

Monday, Feb 28th, 2022 at 6 pm

Rushmore Thunderdome, dryland room

Board Members Present: Chris Dietrich, Brad Eggers, Christine Ritter, Ben Nelson, Ronda Simmons, Dan Laughlin, Doug Retzer, Rachael Hepper, Brad Lee, Becky Mann, Greg Chisolm, Mike Bartling, Trista Rybak

5:59 pm call to order (Chris Dietrich)

Approve Jan Meeting Minutes motion made by Doug Retzer and second by Ben, approved in vote.

Approve Meeting Agenda

#4 Scholarship Report 2021 (by Hollie Hoffman & committee- emailed in- reported via Chris):

#### **2021-2022 Financial Aid Scholarships**

**Financial Aid Committee Members: Hollie Hoffman (Chairperson), Emily Wheaton (Registrar), Kelly McGregor, and Mark Stewart**

**Committee Contact Information: Hollie Hoffman, 431-6085, [hmc118@yahoo.com](mailto:hmc118@yahoo.com)**

**\$5,000** Scholarship Budget for 2021-2022 Season

All Scholarship applicants were awarded full or partial scholarships depending on need and funds available.

5\* House players for a total of **\$1600 (5 x 320)**

1 Travel scholarships awarded for a total of **\$750**

**\$2350** Rewarded

**\$2650** remains in scholarship fund

\*We had one house player that was rewarded scholarship, but they did not register, so we added those funds back into our remaining funds. \*\*\*end report\*\*\*

Booster Club did a raffle from book sales- winner wishes to remain anonymous & would like to donate the possibly \$320 towards RHA, might go towards scholarships.

Presidents Report (Chris Dietrich):

**House Lettering Follow up:** Activities Director said no. To letter the student athlete needs to be at varsity level. House was like to do something- compromise- can make a patch, not a letter.

**Squirts Discussion:** Josh Nolan and some parents would like to discuss squirt league play. RHA joined after the first season due to expensive and hard to find tourneys. Coaches/parents want more competition. RHA has set boundaries of 2 tourneys. We do not want to do too many, it gets to be expensive and extra travel is a concern. Worried the cost and frequency is too much and may affect numbers negatively. Further discussion on squirt tourney and the future. Will possibly have 2 A & 1 B this coming year.

**Varsity/JV Discussion-** Jeb Hoffman, Nick Degeest and Mike Bartling presented on this. They are requesting 2 JV teams and 1 varsity. They expressed concern on cutting players and also stated 10 players from House JV/ House have told coaches they are planning to try out. There was discussion on a numbers standpoint and SDAHA list rules. Aberdeen had 2 JV and 1 Varsity this season approved in state vote. We would not have enough to hold 2 varsity teams and splitting teams would be difficult. If we were to propose to the state, we would need to present at the Fall Meeting and we would need to have a breakdown of numbers etc for the state at that time. IF we did this and were approved, we would tier the JV teams, top JV team is tied to varsity to float and second JV team is more of a developmental team.

RHA has had 2 JV teams in the past & it has not gone well. Discussion on concerns. Frustration among the players and parents on the second team was a big one. They also led the league in penalties and suffered a lot of injuries. Would need to make sure we do not place players on ice that are not ready for this- from a safety standpoint. Would also need to make sure parents and players are aware it's a developmental option should it happen.

We have 17 bantams moving up, which would leave about 43 kids plus the 10 from house should they opt to try out. Looking at the state guidelines, 25-59 players would mean 1 Varsity and 1 JV, more players would require 2 Varsity and 1 JV. We can ask the state about 2 JV and 1 Varsity. We are not sure if we can field 3 teams- plus we would need to figure out ice time and scheduling, hire more coaches and plan on more games, officials, etc. We also do not have enough locker room space- s we would need to work on a plan. JV1 and Varsity, since they float, would have the same coach and share ice time, JV2 would need to be separate. We will plan to get numbers first and go from there.

Was decided we will get some early skates in, to gauge numbers and interest. We will also need to close registration earlier to look at numbers and decide if it's even possible with our numbers. If it looks like we have enough interest, we can approach the state and would need to plan to move forward if approved. IF this is NOT approved by the state, we would plan to

keep 1 JV and 1 varsity team- we will not have 2 varsity and 1 JV. Going forward: early registration to gauge numbers/interest, parent meeting, state meeting. Get kids on ice early.

**Summer Ice Requests:** Current ice- mite jamboree ends March 13th. Varsity leaves March 22nd for Nationals. We can either use ice at Roosevelt on March 14th, 15th, 17th & 21st -22nd or keep ice at RHA for an extra week. If we keep the ice, the team can leave their bags in the locker room and the cost is a wash. We do not save more either option. Was decided to keep the ice.

