

RHA Board Meeting Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6 pm, Thunderdome

Board members present: Chris Dietrich, Brad Eggers, Robert Steffy, Christine Ritter, Ronda Simmons, Greg Chisolm, Dan Laughlin, Doug Retzer, Brad Lee, Ben Nelson, Dixie Matthews, Gordon Merchen, Konrad Reeder

5:59 pm meeting called to order

Approve agenda/ Motion to approve Feb 2022 meeting minutes made by Ronda, second by Konrad, approved in vote.

Presidents Report (Chris Dietrich):

Registration: Varsity /JV live May 1st, deadline June 31st- Discussion on time frame. Need to gauge the interest in the Varsity/JV levels and get numbers. House/Bantam B coaches proposed a JV2 team and we need to see what we have coming in before we can make any requests. Would like to get more time to set up the online registration and also discussion on how long to keep it open? Was decided May 15th thru June 15th. Lower travel levels would have the usual thru July to sign up and avoid the \$200 rate increase and house/mites do not have a cutoff date. Coaches also suggested getting the girls numbers in the early time frame also so they can plan. Will get info to Stacy Brozik to start building online.

Registration fees-

2021-22 season	proposed new rates 2022-23 season
mites/house: \$320	\$375
squirt: \$600	\$690
peewee: \$700	\$805
bantam/U14 girls: \$750	\$865
JV/V (boys & girls): \$850	\$1,000

Have not been raised in several years. Discussion on rising costs for utilities, ref pay is also going up. USA hockey fees are also going up- trying to balance and not make a hardship, but need to cover our costs. Look at increasing at a set percentage over all levels of about 15%. Discussion on just \$50 per level, but this will not cover our rising costs either. The scholarship program is available to help those needing assistance. We will also stress fundraising. Motion made to increase fees as proposed made by Doug, second by Brad Lee, approved in vote.

USA Hockey registration price increase- all levels will see a significant increase, this was discussed as we set new rates.

Varsity/JV coach meeting- Konrad and Chris are working on a plan and will talk with Dick. The state could require an even split should we attempt 2 JV teams. Coaches would need to freeze 10 in JV and go from there.

Girls coaches request- Kelly Simon addressed the board. They would like to add a 3rd coach for next year, adding \$2,500. Also requested to pay \$1,000 for Megan this year, she was not present at all games etc, partial season. Will be there all season next year. Motion to pay \$1,000 to Megan for coaching this past season made by Greg, second by Brad Lee. Will also need to keep coaches in mind for next season.

Girls also want 3 teams next year. They lost 1 player as a senior and have about 5-7 coming in. They want to take all the girls under their umbrella stating players coming from house or elsewhere aren't varsity ready. Would like to work with them more. For ice time, would like 1 1/2 hours- which would be the U14 and lower level JV players first and then upper level JV and varsity players- would have a 1/2 hr overlap of the teams on ice. Discussion on ice availability and they may need to be more open to different times. We cannot have mites starting at 8 pm and peewees and bantams on ice till 10:30 pm.

They would like to set up some camps and skates with the house girls and will look at ice time.

Financial Report (Robert Steffy):

End of year financials- Have expenses for the year, not all the receipts are in yet.

SDAHA bill was \$3,747 this year, Up another \$12-14 per kid. Last year we paid about \$16,600 to refs.

Loan- in about 3 years, RHA will owe \$650,000. The interest is costing about \$60,000- \$70,000/ year. Need to keep this in mind and look at the loan in the near future.

We are over budget due to the outage. Outage cost us about \$72,000, we are keeping about \$25,000 set aside to be safe in case anything comes back.

Food costs doubled.

Repair/ maintenance- we have \$29,000 budgeted and spent \$53,000, Some of this cost may be from the outage.

We have already spent about \$15,000 on invoices for the building this next year (1/2 of budget).

Ice rental at Roosevelt- have spent about \$20,500 thru Feb. Also increased cost due to outage and more rental time needed.

Volunteer Checks- Have a Dibs report run and will send it to coordinators (Ronda). Last year we cashed about \$18,000 in volunteer checks.

State Meeting (Dan Laughlin):

Costs going up Will cost about \$15-20 more per ref at varsity level for officials and changes at other levels. With the changes, it should cost each association about \$1,600 more. Rates were discussed here as well. Both state and USA hockey will see an increase in fees.

