

Blackhawk Hockey Association

Board Meeting

January 14th, 2025

7:00pm

Board Members Present: Allie Carroll, Ryan Anderson, Sarah Lokken, Lucas Trickle, Maysa Coty, Kevin Kiemen, Rachel Spence, Billy Herman, Amanda Sprague

Board Members Absent: Jodi Volgren, Mitchell Klopp, Mike Brandenburg, Brent Rolling

Others Present:

Call to Order: 7:10 pm

Secretary's Report: N/A

Motion to approve secretary's report

Motion: Allie Carroll 2nd: Lucas Trickle All in Favor - Passed

Treasurer's Report:

1. Checking as of 12/31 = \$186,713 (includes capital improvement fund of \$32,100). Increase of \$18,368 from same point last year.
2. Bank Loan 12/31 = \$3,478. Decrease of \$7,685 from same point last year.
3. Accounts Receivable 12/31= \$5,250.
4. Looking into investing some of the money and have some of the conversations with Pillar first, who have our accounts, and go from there.
5. Invoices haven't been sent yet for a lot of sponsors, which that will be happening. We are sitting in a good position

Motion to approve financial reports.

Motion: Amanda Sprague 2nd: Sarah Lokken All in Favor - Passed

Old Business

Shooting Room: Willing to help: Troy Broker, Adam Nelson, Brad Spence, and Lucas Trickle to help provide ideas for development. This is in the works.

High School Picture Board: The Volgrens put these up now and we've received a lot of great feedback.

Mindy R Memorial Bench: Ryan A has been working with SCC on bench. They can make a bench for \$100 that is unpainted. Recommend making two. One that can replace the one on the handicap ramp by the rink and the other can replace the one by the coaches room.

Dark stain for the memorial bench and the other one is painted red or black.

NEW BUSINESS

Wifi Ext for Zam Room: The old TV fell off the wall and broke. We have had a TV and a Fire Stick donated. The Wifi doesn't reach to that area of the rink. It cost \$69 and is something that is used often during tournaments. It adds some incentive for Zam drivers to work things like the Fusion JV tourney, Thanksgiving Tourney, Blaze Tourneys, etc. We discussed it as a board and will reimburse the \$69

Frames by HS Locker Rooms: Installation of frames by High School Locker Rooms (Stats) We have 6 frames that were donated to the rink to have stats for the Hawks and Fusion. It was discussed where they would be placed and everyone was in agreement.

Ice Out Maintenance: Work hours for skid steer use, plan for painting, board maintenance, etc. Will start having ice out on May 4th and will need it back in by June 1st. Need to work on the painting, etc. We discussed allowing the people that bring the skid steers credit towards their work hours. It makes the project go much faster and ultimately doesn't take many hours.

Annual Banquet: Do we want to do it at the Legion again. The budget was \$4,000, we spent over \$5,000 but we had around \$900 in donations. Last year we had 300 RSVP. Recommend to up the budget to \$4,500.

Motion for up to \$5,000 for the annual banquet.

Motion: Lucas Trickle 2nd: Allie Carroll All in Favor - Passed

Board Election: It is board election time. E-mail out at the beginning of February with voting at the end of February. We need to start getting the word out with people that are involved, organized, and willing/able to put in the time to be part of the board. We do know that we will need a new treasurer next year. We'll have to figure out how that is covered based on who is part of the board. We might be able to break up some of the duties. We can discuss that further when we get the new board members.

Saving Seats: member request to discuss. A couple parents complained about people saving seats for JV games, no one is sitting there, so that they have seats for the Varsity games. We discussed it and there isn't much that we can do to stop it. There are generally plenty of space available as well. For now we are going to leave it as-is but we will monitor the situation.

Squirt A and B: Approval for the board to pay the re-schedule fee as they both had games scheduled during the playdown weekend. That was not the fault of the families.

Motion to pay D2 re-schedule fee for the Squirt A and B games the weekend of the playdowns

Motion: Allie Carroll 2nd: Maysa Coty All in Favor - Passed

COMMITTEES

Building & Grounds:

Sign/Dasher updates. Help with netting around rink. There are a couple of signs that still need to get put up. We will need to find someone to help. Two people are needed to put up the wall signs. Billy will need to validate that we have sufficient sheets. He might be able to get it done Friday. He will let Ryan A know if he needs help and then we can send a message out to the association.

We also have to put the hooks up in Locker Rooms 2 & 3 (Everything is here except for some tapcons for the two walls that are concrete blocks) All of the hooks are on the 3rd shelf in the compressor room and the boards are in the compressor room as well.

We need to secure the netting better with I hooks, etc.

Finally we need to look at replacing some more doors. The emergency door between the bleachers has snow that blows in. Also have another double door and one more emergency door by the Zam room.

Coaching:

Sending weekly updates to Ryan L, pay and per diem for food. Recommend paying \$2,500 for Mason Bohada. That is higher for a newer coach, but he has had some unique challenges with the team. He does a good job working with the High School coaches, wants to come back next year, and have received good feedback about him. Jake Skotopolis would be \$1,500. Bella Rasmussen would be \$2,000. She has the experience. She coaches WEHL, she is a returning coach, she coaches Squirt B. She would get paid less since it is younger kids but she has more experience

Zach and Keller are \$750 for goalie coaches. They both drive from the cities.

For all of the coaches we will pay half now and half at the end of the season.

Motion to pay Mason Bohatta \$2,500 and Jake Roussopoulos \$1,500

Motion: Allie Carroll 2nd: Kevin Kiemen All in Favor - Passed

Motion to pay Bella Rasmuson \$2,000

Motion: Allie Carroll 2nd: Kevin Kiemen All in Favor - Passed

Will pay for hotel expenses. Also propose \$40 per diem per coach.

Motion for up to \$40 per diem per coach for away tournaments

Motion: Allie Carroll 2nd: Sarah Lokken All in Favor - Passed

We will also pay \$181.20 for Paige and Carlies' hotel room.

Concessions:

New freezer purchased.

Fundraising:

Update on raffle and prizes. Everyone has tickets. Two people reached out for more tickets. We had 100 and ordered another 50. We currently have 50 extra books to hand out. We do have 12 businesses that have donated so far. We have more baskets than we have had in the past. A&W gave last year. We have a lot of various places that have donated and more are coming. It says the drawing will be on the 6th, but will actually be on the 11th during the board meeting.

Have a lot of fun items for incentive. Mitch is putting together a post that we can send out to the association and put on the website. Everything is around \$900.

Mites & Membership:

Ice time concerns. See if there was a way to move teams around. Amery mentioned they would have ice available this year at a cheap rate. They have some openings Saturday or Sunday. Would prefer to have older families/teams as they are more invested. Also the Mite teams are 40 kids.

We are talking about doing some joint practices down in RF. 24 Mites are moving up next year, 17 are Squirts who will likely make an A team. We have 75 total mites. We have seen a decrease in the number of practices compared to last year. There was discussion around the reduction specifically in November, December, and January. However looking at the full year the practice time has been fairly similar.

Our association is growing at a rapid pace and that will continue to be a potential problem. There are too many kids on the ice so having a hard time getting the right development time for them. Parents are coming to the coaches asking why they aren't practicing more.

Somerset and New Richmond play Lumberyard. Hudson has two sheets. River Falls has Hunt arena.

We discussed some of the reasons that this year has provided more complications for ice time. We've had more High School games at home this year, the PeeWee tourney got moved up, and 70% of Squirt A and PeeWee A teams were scheduled at home from D2.

The Fusion also host two tournaments here on weekends every year. We also discussed alternating with River Falls with tournaments for Blackcats or combining the tournament weekends.

Some of these problems will not be as much of a factor next year.

We discussed revisiting the option to build a more permanent structure outside with a warming house. Allie can put out some feelers with them and Ryan A. is willing to go to a Village board meeting to discuss it. Would like some stats on the growing rate of the program if we do that.

We also discussed only hosting Open Skate every other week instead of every week. Potentially giving back some of the extended practices for High School. We could put some teams on the ice during the Goalie Practice.

Finally there are a lot of options to discuss for tournaments to provide more ice.

Jamboree went really well. However Somerset signed up 4 teams and only brought 17 total players since we charge per player. This is a common issue with them as they will sign-up for more than one jamboree in a weekend, etc. We made around \$10,987 not including card sales from it.

Brett T. will reach out to Amery to get prices. Ryan A will reach out to Hunt to get open ice times now through February.

- Scholarship:** NA
- Finance:** Pay off bank loan-approved
- RFYA/BHA Girls Co-Op:** Start having girls meetings in January and February to look at numbers and figure out if we want to have the co-op or not.
- Scheduling:** NA
- Communication/Website:** Trickle and Mike are exploring Cross Bar. It is less expensive, it has some extra flexibility, it works with Avario, etc. It should still communicate with River Falls but we currently have issues because we are on Sports Engine Season and they are on Sports Engine Sports, which is a newer version. Sports Engine is \$1,500 a season and Cross Bar is \$999.

Board Liaisons

- D2:** NA
- Tournament Coordinators:** Need new tournament director for next season. Deanna Bignell will not be doing it next year. Won't send out a message yet as we have a couple of potential candidates we know that might be interested.
- Mite/LPH - Amanda Sprague** NA
- U10 - Ryan Anderson:** 1 issue regarding coaches comments to the team has been handled
- Squirt - Kevin Keimen:** NA
- U12 - Sarah Lokken:** Currently handling a U12 A parent's concerns. Mostly upset about how late the ice times are and the River Falls weeks are worse than our ice times. Sarah printed out calendars for Somerset, River Falls, and ours. Also got info from Trickle. This helped show that the U12 practice times were similar for other

associations. This was presented to her and discussed in person at the rink. The parent was going to think about potential solutions.

Peewee - Rachel Spence: NA

U14 - Billy Herman: NA

Bantam - Lucas Trickle: Update on a suspension for JK. WAHA involved. Player got in a fight in Stillwater and was going to get 3 game suspension. WAHA got a game report and was wanting to know what we were going to do, given the repeat issues, and discussed a 5 game suspension. Allie, Lucas, coaches, mom, and player met. It would have only been a 1 game suspension if it happened during a WAHA game, but D2 rules are more strict and required 3 games. We decided to do a 4 game suspension. It was cut down from 5 as we offered for the player to do volunteer work instead of missing the 5th game. He is going to volunteer and will be attending some Mite practices to help. Will help at a minimum of 5 mite practices. All eyes are on the player. If his name comes up again he will attend a regional hearing. He likes coaches, teammates, and it is beneficial for him to be around the team/rink.

Next Meeting: February 11th, 2025

Adjourn: 9:23 pm *Motion: Allie Carroll 2nd: Lucas Trickle All in favor - passed*