

Minutes WAYHA Board and Membership Meeting October 19, 2009

6:30 p.m. BKIA

Welcome and Member Introduction: Kate Manor, Rol Larson, Andy Robertson, Sandy Pilarski, Jennifer Vieth, Randy Galewski, Ryan King, Matt Speltz, Joe Whetstone, Steve Schoh, Mark Boberg, Deb Ruesgen, Jeni Arnold

Visiting: Travis Volkman, Jim Martin, Fran McDevitt, Bill Rickoff, Rory Palmer, Ellen Hovis

6:32 – 8:23 Committee Reports

Facility:

Kate presented the Board with a proposed contract for the Rink Manager. After reviewing the document, Rol questioned whether we should still have a bonus plan for tournaments. Two years ago, the Board created a Tournament Director position so that there was a board member responsible for heading up tournaments. The Rink Manager, as part of his regular responsibilities, is expected to provide information, answer inquiries and collect monies for these tournaments. There was general agreement from the board that the Rink Manager should not receive additional compensation for his role with tournaments.

Matt inquired if the proposed contract included a wage increase? Kate answered yes there is a 3% increase. Kate also said that she is trying to get Jim on a more level playing field contractually because of the changes in the board and the upheaval the he has to deal with on an annual basis. Matt then suggested that this contract should be renewed in the spring instead of when everything is so hectic in the fall. Joe suggested that the contract should be a multi-year document with escape clauses for all. Kate will review these comments, finalize the contract and bring it back to the Board for a vote at the November meeting.

Jim then provided a brief update on the contingency plan that he has been investigating. First of all, he determined that the rink is 20 years old, not 25. As far as condition of the facility goes, there is really nothing other than general, regular maintenance that needs to be right now. The biggest concern, from an operational standpoint, is the age of the compressors. As a contingency, if all of the units were to fail, we could have a trailer come in from Rink Tech as a stand-by unit to keep the ice in the building. There is no quote for this right now, however, Jim has asked for one. Next year we will plan on having the "steel around" fixed particularly in the west end of the arena. This is integral to the functioning of the cooling system and creates thicker ice at the west end of the rink. Kate requested that Jim put together a summary of the options and costs to be presented at the next Board meeting.

Equipment:

Matt Speltz and Rol Larson reported that shin pads and helmets are in as ordered. The puck bags and the medical bags have been embroidered and passed out to all coaches. All equipment has now been distributed to teams and individual players at the Mite and LTS levels. Matt is going to get a case of pucks from the High School. Matt also suggested that we get a new set of cones for the ice. The good quality ones are \$7.50 per cone. Fran will investigate options for this and report back to the equipment committee. Travis needs to order some new visors for referees. This will be included in the equipment budget.

Matt has samples of jerseys prepared and will bring those to the next meeting. We need to discuss the jersey sponsorship issue and what we will accept. Right now the cost for a jersey is approx. \$65.00 each or almost \$2000 per set. This is from Excel Images. The main question is how we will manage jersey sponsorship vs. sign sponsorship and not create conflict. Is it better to focus on fundraising support using the arena signs where the Board then has the discretion to spend the money where it is required?

Rory brought up the idea of approaching all the local business for sponsorship for the back of jerseys. We need to discuss this in more detail and make some progress on getting this done. Kate suggested putting this back on the marketing committee. Is it possible for individual teams to look for sponsorship for events and tournaments? Yes, but this needs to be coordinated with the Marketing committee so that we don't create conflict with other marketing initiatives.

Program:

Fran summarized the Program issues for Tim who was absent. All coaches are in place and we are working on a goalie coach. Brody Papenfuss will be coaching the Squirt C team. All teams have been on the ice at least once. The LTS last week had 9 coaches on the ice. Mites are at approximately 20 skaters and LTS is at 40 skaters.

There are some numbers issues. The Bantam C team will only have 10 players if all players come back and no-one else quits. There are some issues with numbers at the Squirt level and currently we do not have enough players for the squirt C team. There are 14 players on the Squirt B team and only 8 on Squirt C. There has also been a problem with Mites coming up to skate with the Squirt program without prior approval and not following the Association move-up policy. These issues will be addressed by the Program Committee at their next meeting and they will report back to the board.

Fran would like the board to pre-approve some money for Coaches Drill books.

Action: Joe made the motion that we pre approve up to \$300.00 for coaches drill book copies, second by Andy. Motion passes unanimously.

Jennifer reported on the girls program. Things are progressing well and we are at 11 and 11 players for both teams U12 and U10. For U10, the girls are going to skate a Squirt schedule in the Wisconsin Minnesota Hockey League (WMHL) and will schedule independent games. For U12, they will also go WMHL and skate a 10 game schedule and then setup a number of independent games with surrounding communities.

Team pictures for most levels were taken on 10-19 and they went very smoothly.

Marketing

Rol provided an update. The committee had a meeting last week on October 14, 2009. They reviewed what worked and what didn't work this year. Our numbers are down and we need to find out why. The committee is going to put together a survey to try and figure this out. The committee is going to work at LTS specifically to try and improve retention. There will be sessions held and free stuff distributed to work this level. The committee is working to figure out advertisers, who has been billed and what is outstanding. Rol will be sending letters to address outstanding sponsorship monies. Work on a quarterly newsletter is expected to start immediately. Jeni suggested talking to a group called Constant Contact to distribute newsletters and discuss marketing for non-profits.

In giving out equipment this year, there were quite a few skaters who were under 5 years old (at least 10). We need to have a discussion about this and set up a formal policy establishing a minimum age for our participants. We also need to discuss how this will be managed during registration. This should go to Program to discuss and recommend an approach back to the board.

Ice Schedule:

Jen reported that the schedule is finalized and there are some weeks that we are light on ice. Jen has not contacted St. Mary's yet for any ice times because we probably have enough ice without paying for more from St. Mary's.

The final tournament schedule is on the web. At this time: Bantam B is full, Bantam C is full, U10 and U12 are full, PW B has 2 open spaces, PW C has 1 open spot, Squirt HS run tournament is full and the Squirt B Association tournament has open spaces.

Peak Performance:

The Peak Performance contract for 2010 was briefly discussed. There was general dissent from the board regarding increasing Peak's ice rate to \$125.00 in one jump. Kate proposed putting together a small negotiating committee to address contract arrangements with Bob Montrose. The committee will be Kate, Joe, Andy and Chris. This group will meet to initiate discussions before the next board meeting and will report back.

Registration:

Mark distributed confidential screening forms for all board members. He asked about registration refunds for families who are leaving the Association this fall and was told to refund those as requested. This year we have 145 skaters registered to date and our revenue is holding steady. There is only one team that has fully registered with USA Hockey. Level directors need to communicate to all teams that this needs to be done ASAP! Birth certificates and waivers are not required any longer. Wisconsin tournaments, however, will require birth certificates. What about other Associations in different Districts in MN? How are we going to handle it as an Association? We will accept the District 8 approach. We will request one or the other (birth certificate or consent to treat) for all team books.

8:24 – 9:08

Gambling:

The gambling report reviewed by all and there was no discussion. Gambling is going as well as can be expected given the economic situation. We are still selling and there is money in the bank. Bill had a discussion with Kathy Rollinger about doing the quarterly taxes for the Association. Brian's rates are approximately \$80.00 per hour Kathy's would be \$30.00. Kathy would do the quarterlies but not the full taxes and HABCO will finish our last two quarters. We will then make a decision about who will be our accountant for next year.

Action: Motion to approve the September gambling report by Matt seconded by Jeni, unanimously approved.

Action: Motion for pre-approval of September gambling expenses by Matt, second by Joe, unanimously approved.

Cost of Games:	\$3000 - \$7000
Payroll Taxes:	\$250 - \$1000
Rent:	\$3000 - \$7000
Mgr. Payroll and Auditor:	\$1000 - \$3000
GCB Fees:	\$100 - \$200
Accounting:	\$100 - \$200

Pre-Approval of Lawful Expenditures:

Excel Energy: \$4388.96
Thornes Refrigeration: \$5441.60

Action: Motion to pre-approve Lawful Expenditures for September Motion by Matt second Sandy, unanimously approved.

Action: Motion to approve lawful expenditures from the WAYHA gambling account by Joe, second by Mark, unanimously approved.

Financials:

September financial reports were not available for distribution due to technical difficulties. Approval was deferred to next month.

Joe made a proposal to separate business expenses from operational expenses and gaming. We need to look seriously at this. Deb is going to go ahead and implement this.

9:08 – 9:15

Old Business:

Action: motion to approve the September minutes was deferred to the November meeting due missing items.

9:15 – 9:42

New Business:

Guest Ellen Hovis has a son (Dylan) who started at 3 and has now advanced to the point where he should be in Mites (in her opinion). The coaches have placed him at the LTS level and she is worried that we will lose him as a hockey player and he will not come back. Dylan is going to be crushed by this and we need to be aware of how to resolve this.

Ryan King explained that there is still an opportunity to move up and that will continue to be the case throughout the season. Sandy indicated that there is a new coach at the LTS level and we would like a few weeks for the coach to evaluate the players and then see where things are at that point. Let Craig make a thorough evaluation before we try and make this decision. Things are not yet set in stone.

Ellen inquired as to how LTS going to be different this year? Sandy responded that there will be more coaches and a more progressive program. There will be stations and better programming and we need to keep the kids engaged. Sandy has committed to reviewing this situation by December 7th.

Travis would like approval for \$60.00 to pay for a level 3 instructor come in to instruct the 3 man system for Junior Gold referees.

Action: Motion to approve for this \$60.00 expenditure made by Ryan and seconded by Jen.

Kate then summarized her progress with the calendars. Calendar issues need to be followed up by the Level Directors at the next level practices and money must be returned by Dec. 1st.

9:42

Adjourn Motion by Matt and seconded by Jeni.

Next meeting date: November 16th BKIA at 6:30 p.m.

Next Operations Team Meeting: October 26, 2009

Minutes Certified: _____ **Date** _____
Secretary, WAYH