

Harwood Youth Hockey Association
Board of directors monthly meeting
March 8, 2021
Location zoom 5:30PM

Members in attendance: Liza Sikora, Amy Wells, Lindsay Staples, Matt Lillard, Jodi Lavanway, Dan Farr, Sam Huber, Sarah Duffy

Guests: Keith LaCroix, Josh Staples

Member regrets: Chris Martin, Jen McCabe,

Called to order by Amy Wells @ 5:35pm

Approval of last month's minutes: *Amy made a motion to approve last month's minutes, Matt 2nd, all in favor.*

Treasurer Report:

- Current Balance: not available at the moment due to being locked out of the account. Estimated around \$30,000, Sam will email out once she connects with the Bank to get access to the account.
- **Ref payment:** Brent Perison \$180, Owen Duffy \$200, Addison Deitz \$100.
 - *Amy makes a motion to approve the payments of ref checks, Jodi 2nd, all in favor, Sarah abstained.*
- **Ice Center Invoice:**
 - Invoice for February \$7077.50
 - \$500 still to be taken out of the January Ice bill before getting paid.
 - *Sarah made a motion to pay the February ice bill, Matt 2nd, all in favor.*
- \$210 to be paid to Staples Stitchery for shirts (end of year gift) for the House players. This was previously voted on.
- **Donations to Ice Center:** Backpack for cleaning? Cleaning supplies? Mats for outside? Discussion will continue.
- **Player Refunds:** House and LTS players Alex & Sam Lahr and Ben & Landen Kraman This was voted on previously via email when it was requested and then again in the board meeting in December (*Amy made the motion, Sam 2nd and All were in favor of 100% refunds to any and all LTS or House families who requested it*) **these were processed tonight 3/8/2021**

Sam will not be returning as treasurer for next season.

*****Treasure report will be approved over email once final balance is known. *****

Player Development: Input from Guest/Coach Josh Staples.

- Josh and Dan Met with Leon from VSAHA (goalie coordinator). Leon is open to working with the goalies and also working with the coaches to aid in development.
 - If he works with the coaches he can do that under his VSAHA role and run it as a clinic for the coaches. The only cost for that for the coaches “clinic” would be our ice cost.
- Discussion about work with the players.
 - 1:1 the rate is \$50 an hour, 1:2 \$50, 1:4 \$100, 5 or more players would be an additional cost but he would also bring an additional coach to support the numbers.
- Leon would not need the whole rink. There could be other clinics running at the same time to save on ice time.
- Discussion to get additional goalie equipment and try to accommodate a goalie clinic as a U8 “practice” to promote goalie at the younger level.
 - VSAHA may have the ability to get the equipment to make this happen. This would be more focused on the U8 and the U10. If there was an older player interested the organization would offer the opportunity to them as well.
- The option to reach out to other organizations is a possibility. Leon is open to the idea. The price will continue to be dependent on the amount of players.
- Leon is open to having coaches from HYHA in attendance so they can see what is going on and can continue with the goalies during regular season practice.
- Note: Individual goalie clinics that we have paid for players to attend in the past runs \$500+ per player.
- How do we move forward?
 - Ideally this would be an ongoing skills style practice, scheduled throughout the season. This needs to be a continued effort throughout the season for it to have a greater impact on the players.
 - This will benefit goalies and players alike!
 - While adding additional local teams would be good, It would be beneficial to have some of the goalie skills offered for HYHA only with our skills sessions that are run throughout the season.
- Player Development committee, Chris Martin is the head of this committee and can work with others interested in supporting this endeavor.
 - Rough estimated budget for goalie skills would be \$2000 for the season. The hope would be to have a revenue, not a net loss. Mixing this with a skills clinic would be the best case.
 - If it is offered in Central VT for goalies, chances are we will get many players interested. HYHA should reach out to the surrounding organization boards to check for interest. CVSA, Stowe, Northfield, Barre, Essex.
 - The plan is to reach out to Leon at the end of July/beginning of August to make more solid plans for the upcoming season.
- Amy will connect with Chris to also get his ideas about skills and player development and get that information shared with the board ASAP.

- The player Development committee needs to get together to plan and then come to the board with the fine details. Josh, Dan and Keith are interested in helping out with this committee along with Matt.