Scheduling should be about the same as in the past. Need to know how many teams at each level in the early fall for the state.

Officials rates are going up.

Safesport discussion- when JV is on the ice and you have coaches on the bench, who is watching the varsity locker room?

JV2 discussed

Camps- Dave Scull scholarship fund to help players get to these if they cannot afford it.

JV/V will now have 8 min warm ups.

JV level- no zam after the first period now.

State tourney- Girls were upset and want equality- they want the same gate fee at JV and varsity state as the boys (will mean a raise in fees).

Registrar training at the state level will be a focus. They had to vote on about 15 players to be able to play at state due to some clerical issues. They didn't want to punish a player who played all season at the level and take away state from them. They will work at making sure they do not run into these issues next season. (This was not at RHA level, this was statewide.)

Tournament Committee (Chris Dietrich):

Starting over?- Both members of this committee have stepped down Brad E and Ronda stepped up and helped the final tournaments. We will need to find a new person.

Looking at hosting 3 v 3 tournaments preseason. Also will have Rendezvous and early bird to plan.

Building Committee (Ben Nelson):

Clean up date- Not yet set, will need to see how long it takes flooring to dry before we can plan to scrape or see if the street sweeper may be able to come in and clean the floor.

Brine pump replacement- New pump needed cost is about \$5,300. Ben needs approval and to order.

Other Projects- \$11,650 is the cost for new zam batteries, will need to be replaced soon.

Would also like more rubber to replace in front of the benches. Motion made by Gordon, second by Dan, approved in vote.

Boards/doors may need some maintenance. Good shape, but the door is gapped, we may need to order a new one to fix this. Other door is wobbly and the bolts may have been sheared off, and will need to have this looked at.

Fundraising Report (Ronda Simmons):

Ladies & Laces- We received about \$6,500 from this event. Of this, \$500 was our expense and we netted about \$6,000. We still have another donation check coming from the Rush.

Short and long term ideas (Brad Eggers)- Brad E put out a request for a committee and is working on this. They recently met and there are 3 people on it at this time, Sandra Weaver and Alyssa Orban replied.

There is still a \$100 fundraising fee on registration. They would like to bring back the raffle. Discussion on the cost of printing tickets, setting the price, and getting prizes donated. In the past we have struggled to get these and have had to take care of the funding. Brad E stated he will table it for now and meet with his committee to look at reinventing the raffle and finding low cost printing.

Suggestion of a development of a shopping list. Same idea as the school trees where people can select various items to donate.

Sarah Atherton is the director of sports and fitness at EAFB. She is a girl and squirt parent and working on a proposal for dryland. She is getting an LLC and would like to rent out our space for use, Would like to charge players for this program. In between now and the next board meeting she will iron out the details. She would operate this and put in her own turf.

Chirs also said to talk to Martin Jurisch about auctions as a possible space rental.

Let Evergreen Industries know we will do the wreath fundraiser again (Ronda).

We have banners that need to come down.

House Program:

No report

Misc:

During discussion it came up that Sioux Falls & Brookings may pull out of squirt A league play. They approached hosting 4 game weekends and playing tighter games between each other. Squirt tourneys and league games were also discussed. Last year they had 20 league games and also went to several tournaments. In the past, RHA paid for about 5 tourneys, plus the parents funded Fargo and then they hosted their own as well. It became harder to find tourneys close by and costs rose. It helped to join the league and have jamboree style weekends. At this time, they are getting 40 plus games and we are still paying for the tourneys. Concern of too much travel/games and discouraging some families young, and cost effectiveness. Do we raise rates at that level? Cap funding? Look at giving maybe \$1,200 per team for the year. Also need to work on reviving the squirt tourney, low interest this year-timing?

Doug asked about varsity 3 game weekends. Would it be possible to pick closer games if they do this again? Players are having to miss full days of school on Fridays due to the travel. Would like to reduce travel time on Fridays for less school missed.

The Booster Club is asking about a player and funding to help them. This would fall under the scholarship program, please refer them this route. RHA earmarks funding for this program and anyone or group who would like to donate to this program is welcome to.

Sunday, May 15th at 6 pm will be the next board meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Ben Nelson, second by Brad Eggers, meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm