June minutes for approval. Once approved will be sent to the webmaster to post.

Presidents Report (Chris Dietrich):

**Play up requests-** brief discussion, need to make the top team or you need to bump back to your level. This is something up for discussion as they come up. We also take into account the level numbers, the player and recommendations from coach/HDC. Not as likely to approve play up if we are needing to cut at a level.

**Executive Board nominations-** We will need a President (Chris terms out), possible VP (if Brad E accepts the Pres position), new Secretary (Christine terms out), all positions are up for vote each year directly after new members are voted in at General meeting.

The board elected Brad Eggers as President, Sandra Weaver as Treasure and Megan Archer as Secretary.

Brad E took over the meeting at this time. Housekeeping items: Please get contact info to secretary. Christine will take it and update the current listing and work with Megan to get all info over to her. Brad discussed the big changeover, lots of new members and a new exec board. There will be growing pains, will succeed and make mistakes as they grow.

Brad went over what is expected of the board. He asked if anyone who feels like they cannot make the time commitment or don't think they can/want to attend the meetings, they are able to step away now- this is for all board members, not just the new ones. He mentioned the attendance policy- 3 unaccounted for meetings missed, you would be removed- they will be tightening this up and looking at the bylaws. The big reason is that you need a quorum to vote and get things done. You are also the ambassador for your level and need to be present.

As a board, we may disagree, but we should be able to talk freely in the meetings. Once we leave the room we speak with 1 voice. We are all the voice at RHA. Also, things do not leave the board room, tryouts for example- you are not to share any scores, etc. Anyone in violation will be removed immediately from the board.

We are not far off from tryouts. Discussion on possible changes. We do a blind score, look at adding more than just scrimmages. Hoping this will help to not miss any kids that could fall either way. Look at skills, small area, coach feedback. Coaches have the say on the last player on the team. Concern with giving coaches too many spots. Their feedback is important- but how do you handle the coaches that come on just for tryouts to get their kid on the team they want? Evaluators are hard to come by and consistency is not always there. We need more and we need them to be at all sessions.

Chris mentioned we have reached out to other assn to see how they score theirs as well. We have more evaluators than some. We do not have hockey director to handle this, so it falls on HDC and the board helps tally, accepts coach input. Sioux Falls does look at skills as well as scrimmages. It was asked to see what the SF Bantams do, how they eval. We are just discussing what the coaches are looking into at this time. We will tweak as needed our process per coaches request.

It was mentioned that an assn sent an A player down to the B team due to behavior. It's hard when they are skilled and it's not fair to the other players, but being coachable and attitude could affect you if you are on the bubble.

It was asked about playups- with teams low on numbers, would we set aside the policy that they need to make the top team? It would really depend on circumstances and the level. It has been done before for example with mites moving to squirts. Discussion, but at the upper levels we usually don't want to jump a player up if they are not ready.

Discussion on HDC.

Discussion on skills training and shooting pads or using the cement on the rink. Could coaches come in and work with kids off season, etc.

House Program: Janitell had a player at house last year & will be able to help out with this group. Brad E – we need to define the House Committee program- they are more coordinators to help the coaches and families.

Discussion on little house vs JV. It was recommended by the state (Dan French) that most house leagues do not check, it is very rare to see it in a rec league. We have had issues with it being a deterrent for kids moving up, kids getting hurt with the large range in age and skillset. The board made the decision to remove checking from the house program, some are upset. In our state, only SF and RHA have a house program and we are the only ones that were allowing checking.

There were 3 checks cashed in error, there was at least 1 house family affected by this. Brad took care of this and made sure we reimbursed the families and reached out to everyone.

There were some concerns on lack of communication or how it was being communicated in house last year- some may travel just due to their concerns from last year. Board will work to help define what is needed and look at balancing the house committee for even representation.

**Miscellaneous-** Team SD would like to come out the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in Oct for games, will rent ice & bring in other teams. Looking for 24 hours of ice time- maybe we can match up when the younger players go to Gillette for their 3 v 3 Halloween tourney. Nov 17-19 will be the varsity Rendezvous tourney.

Sept 22-23 Girls weekend Jenni is asking about ice for this group. We would have ice in time and receive about \$2500,. So it will break even with costs. Would like to support TSD & Girls weekend. We would need to start ice a week earlier to be ready- motion was made by Ronda and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David, approved in vote to start ice early to allow these events.

3 v 3 19<sup>th</sup> Aug on, would be at Roosevelt till we have ice. \$110/hr is our rental rate. Would run 9 to noon on Sat. Will check on offpeak ice times/rate. Would charge \$80 for a player for all sessions or \$10 drop in as they go. Last season average was about 40, 51 was the largest turnout. Worked well and they had girls and boys JV/V players help.

Robby Glantz power skating. Have had power skating in the past & it hadn't been well attended. Would need to be sure we can get out players there and stress the importance of skating. Went over the different rates. Can give them the ice and it lowers the cost of the camp, but then how do we handle all other camps coming in, would need to be fair to Riley, etc. Should be discussed as they come up. Will look into dates, it may not work this year with all the above ice scheduled. Could hold an email vote if needed for approval. Brad E will get more info for the board.

Look at setting dates sooner, max of 5 games per day on the ice. We need our dates set so the state can get working on the schedule sooner.

Building Committee (Ben Nelson, Brad Eggers): Ben working on ordering supplies to get things going end of July.

**Warne Chemical** came out, missed a spot but will be back. We have struggled to get the weeds killed in the past and this was very effective.

BH Energy, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> is the end of our agreement for land lease. They paid \$4,000 and have extended the gravel area for future parking. They are storing poles on our property.

Financial Report (Robert Steffy)- Handed out credit cards and went over this. There are 4 total, and they all have a collective limit of \$10,000. This went to the building committee, Proshop, concessions, and an officer. We are able to cover things thru RHA immediately and not put burden on our volunteers who pay and have to request funding later.

Chase the Ace is approved and will be ready soon.

Working on reconciling and will get updates to the board next time.

Anything needed for the Budget? Will need to work on this for August. Ben mentioned needing money set aside for the zam charger- we are using the back up. The one that got wet throws errors, so we moved to the back up as the main one.

Invoices, please let Treasurer know when you charge things so they are aware. We also have letterhead now.

Volunteer checks we went over at the main meeting. We will reimburse Loren for Fargo, he signed up both squirt teams. The families going will need to pay for this, but we had issues last year and to be fair will not have the balance on anyone's card so there's no issues for the teams. We will work with coords beginning of season to go over Fargo. Cost is about \$1950 per team and you pay n advance. If you are not selected, they will refund.

Squirt tourneys cost are going up. They do have 20 league play games now too, so they really only attend a couple tourneys. Fargo is parent funded.

Future Dates- PW Early Bird second weekend of Nov, Nov 10-12.

Varsity Nov 17-19

Tryouts Oct 23-27

Try Hockey for Free will fall in here too, not sure we will have ice open for Robby.

Next board meeting set for Monday, Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6 pm at Thunderdome.

Brad E welcomes new board members, thanks outgoing members. Chris and Christine will work with new board members.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm

