

## Rushmore Hockey Association General Membership Meeting

**Date: June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Time: 6:00pm**

**Location: Thunderdome**

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Ben Nelson	X		
Brad Eggers	X		
Brad Lee			X
Cody Minnerath	X		
Corey Norris	X		
Dan Laughlin	X		
Dave Bender			X
Domnick Janitell	X		
Joelle Neutzling			X
Loren Jensen	X		
Megan Archer	X		
Rachael Hepper			X
Rachelle Williams	X		
Rebecca Mann	X		
Robert Steffy	X		
Ronda Simmons	X		
Sandra Weaver	X		
House Representative: Kent Bradley			X

Motion	First:	Second:	Time:
<b>Call General Meeting to Order:</b>	Brad Eggers	Dan Laughlin	6:01
<b>Previous Meeting Minutes Approval:</b>	Cody Minnerath	Ronda Simmons	
<b>Meeting Agenda Minutes Approval:</b>	Becky Mann	Ronda Simmons	
<b>Meeting Adjourned:</b>	Loren Jensen	Sandra Weaver	8:10

Important Upcoming Event:	Date:
<b>July Board Meeting</b>	<b>July 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 6:00</b>

Report	Discussion	Follow Up
Presidents Report: Brad Eggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid City Marshals indoor football team is no longer an active team. Brad is in the process of collecting their keys. Domnick Janitell will be deactivating their key fobs as of tonight. Any RHA banners they were using for advertisement have been returned.</li> <li>Brad Eggers recognizes and thanks Bob Steffy and Rachelle Hepper for their time on the board. Both members have served 2 terms (6 years) on the RHA board.</li> <li>Registration is currently open for travel players. Early registration is open until July 15<sup>th</sup>. Starting July 16<sup>th</sup> price increases by \$200. SDAHA starts working on travel schedules in August. Travel players are eligible to register up until January 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>At this time there are 12 kids registered. Bantam, Peewee and Squirts all have new skaters from outside of RHA. One family will receive a \$100 referral bonus.</li> <li>House and Mite registration will open on August 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>	
Election:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominations –</li> </ul>	

