

## **EMHA Board Minutes – July 9, 2019 7:34pm**

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

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Chambers, Katie Cawood, Shameca Burr, David Sicard, Martin Cipriani, Kevin Brackett (D5 Chairman), Brian Csutoras (D5 Director), Simmone Price, Roy Fields, Nick Kagay, Julie Sheldon, Robert Peters, Kala Peters, Mick Carroll, Joshua Clements

## **EMHA Financials**

\$23586.15 In the Account

+26 New 2019-2020 registrations (15 Peewee B, 1 Mite B, 10 Travel)

+Team Sponsorship Money (05 Blue \$250, 07 Blue \$2600, 07 Orange \$600)

Pink Out the Rink Account - \$366

## **August 15<sup>th</sup> Draft Skate**

Mites (2013-2011) 6:00-6:40pm

Squirts (2010-2009) 6:40-7:20pm

Peewee (2008-2007) 7:30-8:10pm

Bantam (2006-2005) 8:10-8:50pm

We need volunteers! If anyone in the room would like to volunteer, please let us know! There is lots to do, including jersey and sock fitting that day.

## **Advertising**

The View Ad – approved. We will split the cost with the rink \$1400 total approved. Iceland will contribute \$700 – EMHA will contribute \$700.

Cars 108 Ad \$525 – approved. Allison Weder will proceed with her contact. We will accept a live morning interview about the draft. Allison volunteered to do it.

Other possibilities brought up: Flyers at doctor's offices? Flyers at schools? Swartz Creek is a possibility since Bendall's wife works here. Other schools, in the past have been tough to get into.

Putting flyers at Crystal Fieldhouse was discussed and turned down. If someone is at the closed Lapeer rink, that would be OK.

### **Rico Phillips' Award Recognition**

Matt Bendall and Matt Walker from Perani's – discussed honoring Rico's Wille O'Ree award with a helmet sticker. 200 stickers cost \$228. Motion to purchase 250 stickers was approved.

Discussion shifted to a board decal for Rico. Jason will get prices. Vote next board meeting

### **Mick Carroll, Iceland Learn to Play Program**

Mick had a chance to look over the list of hockey skills that was handed out at the June meeting. He stated, after looking at it, it reminded him of what USA hockey does with skills progression. He believes that list was meant to be implemented/used AS you get game experience, not separately. He stated he believes the list should be used as you grow into your official hockey program (like House Hockey). He said he tries to get the hockey kids from learn to skate as soon as the skater can stop so he can start giving them hockey skills. He just wanted to say – they list of level skills should be implemented in combination with learn to play and a formal hockey program.

### **Pee wee House Team**

Matt Bendall reported Brian Csutoras and Kevin Brackett are here from MAHA D5 following last meeting. As promised, he reached out to D5 to ask about the pee wee house team options. Csutoras and Brackett agreed to come to the meeting to clear up any confusion and answer questions.

Matt Bendall believes he doesn't see a place in the EMHA where we tell boys or girls that they can't play hockey here. The one thing that would create that instance would be if there is a safety issue. If someone will get hurt – than that's a time when the EMHA would get involved. Other than that – it's not our place to tell kids they can't play. Bendall recognizes it's hard, it's tough and coaching is a thankless job. But we need to stick with everybody pays, everybody plays.

Kevin Brackett – “USA hockey has put an emphasis on house hockey. It’s the base of hockey. If you think your child is next Wayne Gretzy – go play travel. If he just wants to have fun – play house.” Brackett went on to discuss how house hockey is about development...SKILL development, not game development. He said some players blossom at a late age so it’s not fair to keep them from playing.

Brian Custoras – “Some just don’t want the commitment (of travel). Draft house hockey is nothing more than everyone signs up and plays. No such thing as a select team – there is no A or B team.” He went on to say, the only thing is a tournament team attached to the house team and he made sure to point out you’ll have to enter the travel division, not the house division.

Tournament team discussion: If a tournament team was formed alongside the Peewee House team, there would need to be clear cut decisions/policies made about payments and practice ice.

Katie Cawood spoke about her group’s goals of creating a team with similar interests and skill levels. She said many want to play travel and compete at that level, but can’t because the travel teams are set. She said some didn’t want to participate in all the tournaments. She said some on the team don’t have the same motivation/drive as others.

Several Other Points made:

4 players did not participate in one of the tournaments the team participated in (Cawood/Sicard), as an example requested by Allison Weder to get an idea on the number of kids affected. Kala Peters, who’s daughter was one of those who did not participate, said the tournament dates were not given ahead of time and plans were already made.

Matt Bendall pointed out, this past year was unique with the Peewee team rostering a large amount of players. There was extra money at the end. The option was given to Sicard to hand out a refund to all the families or spend it. The decision was made to spend it on tournaments.

The discussion continued about the options and the Peewee team request.

Nick Kagay reported his kid a very good goalie, but on the house team he’s not developing. And, he’s not getting the opportunity to play travel because he hasn’t made an EMHA travel team. The point was made that he participated in a tournament, had 250 shots on him and only let in 8 goals. He said he’d like the rest of the Peewee House team to be able to “pound” the other teams’ goalies like that. Marty Cipriani stated he is developing getting 250 shots in one weekend.

After the discussion, Brian Csutoras said: “It’s black and white in the rules, no. There cannot be 2 different level teams in house hockey. Bottom line: if a kid wants to play house hockey, and he signs up. He’s on a team.”

Kevin Brackett stated MAHA and USA Hockey are doing some things to help by giving resources and education to coaches so they can learn how to develop the players who are just starting out.

Matt Bendall: "We will do everything we can to support each and every one of you. We want the numbers. We want people to come here and play hockey."

Katie Cawood reiterated that it was her group's intention to bring the group together in the way the other rinks are doing it. They were bringing it to the board to ask for their guidance. She said, "now it's very clear, the direction that we will move forward."

Josh Clements stated he is concerned about where the Peewee House Team's focus is going to be now. What will happen with the team now that the proposal of 2 house teams based on skill level has been brought up.

Cawood/Sicard: We follow the book. We follow the rules.

Brian Csutoras stated he will answer any question from anyone, anytime.

Motion to adjourn/Approved: 8:47pm | Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Iceland.