

MLAHA Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 – 6 p.m. Gamper's

Present: Mark Franta, Bryan Muecke, Cindy Jungers, Dan Benzie, Missy Gamst, Kristi Cisar, Bill Fossum, Terry Burn, Leslie Evenson-Bakhtiari, Vern Anderson, and Adam Schmidt

President Terry Burn called the meeting to order.

Review of December 15, 2010, Meeting Minutes

Bryan Muecke moved that the minutes be approved as written. Motion seconded by Dan Benzie and passed unanimously.

Secretary Position

MLAHA will wait until the annual meeting to fill this position. The positions of President, Registration Director, and Gaming Manager will also be open at the annual meeting. In the meantime, recruitment efforts should be made by all board members to fill these positions.

Consent Agenda

No Items to be removed. Motion made by Cindy Jungers to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Bryan Muecke and passed unanimously.

Gaming Report

Missy Gamst reported that the gaming account at Northview Bank is closed but an interest statement was received. Leslie Evenson-Bakhtiari, Treasurer, stated she had called the bank. One account is closed one account at zero, and another is active but is to be closed. The balance on that account is \$2,615.88. Motion made by Benzie to close all Northview accounts and move the money to the capital account. Motion seconded by Vern Anderson and unanimously passed.

Gamst reported that the Muni is currently at 7 pull tab games and Gamper's has 8. No pull tabs will be kept at the Moose Lake Golf Course for the next season. In November and December, \$363 and \$857 respectively were collected at bingo. Discussions will be had with the Muni to finalize and end date for bingo. \$480 is grossed at each meat raffle. Once the tipboard inventory is zeroed out, a paddlewheel will be purchased. The current balance in the gaming account is \$12,223. The transfer out date for tax purposes is March 31, 2011. The \$1,000 received from the Northern Pine Riders had to be sent back and replaced from another account. Adam Schmidt moved to accept the gaming report. Motion was seconded by Benzie and unanimously passed.

Gamst reminded the board that previous month/year minutes are needed for gaming purposes. Terry Burn said some were received from Tom Paull and can be reviewed. Dennis Genereau may have any remaining minutes.

Financial Report

Treasurer Evenson Bakhtiari announced the following account balances:

General Fund	\$29,561.08
Savings	\$2,130.69
Capital Fund	\$8,661.68

She reported \$7,179.17 was paid to the city for lighting, which was a shared cost through the grant. A refund was provided for fountain pop and a check received from the Willow River Commercial Club for advertising.

The Finance Committee met and voted to give 15% of each tournament take to the home team for their tournament budget. For example, a host team that collects \$2,000 in tournament fees would receive \$300 as their budgeted amount.

Pee Wee B District 11 playoffs will be held in Moose Lake. The scheduler will add this information. MLAHA may also be hosting the 10U Districts the weekend of March 4 and 5.

Next year with a new president and tournament director in place, tournaments should be scheduled earlier—hopefully in spring.

MLAHA should pursue being part of Hockey Day Minnesota for February 2012.

Evenson-Bakhtiari said the scholarships need to be redefined. There are currently families with children skating who never paid their registration fees, nor did they make arrangements for financial aid. Team reps will be notified and individual families contacted via letter from the Finance Committee. The process for season 2011-12 will be that players are not allowed on the ice until they have paid in full or have made arrangements for scholarship or a payment plan.

She passed out a plan for how to apply scholarship and sample letters to be sent to families who have not paid their registration fees in full.

Muecke asked whether or not there is any way of verifying families who qualify for the reduced or free lunch system and if that is what will be used for criteria. Benzie said there is not a way to obtain specific information and it will be an honor system.

Muecke informed the board that the players on the Pee Wee team who are not association players are in suit against the Cloquet Area Hockey Association. They plan to pay but a verbal agreement was made to allow them to wait for progress on the lawsuit. Conversation is still occurring with these families, but it is agreed they should pay MLAHA and can be sent the letter.

Bill Fossum motioned the scholarship policy be accepted. The motion was seconded by Muecke and passed unanimously.

Schmidt noted there were forms that some families did fill out and asked if the board had a record. Evenson-Bakhtiari said she does not have any currently but will follow up on this matter.

Evenson-Bakhtiari went through MLAHA expenditures totaling \$12,197.18 in checks to be paid. Jungers motioned to approve these expenditures. Motion was seconded by Muecke and passed unanimously.

It is to be noted that staff wages have significantly decreased from the past two years. Thanks to all of our families for their excellent volunteerism!

Also of note, the rink is now open at all times and the lights are set on timers.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Muecke. Fossum seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Covered under financial report section.

New Business

Player Development Community Initiative

Mark Franta and Muecke shared there are community children who are interested in recreational hockey and there should be opportunities for them. The Player Development Committee is interested in meeting with the towns represented within our Association and encourage them to bring back their community rinks. Committee members are currently working with town administrations and may see if the program can be run through community education. The idea is to host a condensed season, offering opportunity to individuals at all levels in a recreational setting. Equipment grants are being reviewed.

Long Range Planning Update

SWOT Analysis of Association

Benzie and Muecke led the board through an exercise reviewing what MLAHA does well and identifying weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The board responses will be circulated and shared with parents. The board also reviewed the previous mission statement and goals and were asked to think about the message and whether it fits the present day.

The board was challenged to brainstorm about how to manage the new facility. For instance, would we own or lease? What would create a strategic partnership? Would the school be a more active participant? How do we maintain ways to continue to generate revenue?

Year End Items

Banquet, Ice-out Date, Annual Meeting

The banquet will again be a potluck format organized by the Pee Wee and U12 teams on March 6. The ice will be taken out the same day, and the annual meeting will be held on that date as well. The plan is banquet from 4 – 5 p.m., meeting from 5 – 5:30 p.m., awards at 5:30, followed by the last open skate.

Move up Hockey

Muecke said move up hockey will be reviewed and will occur in late February if at all.

Earl Ellens Award

The question was asked whether guideline should be placed around the Earl Ellens award. Jungers said as a former “Earl’s kid”, the award should not focus so much on service (e.g., who has worked the most hours in a season) as much as motive. Why are we there? It should be for the kids. Earl did his job at the rink but was also very much about making the place an overall positive experience for the kids, which should be the main factor considered.

It was mentioned that once the girls’ varsity season is over, any captains practices should be moved to later hours to allow youth teams to practice earlier.

Jungers motioned for adjournment, which was second by Benzie. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.