

RHA Board Meeting, 2/11/19

Thunderdome

Board members present: Chris Dietrich, Hollie Hoffman, Robert Steffy, Vern Burrell, Greg Chisolm, Gordon Merchen, Rachael Hepper, Tim Brady, Steve Nolan, Konrad Reeder, Gregg Fullerton, Christine Ritter, Tree & Trista Rybak (for house)

Call meeting to order: Chris Dietrich 6:00 pm

Approve meeting agenda/ December minutes: Email went out without attachment of mins- will re-send, table for now

Presidents Report:

Try Hockey for Free Day Feb 23rd: Will fall during Girls JV state tourney. This is a set date and we need to host so many functions to receive the funding from USA Hockey. Discussion on how to work this in best, the girls will have 2 games, then opening ceremonies on Sat, can fit Try Hockey For Free in after, and follow up with the next 2 games.

Due to date, we may not be able to get rental skates from Main Street Square and Roosevelt. We would just need to make what we have for rentals work.

Need to get Dibs spots up & get with Lindsey Johnson on registration table, gear table, volunteers to help get people dressed, etc. Will need people to help. JV will be out, but varsity will still be here & girls may also help out at the skate on ice. Set date, package will go to Lindsay.

New Positions:

Scheduling- Lindsey currently does the scheduling & will be moving. Jody Kirk & Bill Holec will be working with her & taking over the duties next year. Jody also helps out with Dibs & checking things over.

PR/media- Hollie has proposed this position & wants someone overlooking the social media & handling this, also handling PR for RHA. Looking to promote our organization & share positive stories. This is a new position that we advertised on Facebook. Spoke about this in Nov, wants to hold off until we can define this position a bit more & work on a job description. Have about 3-4 good quality candidates. Currently this is being covered by Ronda this season.

Virtual Fan Video: Is streaming, now we can archive. There had been a previous issue, but you can now go back & review. We have had good feedback so far. Little things like quality of video- who's running the tape, making sure to keep the game in frame, talking/shutting off all sound, tri-pod use.

Original proposal was an 80/20 split. We have not received anything yet. It had been brought to our attention today about some court cases discussed on a post. Some posts about the person who set up VF. Our local connection is checking into this- we are investigating it now to see if any of these issues are true (on social media).

Some technical things need to be tweaked, like labeling games. Also, have run into some internet issues. Need a good wifi signal, or it can drop. In this case, there may be multiple tapings for a game. Also sometimes the screen goes sideways- watch the time up top of the game, if it moves to the side, need to get out & back in (this means it changed the frame to sideways).

Other options for streaming were discussed. Live Barn can be very expensive to get going. With this VF Video, we are also able to tape anywhere on the road with an iPad or iPhone. We are looking at expanding taping to all levels to include mite & house.

Tournaments: Have hit crunch time. Dibs spots- need to get lists and talk with coordinators. Get the info to Jeni Leberknight and she will build the spreadsheets to upload & forward to Eric. She pretty much needs the games schedules & any extra positions you would require- ex: rink cleaner. She can set the schedules for the jobs based on the schedule.

For squirts- need to look at the facilities. Will want someone at each location directing traffic & answering questions, etc. Discussion on Dibs & having each facility listed for games so people know exactly where they are signing up to work.

Baskets- traditionally each team provides a basket to whoever is hosting state tournament each season. This year will be the Girls JV. Discussion on baskets- there are 9 travel teams- minus the girls teams, there would be 7 travel teams contributing, please squirts & mites. Squirts & Mites have been looking for sponsors & gathering baskets. Ronda is in contact with all levels to be sure we are not over-asking sponsors.

Mite Jamboree 3/1-3/3- Tourney coming together. They need to know the levels & pin this down & get brackets set. Will be minis, L1, L2/L3 levels.

Squirts Rush for the Cup tourney 3/8- 3/10- 15 teams planned at this time. Bob Grimsrud is working on getting officials for the squirt level.

Laura Stamm- Jeb is working on this again & will look at ice time & timeline.

**Tim wanted to address Charissa who came to the meeting with questions on the Media/PR position. She would like to know when the position will be ready- would like a call.

Mites: Scott requested to address the board. He wanted to clear up any confusion, etc. Had heard that he was solely responsible to move the Winter Classic? He wanted to state the Winter Classic decision was made by himself and 2 other coaches. There is a parent who also weighed in and works in the hills. Question came up about the ice and safety and the parent also agreed there was open water in the hills & it was not safe.

As far as travel tournaments- stated he was told they can do 2 tournaments this year- he was corrected- they were told only 1 at the board meeting. Had requested Billings & was advised to let board know in advance. Had attended a meeting & was told they could split it up, some kids to Gillette, some to Sioux Falls since each kid would be going to 1 tournament. He was still committed to Billings in addition, this had not come up.

Discussion on how teams were picked. Some parents upset as the SF trip was not open to all. It was decided by coaches that there was less ice time, shorter games- so they only took 2 lines & picked kids they felt could handle the quick turnaround--- for this reason team was picked, not open to all. Gillette was for the rest. Travel was up to parents if they wished to attend. Another coach took kids to Gillette & had a good reception- gathering interest in our jamboree as well.

Further discussion on travel at mite level & retention. Trying to avoid burnout or overwhelming families early on, build skills, have fun. Also, when we pull kids to travel, the ones still back at home do not have enough players for games- so it impacts them as well. Was brought up quite awhile back, used to have travel mites- only a couple on each team, this way during game weekends, they were short less kids per team.

Typically we have been sending only L2/L3 to Gillette--- but it was brought up that it's good to send the younger kids and also reciprocate when they bring in younger teams.

Communication needs to be clear to all involved. Need to be in contact with all families and have a clear list of all rosters. These need to be open to all, not exclusive by invite. There was permission to go to 1 tournament this year. Coach would still like to attend Billings as they already committed and spent \$3,000 on jerseys. Chris proposed that if we allow the second tournament (all players at all levels have had the opportunity for either SF or Gillette), and we allow the jerseys--- that all expenses will be incurred by the parents. This needs to be open to all players at that level. Teams need to be made equal. Coaches asked if there are more kids that want to go than they need what to do? They need to make it work. Further discussion on the 2 previous travel tourneys and if people had a choice on where they could go- this was not an option. It was not intended to upset people. Will have Lindsay post to the L2/L3 families this opportunity for Billings.

Proposal on the table by Chris- will allow the Billings tournament and use of the jerseys- if they open to all at those levels. They need to make equal teams & parents will incur the costs. Scott and Francis will need to report back to the board their plan in advance. Vote passes with the mentioned stipulations.

Tim wanted to add that all mites starting after the 1st of the year play for free. There was discussion on retention and bringing in new players. Timbits program in Canada is where kids play first year for \$100- but is sponsored. Chris mentioned the Try Hockey Free program- when players sign up- and it's later- there is a discount code that they are given. Chris wants to discuss this off season when we look at rates and building the programs.

2018-2019 Budget Update/Report (Steffy):

SDAHA assessments (Chris): yearly for associations. It's \$225/team (league) with RHA having 9 teams, \$2,025. Pretty similar to last year- we usually have about the same # of teams, varies a little.

Update: Steffy- we have about 5-6 more bills to pay and 3 more mortgage payments. We are about \$45,000 in the black. We will also need to calc in refs & ice for upcoming tourneys, plus 6 rooms at AmericInn for officials for upcoming state tourney.

Raffle & sponsorships will help offset quite a bit of both the mites & squirts tourneys.

Reimbursement requests- please place a hard copy in his folder at the rink.

Would like access to the 4 square to be able to determine where we really are in concessions & pro-shop for sales & get a good breakdown.

Bills: North Central supply- for the doors; Armstrong Extinguishers- and discussion on type of chemical used- no Halon- Tim checked into this.

Per Diem- Steffy cut checks on 6th & 10th. Again, please put a hard copy request in his folder at the rink, not an email request—this keeps a paper trail.

Recruitment Ideas (Ronda): Possibly a booth at the Kids Fair. It moved up and is 3/21 thru 3/24 this year. It runs \$300 for a 10 x 10 area, if we wanted any chairs/tables and outlets, need to rent as well and pay for the people working. Would be about 18 hours--- did we want to get a booth & run this? Will we have any interest from people? We need at least 2 people and an activity. Would need to know by 3/7 to send in payment & form. Would also need a copy of liability insurance & checked with Gregg on this.

Kim & Leah had expressed an interest previously to promote the girls program. Another board member weighed in, have done this in the past & not much came from it. They did this for 2 years. Hollie will ask the 2 contacts this year if they are interested.

Ronda also brought up the ELKS advertising option. Can run a still image for 15 seconds in 2 movies a day for \$100/month, or can run a 30 second commercial for \$200/month. Would like to do this over the summer program when kids are coming in weekly—and it's 14 weeks of movies. Greg C can check into video. Gregg F motioned to approve the ELKS advertisement- commercial if we can swing it- otherwise picture, Vern seconds, vote carries.

In the past we have sent fliers to schools & Leah is working on Base recruitment also.

SDAHA state fine/discipline: (From presidents report also) SDAHA sanctioned/fined RHA.

They had recently talked to us about the pots & pans—which had been cleared by the state & officials in the past. We have been told this was now in violation of SafeSport. They required it to stop immediately, and we complied. (in the past it's been noisemakers like airhorns, cowbells...that have not been allowed) Signs have been posted- it has been sent out to all members, and as we announce the zero tolerance policy- this is included. No further incidents of pots & pans in the rink.

During the Hockey Day in SD game for varsity at the Civic Center- there was a complaint that the student section was behind the other team. They were moved over in the first 5 mins and we had multiple parents over there to manage them. The complaint stated we didn't provide a safe environment. Due to the previous complaint about the pots & pans, although compliant as soon as we were told, it was felt this was a second offense and did warrant sanctioning. We have been fined \$500.

At this time in regards to the fine- Chris felt it was best to not fight it, just pay it and move forward. Steve is working on getting a team together for security & we will need a plan in place for the future. Would like to keep the students coming, how to manage them and keep them include and in line. Steve wrote a check to RHA for this so RHA would not have to incur the expense.

Discussion on last home game for the varsity team. Steve and his team worked hard to include the students and entertain them as well. Was a fun and positive vibe, heavy security present as well. Students came and cheered- no pot & pans allowed.

Will need to look at a plan for state. Steve stated Pierre does have 4 state troopers in attendance for crowd control. Chris stressed we are needing to be sure we represent RHA in a positive and respectful manner.

Concessions (Tracy Fine): Is working to get ready for the upcoming tournaments.

Building Committee (Brady/Olson/Nelson/Fullerton):

Updates/Projects- Have a list they would like to submit to association. Anyone needing to catch up on hours could help out on projects end of this season to get their volunteer hours in. New nets need strung & they want the glass cleaned – these jobs they would like done before girls JV State tourney.

Dryland Room- Need people to leave the locker-room lights alone, not use as a target. Lights and the fire suppression system are banged up. Would like to get clocks in the varsity locker rooms—wiring has been started. Need to have accountability & take care of things.

Further projects- cooling tower posts are not good. Need to fix this summer. Looking at taking off of the posts and putting it on a pad. This will also allow easier access.

Would like to get a policy in place and review code of conduct on the facility. Chris would like a list of needed projects & he can get this out to the association. Also discussion on enforcing code of conduct for the facility.

Upstairs Shooting Cage- Scott & Outlaw Fencing got the fence up. Looking at getting the shooting area finished. Will need a set of rules that we can post on the doors. The Cage will be locked unless in use. Will bring rules for discussion at next board meeting.

Dibs: Volunteer hours status report update. Was as recent as 1 week ago. Compiling them now & will present at next board meeting to have a good sense of where we are. Communication with coordinators and teams to put it out there the things you can do to get in your time. Checks are dated April 1st.

Pro-Shop (Ronda): Nothing to report at this time

Fundraising Committee (Ronda):

Status Update- Jam for the Zam, are we looking to do this again? Need to know & then get a budget set. Would look at second weekend in September and then the Expo next day. Chris told Ronda to proceed on planning.

Live to Give Grant- we need to know what we want to do. It has been brought up that the elevator for the stands is out. Could look at moving the water fountain to a new location, tearing out the elevator & installing a ramp along the wall. Would include seating along that area for ADA compliance, and install steps as another access.

Golfing tourney as a possible fundraiser. Chris asked her to come back with more ideas on this.

Girls Program:

Girls JV State Tournament- Young team, not many people know how to run this, need help.

Dibs is pretty full & we have appealed to all families. JV and all bantams will be gone, other teams are here. There are also tutorials that went out & may need to look at holding training sessions on the clock. There are 19 families in the program--- was stated only 15 will be here, some families have to split between players with only 1 parent available.

House Program (Trista): Nothing to update on

Future Meeting Date-- Monday, March 11, 2019 6 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Vern, second by Steve, meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