	<p>Kent Bradley Nominated by Sandra Weaver  Dan Krohn Nominated by Brad Eggers  Stacy Turek Nominated by Megan Archer  Shannon Wirth Nominated by Dan Laughlin  Ryan Cathcart Nominated by Cody Minnerath  Peter Lewis Nominated by Kent Bradley and Tommy White  Chana Miller Nominated by Angela Pickett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each attending nominee introduces themselves and states their intentions. Each attendee places 2 votes. Votes counted by Sanda Weaver, Megan Archer and Dan Laughlin.</li> <li>• <b>Shannon Wirth and Dan Krohn</b> have been elected to the board.</li> <li>• Bob Steffy and Rachael have completed their terms as of this meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Shannon Wirth and Dan Krohn</b> have been elected to the board.</p>
<p>House Report: Kent Bradley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No representative attends today's meeting.</li> <li>• Brad Eggers reports that the girls travel teams will likely be taking 2 Friday nights from house for their games. These missed practice times for house will be replaced. Brad will work with schedulers to accommodate this.</li> </ul>	
<p>Policy Review and Updates: Brad Eggers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjustments to Bylaws and Lettering were sent out to members prior to tonight's meeting.</li> <li>• Current Bylaws state that any check over \$2,000 must be signed by the treasure. The proposed change is to have any check valued over \$5,000.00 be signed by the treasurer.</li> <li>• Bylaws currently state board members are to serve 3 two-year terms. The proposed change would require a 3 year term. Members are allowed to serve 2 terms.</li> <li>• Brad Eggers proposes to decrease board members to 11.</li> <li>• In the past the board was always about 11-12 members however due to attendance issues a past president grew the board to the current 16 members.</li> <li>• Becky Mann brings forward concerns for an 11 person board, she states that 11 is too small. Ben Nelson states that 16 is too many. Sandra Weaver states that the most effective boards consist of 7-10 members.</li> <li>• Brad Eggers brings forward for board vote to adjust board size to 11-13 members by the spring of 2027. Each election a minimum of 2 new members will be elected to the board. The above bylaws are approved unanimously by the board.</li> <li>• Proposed change to lettering policy - To be eligible for a letter, the student/athlete must have participated in a minimum of 50% (currently 33%) of the regular season varsity periods (goalies participation requirements will be that they are in the regular season starting rotation or, as a backup goalie, participate in at least 25% of the varsity games). Students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Student must also complete 5 hours of volunteer work for RHA (outside the annual volunteer hours requirement).</li> <li>• Sandra Weaver would like GPA requirement increased.</li> <li>• Varsity and JV coordinator/coaching currently check player GPA, any GPA below 2.0 are ineligible to play. RHA pulls grades about 2 times per season.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lettering policy is put to a board vote, board approves policy changes. There is one nay vote.</li> <li>• Play-Up Policy and Volunteer Policy will be reviewed by the board at the July meeting.</li> </ul>	
Recruitment: Rachelle Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachelle has delivered a new activity sheet with RHA information to Buffalo Wings and Rings. These activity sheets will be handed out as coloring sheets for kids at the restaurant.</li> <li>• “New to Hockey” brochures have been given to Roosevelt. Roosevelt will be handing these out as needed. Rachelle reports they often get requests for more information on RHA at Roosevelt. The director was very pleased to have something to hand out to families seeking more information.</li> <li>• Recruitment committee is seeking new members. If you are interested in joining or have ideas for recruitment, please email Rachelle Williams at – <a href="mailto:recruitment@rushmorethunder.org">recruitment@rushmorethunder.org</a></li> <li>• Black Hills Parent has reached out to RHA asking to potentially do a story on RHA’s recent successes. The cost is over \$1,500.00 for a small story. Previously the board elected not to pursue this avenue for advertisement. Rachelle brings it up today to verify the board’s decision remains the same. After discussion the board determined the cost is prohibitive at this time.</li> <li>• Corey Norris was able to get 10 pieces of plywood donated for the “Registration Open” signs being placed around town.</li> <li>• Coke has donated 10 more signs; Plywood will be needed for these signs. We will need places for these signs to go up, please email Rachelle if you have any leads on sign placement.</li> <li>• Signs should be placed around the city starting August 1st when house and mite registration opens. Target audience for these signs are mite and house skaters.</li> <li>• Elks Movie Theater advertisement will start in July/August and play until October. Ronda Simmons is working with the Elks to get this set up.</li> </ul>	<p>If you have ideas for recruitment or would like to join the recruitment committee, please reach out to Rachelle Williams via email.</p> <p><b><a href="mailto:recruitment@rushmorethunder.org">recruitment@rushmorethunder.org</a></b></p> <p>If you know of a location to place a large RHA sign please use above email.</p>
Financial Report: Sandra Weaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra is leading the Strategic Planning and Goal Committee for RHA. The purpose of this committee will be to set short- and long-term goals to bring RHA into the future for generations to come. This will also help direct purpose for fundraising. If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Sandra Weaver or Megan Archer.</li> <li>• Sandra Weaver and Brad Eggers created a 3-month CD at 4.1%. Another CD is due to be moved in July, this will be moved to a higher interest CD at that time.</li> <li>• Mortgage payment for May has been made. In previous years RHA only paid 4 principal payments each year.</li> <li>• See full financial report.</li> </ul>	
Facilities Report: Cody Minnerath and Ben Nelson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zamboni roadway paving project – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pete Lien and Sons has donated \$2200.00 towards the cost of gravel, total cost of gravel is \$4,200.00.</li> <li>-JH trucking will give RHA a 25% discount on hauling the gravel. Hauling will be approximately \$1,500.00.</li> <li>-Zanstra Construction has offered to do the dirt work free of charge.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>-J&amp;J Asphalt will pave at a 50% reduced fee up to \$5000.00. Cost to RHA is estimated to be between \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for asphalt.</p> <p>-Total cost to RHA will be under \$10,000.00. This project has been in the works for several years. Paving this area would prevent the zam from having to drive on mud and ice when dumping ice. The building committee will be using funds from their yearly budget for this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quote for roof fix/membrane came in at \$16,320 from RainTite Roofing. The main roof is fine. Zam room/addition roof is where the roof is leaking. Becky Mann proposes board approval, Dan Laughlin seconds motion. Board elects to approve RainTite Roofing quote.</li> </ul>	
Tournaments: Corey Norris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rush game schedule has been released. Mite tournament dates can be set soon. State Tournament dates and hosts will be released soon as well. Mite tournament will be booked around this as well. Likely it will be the first or second weekend in March.</li> </ul>	
Fundraising Report: Sandra Weaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alissa Orban is now the head contact for the Fundraising Committee. They have also gained a few new members.</li> <li>• Alissa is not present today, report given by Sandra Weaver.</li> <li>• Proposed events are a sponsored car wash day for July 28<sup>th</sup> at Super Clean Carwash. Super Clean will donate 100% of the profits for this event.</li> <li>• The committee would like to host a 5k Fun Run/Walk in September. More details to come.</li> <li>• Ronda Simmons reports Chase the Ace is still going at over \$14,000. Program is gaining at about \$600 to \$700 per week. Please continue to share Facebook posts.</li> </ul>	
Camps – Robby Glantz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates discussed during the May Board meeting will not work for Robby. Robby has November 1-3 open and is interested in coming back to RHA to offer his skating camp.</li> <li>• November 1-3 is a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These dates would potentially interfere with a few house practices. Any ice time lost would be replaced.</li> </ul>	
Officiating Committee – Bob Steffy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Steffy has agreed to be the lead for the Officiating program.</li> <li>• The purpose of this program is to recruit and obtain officials.</li> <li>• Bob has reached out to several individuals across SD to see if anyone is interested in helping him grow this program across SD. Across the nation but especially in SD there is a significant lack of referees. Bob has even reached out to contacts in ND to see how they are recruiting their officials.</li> <li>• At the May 2024 board meeting RHA approved \$1,500 per year for this program. This money will be used to offset registration and gear costs associated with officiating. Gear will be purchased as needed and as new referees sign up.</li> <li>• Bob will be looking into a program New York has set up, “Try Ref for Free”.</li> <li>• Bob requests the board’s assistance with supporting our refs’ decisions during games. He would like to see the board have education on how to handle situations with unruly parents. Board intervention is needed at all levels.</li> <li>• Bob’s goal for the program is to get 5-10 kids involved. Sign up and testing for ref programs are typically done during the summer.</li> </ul>	

Concerns  
Brought to the  
Boards Attention  
by RHA  
Members

- Mite parent voiced concerns for more information on how to get involved in committees and opportunities to be involved in coordinator positions. Coordinators typically go through a yearlong apprentice type program to take over for the following season.
- Mite parent states that communication was an issue. Coordinators are mainly in charge of communication within this group. Parents suggest possible monthly meetings. (It is of note last season mite coordinators offered TeamReach, Mite Facebook page, dedicated spot on the monthly newsletter, a parent meeting at the beginning of the season, emails with big announcements, dedicated website page and information sheets with coordinators email addresses, personal cell phone numbers and how to message directly via TeamReach. At least one coordinator was available at all practices, cleanings, tournaments and games. Coordinators offered multiple parent meetings throughout the season for big events such as The Winter Classic and the Mite Jamboree). Future mite coordinators will use the information provided to make improvements for next season.
- One other parent voiced concerns with communication as well. The communication team will review concerns and adjust newsletter as needed. The communication team is open to any suggestions. Please submit concerns/suggestions to [secretary@rushmorethunder.org](mailto:secretary@rushmorethunder.org).
- Parent voices concerns for location of monthly board meeting. Parent suggest moving meeting from board room to the loft or dryland room. During the summer months the board has been conducting meetings in the loft area. However, during the season dryland and loft are used by players or are too loud to conduct a meeting.
- Parent voices concern regarding Tryout dates. Parent states most programs have tryouts about a month before RHA. Tryouts are currently set for the last full week of October for Squirt, Peewee and Bantam. Historically RHA has tryouts later in October to allow skaters to be involved in fall sports. RHA encourages kids to be in multiple sports. Another issue is ice, putting in ice earlier in the season is very costly due to the heat. If a skater was to miss a tryout, individual tryouts are very challenging for the player and for the evaluation staff.