Player retention/elite team:

- The concern was brought to the table that elite teams such as Glades and Dynamo may begin offering U8 teams.
 - This puts our player retention at risk!
 - We have lost many players in the past to the pay-to-play teams.
- As a board we need to focus on this issue with our own teams and how to keep our players in this organization.
 - Could HYHA offer more competitive play?
 - Discussion on whether or not HYHA should try to offer an “elite” level team or a tier 2 level.
 - Another organization in the area has brought this idea to life and has created a tier 2 level team at the U12 level and follow an “elite” schedule with more ice time and more games each weekend.
 - This “Select” team required that players pay extra to be on this team as well as try out of the team.
 - As an organization there would need to be more planning and discussion along with the need for more players.
 - Important to note that this would not affect registration rates for the tier 4 HYHA state bound team; the elite team would be an additional cost to the players.
 - Could this option be open to other organizations? The issue that comes into play is the transfer number and the need for that team to opt. out of the state tournaments
- The organization needs to first have plans in place to retain current players such as a player development plan and skills clinics that have happened in the past! **The overall plan/goal is to focus on player retention within the HYHA program. This also falls under the realm of player development.**
- Next year's team HYHA would be looking at the U12 level.
- Most of the board is in favor of offering more to our players in an effort to grow and retain numbers.
 - If plans move forward for an “elite” team it is important to Always allow 2 options, both the “hometown” local tier 4 hockey and the tournament level elite team.
 - It is more about offering the best possible level of hockey that they can play, offering the development opportunities that these other elite teams have been offering and HYHA currently doesn't.
 - The player development committee will need to meet and bring a plan to the board by May in order to secure ice time for the fall.
 - Amy will reach out to our player development committee tomorrow 3/9/2. Request a “reply by” date for the committee to come up with a plan.

- Josh, Dan Keith, interested in helping with the committee. Amy will follow up with the board after having the conversation with the development committee leader.

VSAHA: updates

- Meeting tomorrow night 3/9/2021 and then one more meeting of the general board for the season. The executive board will meet throughout the summer.
- There are VSAHA board positions open: Secretary, President, First Vice President and Second Vice President.
- VSAHA has been mostly focused on supporting the state with rink reopening and regulations this season.

LTS:

- Great to get these players on the ice!!
- Having a board member at the rink to support the program to help with sign in would be helpful.
- There were a lot of no shows this past week. There will be an email sent out to connect with families.
- Parents asking if there would be more than just 4 skates? Email to families to check to see if there is interest?

Bylaw amendments/board positions:

- Update to Co-president seat.
 - The current bylaws do not state that there must be a co-president, but an option to have Vice president or President seats as a co-president/co-vice president is available.
 - When the notice goes out to the public about the open Seats, the board needs to be clear about the positions that are intended to be filled for the season going forward.
 - When the new board is formed it will open to all positions and then positions are voted in by the “new” board of directors.
 - There needs to be new membership in a BIG way due to the officers leaving the current board. Current members need to reach out to the house and younger parents to get them in attendance to the annual meeting!
 - The executive committee will get the notice out and get this information out to members of the community to get more people invited.

Facebook Access:

- Team Parents: They have been added as “editors” for the facebook page. What kind of access do they have? A social media policy ***needs*** to be in the works! Each team/level needs to have the same level of representation on the page.

Travel team and coaches gifts:

- Coaches gifts: Sweatshirts for the coaches.

- 15 coaches in total LTS-U14
- *Sarah makes a motion to approve the coaches gifts at \$600, Amy 2nd, all in favor, Lindsay abstained.*
- Shirts for the Travel teams:
 - The House players LOVE their gifts.
 - Sarah and Amy can help to get all the sizes for the teams.
 - U8 same shirts as the house mites.
- Just the Hats for the LTS players
 - *Amy makes a motion to set the Price point at \$25 per player for end of the year gifts. Sarah 2nd, all in favor. Lindsay abstained.*

Next BOD meeting: April 26th, 2021 5:30-8:00pm

- 5:30-6:00 current board will meet.
- 6:00-6:30 Membership meeting, nominations and voting of new members.
- 6:30-8:00 "New" BOD meeting.

Meeting called to adjourn by Amy at 8:42PM

EMAIL VOTES:

It was brought to our attention that Owen Duffy and Brent Pearson were overpaid by \$40 during the last round of ref checks. This was discussed over email and the plan was to pay them \$40 less in their next checks.

3/29/21 3V3 ice time has been booked with The Ice Center. Ice times for the summer were filling up fast. The organization needed to get on the books if we plan to host a summer program.

3/29/21 Jodi made a motion to provide a goalie clinic beginning 3/31 and running through 4/18. Amy seconded, all in favor

4/8/21 Amy made a motion to send out ref checks totaling \$620 broken down as shown below, Jodi seconded, Sarah abstained, all in favor.

Brent Pearson \$260- Less \$40=\$220
 Owen Duffy \$150- Less \$40 =\$110
 Addison Dietz \$200
 Michael Clark \$90