

RHA Board Meeting Sunday, Oct 23rd, 2022 6 pm Thunderdome

Board members in attendance: Chris Dietrich, Brad Eggers, Robert Steffy, Christine Ritter, Mike Bartling, Rachael Hepper, Ben Nelson, Ronda Simmons, David Bender, Sandra Weaver, Rachelle Williams, Doug Retzer, Greg Chisolm, Brad Lee, Becky Mann, Dixie Matthews

Guests: Jordan Drysdale- internet options, Danny Battachio- Badland Sabres

Call to order: Chris Dietrich @ 5:58 pm

Motion to approve minutes made by Doug, second by Ben

Presidents Report (Chris Dietrich):

**Badland Sabres (Danny Battachio)-** Danny came to speak on behalf of the Sabres. They would like to build a stronger relationship with RHA. Would like to educate on who is with the group and the idea to bring it to Rapid City. Brendon Hodge, Vern Burress and Danny Battachio are the owners. It was about 3 years in the making. They wanted to bring more hockey to the western side of the state to grow hockey and provide opportunities to develop and grow and get players to college (D1) programs and up. They have stated that not all players will move that way, but this is a chance to continue their careers. Discussed the tiers of junior hockey and how it works. NA3HL is the third tier, NAHL is the second tier and USHL is the top tier. Scouts have their eyes on tier 2 to move players up. Danny played tier 2 and then moved up as a young player.

Sabres had proposed an RHA night similar to what the Rush does. They mentioned jersey donations, 50/50, silent auction, etc. Note that in the original discussion, RHA was needing to provide and pay for the jerseys to auction and set up and handle all things as part of the night. Any donations were to come from RHA and we would use Dibs to supply workers. A little different but would give funds raised to RHA along with a possibility of a portion of ticket sales. It was passed on and we felt the need for further discussion before getting together with Sabres. They have left us with unpaid ice fees and there has been a lot of tension and strain. Sabres are not affiliated with Rush either at this time.

Discussion on the relationship with Sabres and how varsity players have been approached and actively recruited away from RHA which also hurts our programs. Danny said these players are players who had done all they could with RHA and were ready to move on. Discussion on things that we need to move on and work to mend/start a relationship. Board thanked Danny for taking the time to come out and have a discussion.

**Thunderdome Internet (Ben Nelson, Brad Eggers, guest Jordan)-**

Options/plan/presentation- We have 4 options, gear may not solve the problem. We need better bandwidth and need at least \$1,000. Can drop a mifi hotspot behind the counter for

sales. We need it by Nov 10th for Early Bird. Discussion on options and recommendations. Motion to approve up to \$1,500 to improve our wifi for operating purposes was made by Brad E, second by Ronda, approved in vote.

**State Meeting update (David Bender)-** Green Arm bands for youth officials. They can call penalties on coaches who are hard on the youth officials and they could get a bench minor. This is for 18 and under.

Nationals- there is a Pure (one school) and a Combined (multiple schools) team for Nationals. It's in Wayzata MN this year, top teams will be eligible for it, only 2 teams are awarded the opportunity to go. RHA would fall into the Combined category.

Registrars need to make sure birth certificates & DOB are correct this year. They had several issues with other teams in the state in the past. Last year, they needed to vote to approve players to play in the state tournaments due to issues they should catch at registration. RHA has not had any such issues. Coordinators are encouraged to use the roster stickers from USA Hockey.

Went over Financials.

State will be emailing out a list of carryover hockey suspensions from last year.

SD Hockey Hall of Fame possibly going into the new rink being built in Watertown.

Referees will be more active pulling people out of games for behavior.

**3v3 Fall League/games-** Squirt and Pee wee were well attended. Cory Norris will wrap up with the coaches.

**League Schedule-** This is out and final. Any changes need to go thru Michelle Merchen as the RHA scheduler. Discussion on 3 day weekends and missing school. Also discussion on 5 game max for players- this would pertain more for the girls as they have some weekends with U14, JV and V all playing.

**Practice Schedule changes-** Girls have stretched out their time and have traded with Bantams on Thursdays so Bantams aren't late every night of practice.

**Tryouts-** Oct 24-27, squirts 6-7 pm; pee wee 7:15-8:15 pm and bantams 8:30- 9:30 pm. Discussion on how this works and needing helpers to help tally. Board members cannot

help with any level they have a player/family member on. Schedule went out, but all board members are welcome and encouraged to come help. Teams are set on the last day of tryouts. HDC handles the actual scoring of players, board will only input scores and help with the team setting perscores and guidance from HDC with coach input on final spot. Parents are not to interact with the evaluators and should steer clear of the upper area of the stands. Angie Dietrich is taking care of meals.

**Registration/outstanding balances & non registered players-** Players cannot tryout until they are in good standing and have registered for the season. They need to be covered by USA Hockey before they take the ice.

Financial Report (Robert Steffy):  
Update on budget and items coming up.

Tournament Committee:  
Peewee Early Bird- 11/14- 11/16 and have 10 teams signed up  
Varsity Rendezvous- Oahe only coming, so this will now be friendly games 11/18- 11/19

Building Committee- We discussed the internet options already.

Girls Program- Nothing new to update

Fundraising Report (Ronda Simmons, Brad Eggers)- Blanket sales coming, discussions on finding new opportunities long and short term.

House Program- Working to get new committee members to help run the program- this cannot be a separate board as they are all part of RHA. This is a committee to run both programs for house. Discussion on challenges and retaining people to help. Trista and Dixie are done this year and would like to move new people in soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm

