

Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. Members present included Mike Goergen, Kris Harnett, Ed Kirchoff, Greg Erickson, Paul Wood, Troy Loken, Jon Piazza, Jim Siede, Larry Gonrowski, Mark Gauer, Matt Deterding, Carolyn Soper and Tracee deNeui. Holly Martin and Marty Daughenbaugh sat in as observers. Board Members missing the meeting were Mike Terres, Tom Keller, Joanna Rooney, Derek Olson and Todd Pannek.

Tracee deNeui started the meeting with an update about the robbery at Champps. The restaurant was broken in to in the early morning and our safe was stolen; cash of \$4854 was lost as well as some paperwork and prize receipts. Our loss totals at \$11,254 which includes the safe, cash and games in play. Anoka police found the safe out in Andover. We recovered nothing of value. Tracee is hoping that Champps insurance will cover our loss. We had looked in to having our own theft insurance but it is very expensive. Mike Goergen asked if we can tag on to each site's insurance as a matter of policy. Tracee is checking on this.

The Sunshine Factory safe is now bolted to the floor. When approached, Steve-O's wasn't interested in bolting our safe at their site.

On a side note, the booth at Champps has been moved; it is closer to the bar. We got a new booth for \$725, less than we thought it would be, and it is up and running. She also heard from the Gambling Control Board and they gave the go-ahead to pay the Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association \$191.10 per our agreement with them. Profit for March was \$4,613.00.

Tracee asked for a motion on the following items:

1. Approval of monthly report to the Board
2. Approval for expenses for May 2009-\$39,150
3. Approval to pay April 2009 taxes to the City of Maple Grove -\$13.51
4. Approval to donate \$35,00 for ice time to the City of New Hope

Greg Erickson made the motion to approve all items; Troy Loken seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Goergen listed the open board seats and asked Troy Loken to assist him with nominating new people to fill the positions. Vacating members should provide information such as duties, contacts, etc. Open positions include: Member at Large, Fundraising, Secretary, Marketing and Membership, Equipment Coordinator, and ACE.

Scott Dornfeld from District 3 was at the meeting to speak to the board about **recruiting**

and retention. Scott is a former Armstrong Youth Hockey parent and board member and now is the Assistant Director to John Perry at District 3.

Scott explained that they are going to have a committee at the State level to work with Associations to promote hockey in a positive way and retain players. Armstrong Cooper is lucky because we are the only Association to already have a board member in place to work on these things (Marketing and Membership).

One thing they are doing is creating a “no checking league” at the PeeWee and Bantam levels. Teams would play once a week with a set time and travel within their District boundaries. Coaches would need a Level 1 coaching certification. They hope to get this going in the next hockey season (2009-2010).

In addition, they are creating a book of good (and bad--what not to do) ideas; they need input from Associations by July and would need every Association to send a representative to the book introduction meeting that will take place later. Ideas they need would be on keeping costs down for equipment and ice. These are things that ACYHA already does with equipment swaps and charitable gambling. We also need to put to bed the negative rumors about hockey such as “early ice times” and “hard core parents”.

Scott thanked us for our time and looks forward to receiving input from ACYHA.

Board Members then presented their reports for the month:

Assistant Youth Director--Troy Loken--no report

District 3 Rep--Jon Piazza--no report

Treasurer--Mark Gauer--Mark has filed our taxes for 2008. Check books from most teams are back. He is still working on the name change to ACYHA; he'll be able to finalize that now that the taxes are done. We have \$20,000 in our main account and another \$20 in money market. Mike Goergen asked how close we are to being “done” paying for ice, etc. Will we be able to make the donations to the High School programs? Mark thinks we have finished paying for ice time and that goalie credits are almost all sent out. He will know in a couple of weeks.

He did also state that people in arrears should NOT be able to register for next year until payment arrangements have been made. Our fiscal year ends on May 31st; it would be great to have all of that taken care of by then.

Secretary--Kris Harnett--Kris explained that a request had been made by Minnesota Hockey that all Associations work with their ice arenas to report as to the safety precautions taken to make sure the air quality was in accordance with state guidelines and that our players were safe from harmful fumes while in the arena. Kris worked with Jim at New Hope Ice Arena and submitted the report to Minnesota Hockey as requested.