Skills postseason camp as a fundraiser was proposed.

Thad & Kelly may use some girls ice time also. Jeb wants them to work with the girls going to Nationals with Team SD.

Week of March 14th-18th, not Monday, but Tues thru Thurs, for 3 v 3.

March 8th will be Ladies & Laces.

March 9th - 10th will be the House tourney.

Summer ice request- August 8th - 12th & 15th -19th camp for Riley or 10 straight days. School starts around August 23rd. Would need ice early enough for camp. If we went 10 straight days, it would be August 13th - 22nd and we could start ice a little later to save on some cost. For Riley's Camp, we want to continue to support him as he supports RHA. Look at the later dates and possibly adjust the rate to help cover utilities. Chris made the motion to approve, second by Dan and approved in vote. Will look at dates & get with Riley on costs.

Girls coaches want to rent ice also after Riley's camp.

Discussion on if/who would use rink and potential revenue on Sept 9th - 11th of Sept 16th - 18th for 3 v 3. We would need to utilize fall ice more if we put it in early. We discussed early ice and our costs. We are losing \$10,000/year. We should look at raising registration costs if needed. Chris would like to try early ice 1 more year and see if we can financially make it work.

Goalie Camp from out of state approached about coming here. We checked with Battachio since he had run goalie camps for us in the past. He had no issues with this, he says he is going thru the Sabres for his camps.

Bankwest wants to sponsor the Girls teams for a tourney a larger amount- Eggers mentioned placing them in the ice possibly.

Steffy stated he would like \$20,000 - \$25,000 to help early ice costs.

Tournament Committee (Rachael Hepper, Ryan Cathcart):

Squirt & Mite Jamborees coming up.

Cathcart & Humke are working on it for fall.

Squirt tourney update- they are having issues getting teams this late in season. Would like to move the date next year & post online sooner. Will have 3 A teams- RHA, Montana and Williston; and 2 B teams- RHA and Casper. Coaches reached out to Casper and they agreed to play Williston and our B team only. Our B team wants to just play Casper. Working on getting officials, a schedule was sent out. Connie built Dibs and has it up.

Mite jamboree is the following weekend. Will have 5 minis and 4 or 5 teams in the L2 level, 2 or 3 teams in the L1 level. Should have about 10 or 11 teams coming altogether.

Discussion on baskets- squirts/mites asked all levels for them and not much reply. It was suggested having the JV/Varsity families donate and work the tables as a fundraiser to Nationals- if this happens, this is a fundraiser and funds go to the team. The players and families will be away at their state tournaments though & most will not be able to work it. Will need to add raffle basket table workers to Dibs.

Building Committee: Need new batteries on Zam.

**Ice-** March 22nd ends ice. August 13th should be stable ice.

**RUSH use- 3/8, 3/9, ?, 13-14-** If we keep the ice, Rush would use it the 13th & 14th. We have offered it for free, they wanted to pay some to help us out. If Rush uses ice end of season, maybe let them use the Dryland room for gear/dressing. Girls will be gone, but need their locker room for Ladies & Laces. Boys team will have their locker rooms in use till they leave for Nationals.

Fundraising Report (Ronda Simmons)-

**Ladies & Laces 3/8/22 at 7 pm-** RHA has 16 moms v 10 Rush ladies.

**Beer License, Concessions, Dibs, etc-** Will know Wed this week if the beer license is approved. Trying to get prices for sales. We pay \$250 for the license and about \$1,200 on beer- can sell back any unopened product.

Baskets? We do have some. Have some shirts from last year to sell. Tickets could be done at the door- RHA will handle this.

Need Dibs up and discussion on where to sell the beer- in concessions, in a beer garden area? Can sell in concessions and allow drinking in the stands. Lock the upstairs unless needed.

Jerseys printed and referees are set. Moms will be the Girls locker room and the Rush ladies will probably be in the JV locker room.

**Short term/long term fundraising-** Brad E would like to get a committee together to pursue more options. Board agreed, this is something we have tried in the past. Brad will work on getting a group together.

House program report (Trista Rybak)- Lots of players moving into the JV house program.

House tourney is all set.

Misc-

Invoice the hours used on ice to Team SD for the Girls weekend.

US Foods contacts- Steffy hasn't seen invoices all season, will check with Shelly.

Ronda needs tax info for RUSH for Ladies & LAcers for sponsorships.

Upcoming Dates-

March 4th - 6th - Squirt Jamboree

March 11th - 13th - Mite Jamboree

Tryouts- tentative Oct 24th - 27th

Next board meeting Monday, April 4th at 6 pm. We will look at registration fees.

Chris and Brad E motion to adjourn, second by Steffy

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm