

River Lakes Board
Meeting Minutes
Feb 7, 2011

Mission: River Lakes Hockey exists to provide a rewarding experience, focused on the development of players, and volunteers while promoting a fun, fair, and safe environment dedicated to the respect, sportsmanship, and excellence of all participants.

Opening: The special meeting of the River Lakes Board was called to order @ 7:10 PM on February 7, 2011 at the Koronis Arena in Paynesville by President Swain Smith.

Present: Swain Smith, President; Margaret Spanier, Vice President; Marsha Meed, Ice Scheduler; Tami Stanger, Secretary; Scott Klatt, Director; Mitch Sweep, Ace Coordinator

Absent: Heather Kipf, Registrar; Gary Oothoudt, D5 Representative; Mary Sweep; Treasurer.

Agenda:

High School Hockey Program Discussion:

This special board meeting was called for the primary purpose of creating some objectives that the River Lakes Board feels they would like to express to the High School Hockey Program in an effort to create a collaborative relationship between the association and the High School Program to build a strong hockey program.

The objectives/issues that were discussed:

- The River Lakes association feels that the High School program shows a lack of interest in the association programs. The River Lakes Association feels that it would benefit the association and the High School program to have the Varsity coaches involved in the association programming. The association is the feeder program to the High School program and it would behoove the program to have the interest of the Varsity coaches. There are a variety of ways in which this could be accomplished:
 - Player Development Committee meeting attendance
 - The creation of a High School mentorship program in collaboration with the association.
 - High School coaching staff involvement in Spring, Fall, and Summer ice programs.
- Communication between the association and the High School program is non-existent. We would like to see that change. One suggestion made was to have a member of the association or an appointee act as a liaison between the hockey association and the High School program.
- Communication amongst the High School program is lacking. Some of the examples that were brought forth:

- High School Cooperative agreement lacks any details to provide direction.
- High School parents and players not made aware of ROCORI policies
- Lack of communication regarding responsibilities to arrange EMTs.
- Lack of efficient communication regarding ice scheduling/changes in High School hockey schedule/consideration of association ice needs.
 - The Tuesday and Thursday games this year have taken many, many hours of practice time.
- The River Lakes Hockey Association is looking for the evolution of the High School hockey program. The expectations of the parents and players have evolved; it is no longer just about being happy to have a place to play hockey for our skaters. The Player Development Committee has worked very hard for many years to develop a program that focuses on developing hockey players. The association is producing teams that are having success at a high level of competition. The expectation of parents and skaters is that the development continues in High School. The association teams are competing against and beating teams that the High School program is not even with the same skaters.
- The River Lakes Hockey Association would like the opportunity to make suggestions as to policies/processes that we feel could be written into the Co-op agreement that would benefit the High School hockey program and the association. Examples: coach job description that includes expectations of both parties, the possibility of having a cut policy in place *if a skater has another team they could participate on*, the responsibilities of the association respective to the High School program, etc.

Next Steps:

Invite the Athletic Directors and High School coaches to the next regularly scheduled board meeting of the River Lake Stars.

USA Hockey News

USA Hockey is likely to prohibit checking at the PeeWee level of hockey. MN Hockey is very opposed to this rule change and is contemplating leaving USA Hockey.

Meeting adjourned at 810PM by Swain Smith