She then asked for a motion to accept the March minutes as written. Larry made the motion, Ed seconded; motion passed.

Past President--Todd Pannek--not present, no report.

Girls' Coordinator--Tom Keller-- not present, no report.

Parent Volunteer Coordinator--Jim Siede--Jim expressed frustration with not being able to fill volunteer shifts for the Advanced 15 tournament. He has 38 game related shifts open as well as 8 concession shifts. He will send email to stressed that these be filled. We will cash checks for those members that do not fulfill their hours, especially when we have open shifts! He also thinks that our web provider, Puck Systems, could come a long way in making things easier for Jim and our volunteers as far as claiming shifts. He is meeting with Justin Kaufenberg on that matter in the very near future. If they can't provide him with what he needs, he'd like to change website companies. The good news is that Wayzata is looking to change over to Puck Systems; he'll work with their Volunteer Coordinator to ask for some specific things. The size of Wayzata's organization should encourage Puck Systems to make some changes.

Travel Coordinator--Paul Wood--no report.

Registrar--Joanna Rooney--not present, no report.

Tournament Coordinator--Greg Erickson--The PeeWee A State Tournament netted us about \$6,700. This is incredible considering we thought we may lose money on this tournament. Greg said he had a couple of volunteers that were absolutely fantastic and that he'd like to take the group to the Sunshine Factory, at our expense, for a small celebration. The board suggested a budget for this of \$250.00. Jim Siede made the motion and Ed Kirchoff seconded it. Motion passed.

Concessions--Carolyn Soper--The Showcase Tournament gave us a \$3,000 weekend. Next weekend's tournament should bring in about \$4,000. She projects a year with \$42,000 in profits.

Equipment Coordinator--Mike Terres--not present, no report.

Marketing and Membership--Ed Kirchoff--the end of the year surveys have been provided to the membership, but he hasn't gotten a lot of response. We will resend the surveys.

Mite Coordinator--Matt Deterding--no report.

ACE Coordinator--Larry Gonrowski--he has been contacting coaches to see who is interested in coming back for next season. Any coach wanting to come back will still have to go through the review and interview process. He is meeting with the PeeWee coaches tomorrow night. We lost the Bantam A coaches, Mike Schoen and Duke

Johnson; they will not be returning. They've coached for 25 years and Larry asked for additional funds with which to purchase gift certificates for Mike and Duke in the amount of \$250.00 each. Since Larry's previous request (February) was for \$450.00, the board approved an additional \$400. Larry can use \$500 for Duke and Mike and the remaining \$350.00 on the coach's party. Paul Wood made that motion, Jon Piazza gave the second. Motion passed.

Ice Coordinator--Derek Olson--Although not present, Derek provided a quick report to the Board that showed the amount of hours for the season that each team was given. This also included detailing Wednesday night and Sunday morning hours; it was fairly spread out with all teams receiving about the same amount of time during those "church times".

Finally, we also had a visit from **John Perry, District 3 Director**. John came to discuss with ACYHA the new "Residency Rule" that the State Board is working on putting in to play for the coming hockey season (2009-2010). In short, this rule would allow kids to play in whichever Association they either lived in, or went to school in. The District did send 4,000 surveys to parents and they wrote the new rules based on that feedback. The State Board feels that they've come up with a ruling that will bring clarity to the process, simplify it, and that it will be useful in all 12 Districts. Their goal is to have one rule and stay consistent with it. That being said, the rule will be revisited in a year or two to make sure it's still doing what it was intended to do.

Board Members adamantly spoke against the new rule. Our Association has many members who choose to open enroll to other school districts (mainly Hopkins and Wayzata) and we also have many players that go to private schools that are located outside of our Association Boundaries (Holy Name, Heritage). We will lose more players than we gain with this initiative. John said that they feel it could be a wash; players will come in to our Association, too. Board members also stated that this could leave the door open for private schools to start PeeWee and Bantam programs. All in all, this will have a negative impact on ACYHA.

John was very open to our comments. He feels that the vote will not go through "as-is" this month, but that it's likely it will pass this summer and be implemented for the next hockey season (2009-2010).

The Board thanked John for coming and for his years of service to Armstrong Youth Hockey and then at District 3. At 8:50 p.m., Ed Kirchoff made a motion to adjourn. Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed.