

***Chautauqua County Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

April 21, 2025

I. Call to Order

Ericka Alm called to order a meeting of the Chautauqua County Youth Hockey Association at 6:31pm on April 21, 2025 at Northwest Arena.

II. Reading of Mission Statement

III. Roll Call

Tammy Anderson, secretary for the meeting, conducted attendance via sign in sheet. In addition to herself, the following board members were present: Ericka Alm, Sarah Olson, Molly Anderson, Amber Smith, Ashley Pitner, Ashley Balling, Renée Zahm, Brysten Jones, Stephanie Swanson, & Nick Madden.

Other Coaches, Managers & Lakers family members in Attendance

Scott Smith, Jennifer Smith, James Zahm, Chris McGarrie, Ashley Tuck, Paul Genis, & Marcie Brown.

IV. Guest(s)

None.

V. Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

Ashley Balling made a motion to accept the April 9, 2025 “Special” Board Meeting minutes. Renée Zahm seconded; all were in favor. Minutes accepted.

VI. Discussion Items

CCYHA Family member Paul Genis expressed concern over the recently implemented Commitment Form requirement for the upcoming season. He requested that season costs are confirmed prior to requiring commitment form signatures.

CCYHA Coach Scott Smith spoke of another organization which requires that commitment letters are signed prior to tryouts. The season costs are established prior to tryouts and are included in commitment letter and the letter includes a clause stating that if the player did not make the team they would be released from any financial obligation. Treasurer Sarah Olson explained that now that our new board members have more experience and understanding of the associated fees we will have a better understanding of what the season charges will look like moving forward which will allow us to formulate the season bills sooner. She also

explained that the commitment letter was something we implemented for the first time this year so we can make modifications for improvement.

CCYHA 12u(A) coach James Zahm said he fully supports Chris McGarrie in his efforts to become the 12u(B) coach.

VII. Treasurer's Report – Sarah Olson

- The balance in the operating account is \$58,422.80. The fundraising account currently stands at \$19,943.91. The alumni account remains at \$2,542. Recent activity in the sled hockey program account includes donations received around \$4,000.
- A recent check in the amount of \$402 was received from a CHQ Chautauqua Region Community Foundation fundraiser in 2024 to be used toward Beginner helmets.
- The March ice bill was paid in the amount of \$3,450.15. The Sabres paid the Learn-to-Skate program. The ADM program will be billed \$2,232 for the Jam ice bill.
- Outstanding remaining ice bills total \$5,896. Some of these bills are from 16u players who are not returning to the Lakers organization; they will be “black-lined” so they are unable to play elsewhere until these bills are paid.
- Ice bills for the upcoming season will be reviewed at the next meeting. YTD profit/loss is around \$14k loss this year overall. We need to start looking into fundraising activities to continue to keep the season bills low.

VIII. Executive Committee Reports

A. President's Report – Ericka Alm

- Ericka said we have received four (4) applications for the two (2) open At-Large positions. Ericka will be appointing these positions at the June 2025 meeting.
- Changes to the CCYHA By-Laws & Constitution will be reviewed and voted on at the May meeting. The CCYHA Handbook shall be changed as needed, but are also planned to be reviewed at the May meeting.

B. VP Travel Report – Ashley Balling

- Ashley reached out to a MOHL team manager in Buffalo to get games scheduled if we have a 12u(B) MOHL team that is not part of a MOHL league.

C. VP House Report – Ashley Pitner

- Ashley said we have been working hard to build the numbers back up and it shows. She proposed moving 5 year olds who are second-year skaters up to the 6u team in an effort to further challenge those players. This change could also help the Beginner program in that beginner players will receive more one-on-one coaching. We also recommend that they attend the Learn-to-Skate program.
- Ashley requested that we solicit corporate sponsorship to help keep the pricing for the Beginner's program as low as possible.

D. ACE/SafeSport Coordinator Report – Jeff Anderson not available; Nick Madden (nothing to report)

- One application was received for the open 12u(B) coaching position. Motion made by Sarah Olson to approve Chris McGarrie as coach for the 12u(B) team; seconded by Stephanie Swanson. All approved.
- The open coach position for Beginners will be reviewed and voted on at an upcoming meeting.

E. Registrar's Report – Amber Smith (nothing to report)

F. Ice Coordinator – Eric Clark (not available)

IX. Standing Committee Reports

A. Technology Coordinator's Report – Brysten Jones

- Will update website with new 2025/2026 team rosters.
- Will add a webpage designated for Beginners and new parent members to learn about the organization.

B. Community Outreach/Fundraising Director's Report – Molly Anderson

- Molly will be organizing this year's golf event and will reach out to South Hills Country Club to determine an available weekend.
- Molly will plan a chicken BBQ fundraiser event. Details will be provided at a later date.

X. Other Committee Reports (none)

XI. Old Business

- Coach Scott Smith requested that one player who tried out for the 16u team be added as an alternate for the 16u team. This will be discussed in a future executive session.

XII. New Business

- Suggestion made to have board members attend the parent meetings to discuss board-related and other items.
- Suggestion made for the organization to consider purchasing a subscription to *Ice Hockey Systems* which will provide parents a “Parent Survival Guide” and will also provide coaches with practice plans.
- Ashley Balling with work again with the Jock Shop about setting up a clothing fundraiser as we have in the past.
- Next CCYHA Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 19th, 2025 at 6:30pm.**

XIII. Adjournment

Sarah Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm; Ashley Balling seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Anderson