Park Rapids Amateur Hockey Association

Special Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/26/2017

1. Call to Order: By: Brent S./Joe Arndt Time: 6:07 p.m.
2. Board Members Present: Nancy, Laura, Shaun, Blake, Matt, Jeromy, Brent S.
   1. Walker Members: Joe, Carolyn, Byron, Jody, Nate, Laurie
   2. Others Present: Derek Ricke, John Hoscheid
3. New Business
   1. Walker Merger
      1. Gross Co-op
         1. Athletic directors have drawn up proposed five-year agreement for coop at boy’s/girl’s varsity levels. This five-year agreement was added by Jon Schumacher. There would still be an annual meeting to review this and make changes if necessary, if both parties agree to changes.
            1. Transportation continues to be a large cost for the association. It was discussed that some of the away games would have busing supplied by Walker.
            2. Refs were another topic that was brought up – three refs currently for boys’ varsity, two refs for girls’ varsity. Question was if we have three for boys do we need to have three for girls. Brent S. stated this is something that would be talked about with the school, not necessarily the board.
            3. Girl’s – currently girls sign up and play for Park Rapids (60/40).

It is proposed that girls would sign up in Walker, and play for Park Rapids.

This would be a large financial loss for the Park Rapids association. Last year there were 7 Walker players that registered in Park Rapids.

Walker does not have large numbers to contribute to Park Rapids over the next five years, but state they are willing to take that risk because they see a benefit to both associations by merging.

Brent S. suggested having a 10U team versus a 12U team, as most of our team last year was 10U or 8U. He is hoping if they have a more successful season this may help grow the program.

Derek – MN Hockey standpoint: Huge growth of girls entering at 12U, 14U and high school. Over the last 10 years girls start at 8U and 10U. Reports that there is a gap, almost state wide, where there was a drop in registration in this age group. States the largest gap is 12U-14U.

Derek said that to close this gap they are seeing a lot of team co-ops to bridge this gap, not necessarily association mergers.

Walker was questioned if they were not going to have their kids play in Park Rapids if there was no co-op – they said that if there was no co-op they would open this up for discussion with the girls’ parents to decide if they will still play in Park Rapids, or if they will look elsewhere.

Walker would like a decision soon so they have time to make these decisions.

Brent S. asked to put together a team from each association to put together a framework to determine whether a merger would take place. This would then have to be approved by the board.

Derek volunteered to be a part of this team.

Brent S. suggested that each board discuss this and put together a team from each association that would meet to make this framework.

This framework would be the determining factor of when a merger would take place, rather than just forming a co-op.

Joe asked what our next was going to be with regards to the girls’ co-op.

It will be discussed amongst the board before a decision is reached.

* + 1. Co-op at Squirts
       1. Brent S. stated that he felt that if we co-op at this level we could have an A and a B team, or two tiered B teams.
          1. Derek’s opinion was that if the sole purpose of the co-op is to tier teams it is not a good idea. He said that if each town and can support their own team it should be done that way, but it would be a different story if one or both towns cannot support a squirt team.
       2. Brent S. wants to make a rule for what number of rostered players does it trigger a co-op, regardless of what age level it is.
          1. Furthermore, he suggested to have members from each board meet to discuss the issues that are brought up each year with the co-op, so decisions can be made to deter these issues each year. This would be an addendum to what determines a merger (EX: Volunteer hours).
       3. Blake’s argument was that there was poor utilization of ice time last year, and many times youth didn’t get enough ice time per month. He feels this would be remedied by utilization the ice for both associations.
          1. Matt stated that this was in part due to scheduling, and there will be adjustments made in scheduling that would remedy some of these issues.
    2. Boys’ co-op
       1. Derek’s opinion was that neither association at this point can support their own varsity team, and he is interested in a multi-year agreement at the boys’ varsity level, so that the associations can work together to benefit the team.
    3. Brent S. – our board will discuss in detail for the girls’ co-op, Walker will discuss with their parents, and both associations will work on developing a team to develop a framework. Deadline is August 1.

1. Next meeting date is: Regularly scheduled meeting on 7/10/17 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Adjournment: By: Brent S. Time: 7:21 p.m