

**Alexandria Area Hockey Association Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2025**  
**6PM - Runestone Community Center**

**In Attendance:** Josh Hills, Ben Vangsness, Matt VanBruggen, Amber Blakesley, Andrea Nyberg, Cory Oberg, Apryl Putnam (*via Teams*), Taylor Hayes (*via Teams*), Paige Savelkoul, Karla Brutlag

**Absent:** Brittney Thoreson, Getty Johnson, Rebekah Summer

- **Call to order:** 6:00pm
- **Approve Agenda:** Vangsness/Blakesley
- **Approve Minutes – December 2024:** Putnam/Oberg
- **Financial Reports:**
  - Gambling (Rebekah)
    - Additional details for Gambling reports are reported to the board members from financials submitted to the Gambling Control Board. These reports are available upon request to the membership.
    - Gambling sites update
    - Donation Request: February ice payment: \$26,552 (needs approval)
      - Motion to approve donation request/February ice payment: Oberg/Nyberg, motion carried
    - Budget Request: \$67,752, includes RCC ice (needs approval)
      - Motion to approve budget request: Oberg/Nyberg, motion carried
  - AAHA Financials (Ben)
    - Brief review of financials- numbers are sitting really good.
- **Committee Reports:**
  - **Vice President Report (Getty) - n/a**
  - **Secretary (Brittney) - n/a**
  - **Communications (Andrea)**
    - Communication to go out on banquet early next month
    - Posting local hockey camps for spring/summer
    - Discussion around DIBS emails / other ideas for communication for next year
    - Sports Engine donated ipad is ready to be used
  - **Tournament/Team Manager (Amber)**
    - Working on VFW State Tournaments
      - all shifts will be hired out
    - Bantam schedule out
    - 1 open Bantam AA spot, all others full
    - 15s I should be receiving soon- last team just confirmed and filled the last spot.
    - Working on Regions
    - Website updated with bracket
    - Posters and trophies have been ordered
    - Hotels are blocked

- Spoke with Cyndi about 12A and 12B district- starting to get info on that tournament
  - Next year- team manager oversight will go back to Secretary
  - Starting to work on next season's tournaments.
    - no tournament gifts next year
  - Great feedback from sponsors that get team contact info to send out
- **Volunteers/DIBS Coordinator (Apryl)**
  - LOTS of shifts unclaimed; having to hire out shifts every week
  - 545.5 dibs credits not worked yet
    - \$500 fine for Mites; \$1000 fine for travel age
    - working on report of unfinished DIBS- contact will be made
- **Concessions (Paige)**
  - Slushy/cookie coupons are not working. Switch to a \$5 coupon?
    - no gift next year
  - Possibility of bringing in Nice Juicery
    - going well so far; sold out this past weekend- will continue
  - DIBS shift issues
  - Working with RCC on electrical and hot water issues
  - Thoughts on closing during the week- Paige will talk to figure skating president
  - Discussion on Alex Hockey banner or wall vinyl in lobby for marketing/photo op. Will work with Winning Edge for quotes.
  - A Dad has hundreds of hockey cards that he would like to donate- discussion about giving these out to Mites/Squirts and/or for good behavior.
- **Sponsorship/Fundraising (Josh)**
  - Need to verify all invoices are paid starting to get new contracts out for next season.
  - Added one website sponsor
  - Need to evaluate levels and make shifts as needed
  - Need help with screen in lobby to scroll thru sponsors
- **Equipment/Rink Rookie (Taylor)**
  - Discussion about new jerseys & socks- should be able to get done prior to start of next season.
  - Ordered gloves, shoulder pads, elbow pads & neck guards (\$2,230)
  - Working through organizing equipment room
  - Will need to go through equipment and remove/throw away old/worn out equipment and game jerseys.
  - Picture poster in office & I have team pics for coaches.
    - Will hang in RCC
    - Give team pics to coaches @ banquet??
- **Retention/Recruitment (Karla)**
  - Discussion around end of year banquet- 3/9/25 at Crooked Willow

- Ticket pricing: \$10 for players, \$20 for all other attendees, coaches will be covered by AAHA
  - Received catering proposals from Raapers, Lakes Catering, and Pioneer Grill.
    - Motion to have Raapers cater the end of year banquet: Hills/Savelkoul, motion carried.
- **Director of Hockey/Hockey Committee (Cory)**
  - High School Updates- moving in right direction.
  - MN Warrior Recap
    - Improvements & ideas
    - Recruitment & Retention board position to help with this event moving forward
  - Mite Updates
    - House League
    - Jamborees
  - Girls Update
    - Hockey Day MN
    - Going well all around
  - Boys Update
    - Going well all around
  - Goalies
    - Clinic is going very well
    - Next year, we need to schedule shooters
  - Year end stuff
    - Survey
    - Evaluations/report cards for players
  - Thoughts/ideas: teacher appreciation, encouraging positive behavior, coach appreciation
  - Year-end meeting with coaches, schedulers, level coordinators. Approved reimbursement for coaching recap meetings.
  - Any team that has an opportunity to advance beyond their first MN Hockey tournament level (District for some and Regions for others) is currently scheduled for practices between each tournament level. If a team is eliminated, then their upcoming practices will be removed prior to the Monday after the tournament weekend. Otherwise, all other teams will be done after their last weekend of games.
    - Confirmed this will be the case again. However, teams in playoffs will be given full ice to work with if they so choose.
  - Would like to come up with some type of video tool for coaches to use. Film sessions for players PW/U12 and up.
  - Discussion around the issue of practices being scheduled outside of AAHA
- **Old Business:**

- RCC expansion
- Explore Alex
- Charitable Gambling Committee Application
- End of year banquet
- Girls Scheduler
- ADA policy
  
- **New Business**
  - Scheduling
  - Vraa

**Next Board Meeting – February 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Location – RCC**

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:11pm**

**Mission Statement**

The Alexandria Area Hockey Association (AAHA) is committed to providing a quality environment for youth hockey players to learn and enjoy the sport of hockey.