

Alexandria Area Hockey Association Agenda

April 28, 2025

6PM - Runestone Community Center

Monthly Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Josh Hills, Ben Vangsness, Matt VanBruggen, Amber Blakesley, Andrea Nyberg, Cory Oberg, Karla Brutlag, Brittney Thoreson, Getty Johnson, Rebekah Summer, Paige Savelkoul, Apryl Putnam

Absent: Taylor Hayes

- **Call to order:** 6:06pm
- **Approve Agenda:** motion to approve agenda: Paige/Apryl, motion carried.
- **Approve Minutes – March 2025:** motion to approve minutes as presented: Vangsness/Savelkoul, motion carried.
- **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
 - Annual Audit Report was reviewed by the board and motion to approve annual audit as presented, Hills/Blakesley, motion carried
 - Chromebook purchase for Asst Gambling Manager \$175 Board approved by text 4/11/2025
 - Hardwood Hills printer purchase \$430 Board approved by text 4/12/2025
 - Donation request from Veterans Club out of Brainerd. The board discussed and decided to decline the donation request as we prefer to support local.
 - Donation request for Garfield Community Days of \$500. Motion made to support the donation request of \$500 Hills/Johnson; motion carried.
 - Budget Request: \$44,100 – Motion made to approve budget request, Nyberg/Putnam, motion carried.
 - AAHA Financials (Ben)
 - Reviewed Balance Sheet and year review of financials:
 - Registrations were up \$2100 from last year
 - Fall Development camp saw an increase in revenue due to more participation
 - \$11,000 increase in expense due to referees
 - Tournament net this year \$11,000
 - \$2,000 increase in revenue from golf fundraiser
 - Large increase is consistent sponsorships

- Wild tickets for the Olympic mites had a \$4,000 loss due to not selling all the tickets that were available. Consider different date for next year to increase participation.
 - Motion to approve financials as presented: Putnam/Brutlag, motion carried
 - **Committee Reports:**
 - **Vice President Report (Getty)**
 - **Hockey Committee Report:**
 - **2025/26 Dates:**
 - Fall Development
 - Dates: 9/2/25-9/18/25 (Travel Age Levels)
 - Tryout Clinic
 - Dates: 9/21/25 – 9/28/25
 - Tryouts (all levels)
 - Dates: 10/3/25 – 10/12/25
 - Beginners Clinic
 - Dates: 9/21/25 – 10/5/25
 - 5-6 Sessions
 - Mites Fall Development
 - Dates: 9/29/25 – 10/23/25
 - Season begins on 10/25/25
 - **Mite Program will be changing and moving to a 3 Tier Program and will be placed based on skill level. Boys and Girls will be mixed in together in their Tier group**
 - You will register as a mite versus by mite age group
 - Will be working through cost of the mite program with all of the age groups going away
 - **Hockey Committee recommends moving PeeWee and Bantams to AA with the change of high school moving to AA.**
 - Discussion was had around how we can get more practice/ice touches for our teams that are moving up to AA. Are all the tournaments we host profitable and worth hosting? Ben will look into the financial impact of our home tournaments.
 - **House League will remain however there won't be practice in addition to house league on house league nights**
 - **Secretary (Brittney)**
 - Will start to build out 2025-26 registration so that's it is ready to go live on June 1st
 - Ben and Brittney will coordinate on registration rates
 - Will work with Taylor on final process on selecting jersey numbers and how that will coordinate with registration

- **Communications (Andrea)**
 - Registration and jersey communication - need clear process so we can give the association clarity around the new process
 - Save the date about this process will need to go out mid May
 - All off season trainings have been updated on the website
 - Will continue to post all MN hockey info as notified
 - Apparel committee – Andrea would like to pass off this board duty to someone else
 - Year-end survey was sent out with a Friday, May 1st deadline
- **Tournament/Team Manager (Amber)**
 - Working on updating registration links that will open on June 1st
 - Goalie Scholarship Program Applications are closed
 - Need to add 1 more person to Tournament Committee- any recommendations
- **Volunteers/DIBS Coordinator (Apryl)**
 - Apryl reviewed the DIBS breakdown from the 24-25 hockey season
 - DIBS worked, the amount totals that were paid out for DIBs shifts not fulfilled
 - Working with Paige on restructuring dibs for next year
 - Apryl gave the recommendation of forming a Dibs committee for next year (concessions, volunteer coordinator, tournament manager, maybe HD)
- **Concessions (Paige)**
 - Concessions closed – water damage, with some of our equipment being affected
 - Henry's pro show 4/24 – attended to look at new options (some healthier, more protein)
 - Square doesn't offer "card fees" and consideration of needing to raise prices to cover cost of transaction fees
- **Sponsorship/Fundraising (Josh H)**
 - Waiting on decision from city with potential opportunity for some digital advertising
 - Emailing renewals after we hear from the city on plans moving forward with RCC and lobby
 - Will start the golf committee in May for September golf fundraiser
- **Equipment/Rink Rookie (Taylor H) – N/A**
- **Retention/Recruitment (Karla)**
 - Community Ed Flyer to promote AAHA and beginners clinic – recommendation to go that route over social indoor advertising – waiting on quote
 - Discussion around adding yard signs to promote registration and beginners clinic
 - Douglas County Fair – looking in to getting booth

- **Old Business:**

- RCC expansion
- Explore Alex-Submitted 2nd half fund request
- Charitable Gambling Committee Application
- Scheduling update (met with Ashley and Ben)
- Outdoor Rink at RCC or fairgrounds – exploring this idea to create more ice time and allow more opportunity for kids and open hockey
- **AA youth level (Action): motion to approve moving our association from A to AA for PeeWee and Bantam levels; Vangsness/Summer, motion carried.**

- **New Business**

- Establish 2025-26 registration rates
- Player owned jersey process

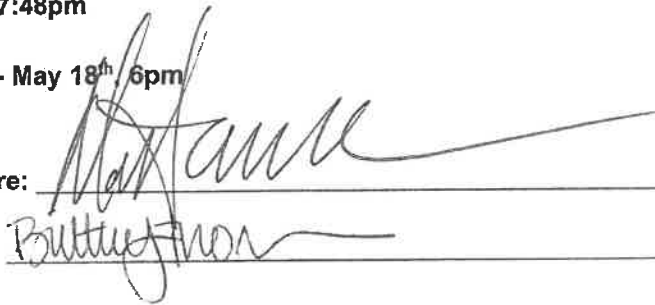
Meeting Adjourned: 7:48pm

Next Board Meeting - May 18th, 6pm

Location – RCC

Board Chair Signature: _____

Secretary Signature: _____

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, for the Board Chair, is written over a horizontal line and is quite stylized and cursive. The second signature, for the Secretary, is also written over a horizontal line and is more legible, appearing to read "Bullington".