

Attendees:**Board Members:**

Dean Bartlett, Craig Butkus, Jerry Heath, Pat Burke, Craig Benson, Al Foice, Paul Murray, Estelle LeClair, Lisa McGinnis, Will Gonyeau, Kib Horsford, John Laliberte, Bruce Garrapy

Other Attendees:

Lori Handy, Kim Gleason, Ken Short, Tyler Main, Peter Croce, Kristen Ronick, Gail Lamos, Lesley Larson

Notes:

- Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m. – with a quorum.
- Minutes were approved from last meeting with no discussion

Open discussion from visitors

- Kim Gleason presented the board with a player play-up proposal which was drafted by herself and her husband, Matt. The board heard the proposal and then advised that they would discuss it in executive session.
- Leslie Larson – Picture Coordinator – Leslie advised that after 32 years Leonard Parent will be unable to take EYHA pictures this year. Leslie has been researching alternatives and has found a few to be considered. The board voted to allow Leslie to move forward with selection of the new company to take this year's pictures.

Board Business:

- Kib Horsford presented the Registration Status Report and numbers at each level were discussed.
 - Lori Handy expressed concern about 8-year-olds playing with 12-year-olds on the U12 girl's team. Her concern was related to the variability of skill level. Craig Butkus and Al Foice advised that the board evaluates all of its options to sustain the girls program. Jerry Heath shared that his daughter had a similar personal experience and it was a positive experience for her.
 - Gail Lamos expressed concern about the peewee numbers. She felt that the numbers did not support three teams at that level and that the board needs to be consistent from year to year on decisions that are made. Al noted that that the board has considered various options as part of the planning process and that additional discussion would occur in executive session and that the board heard her concerns. The primary reason for not getting into the details is because the conversation might lead to using players names which was not considered appropriate.
- Treasurers Report – Maurice presented the treasurer's reports
 - Account balances, Budget and Cash Flow reports were reviewed and approved by the Board.
- Tournament – Estelle LeClair reported
 - On a preliminary basis (not final) the golf tournament raised \$8100 for EYHA.
 - 64 golfers participated.
 - Board members thanked Jeff and Estelle for their hard work as well as all of the volunteers who helped to make this a successful fundraising event.
- Scheduling – Craig Benson reported

- He, Deanna Cram and Jerry Heath attended the state scheduler's meeting.
- Numerous tournaments at each level have already been paid for.
- Deanna Cram working on mite tournaments.
- Working on scheduling mite and girls tournaments for Thanksgiving weekend.

New Board Business:

- State and Regional Tournament Application - Al reported that the state has issued a request to local associations interested in hosting a state or regional tournament. Discussion by the board indicated that we are interested in being a host. It was determined that we can only host an A or Girls level tournament based on the availability of ice being able to handle the numbers of teams. Jerry Heath, Craig Benson and Jeff Cabanaw will discuss further.
- Estelle proposed that we consider a modification in policy that would allow fundraising to be done on a team by team basis to help defray team expenses such as tournaments etc. This would be overseen by the fundraising coordinator. The objective would be to engage more volunteers to participate in fundraising activities if there was a direct benefit for the actions. As an example, money raised would go ½ to the team and ½ to the association. Many members of the board expressed interest in this idea with the need to establish appropriate guidelines about how money could be spent.
- Al reported that EYHA has entered into an agreement with the Backstage Pub and Restaurant. Proceeds from a portion of their pull tab program will be donated to EYHA in exchange for exclusive advertising rights on the cross-ice boards. Estimated revenue from this would run between \$12,000 and \$20,000 per year. EYHA can use the facility for Calcutta Fundraising events as well.
- The ice at the Essex Skating Facility will be ready on October 8, 2007. Painters are needed to paint the logo on October 3, 2007.
- Craig Benson proposed that we put a link on our website to Vermont Goaltenders Academy. Vermont Goaltenders Academy provides a yearly goaltenders clinic for EYHA at no charge and Craig felt that we should place a link to their webpage on our website as a "Thank You" for their support of EYHA. Discussion was had by the board and it was unanimously agreed upon.

There being no further business for the open session, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Other topics reviewed by the board:

- Review and approval of possible coaches for the 2007-2008 season.
- Review and approval of the Tryout Protocols for each level and preliminary discussion on participants including obtaining commitments from independent board members to oversee the process at a level where they did not have a child participating.
- Affirmation that the numbers of teams and roster sizes will be set appropriately as long as player registration numbers support it. This plan does not fully commit the association until all registration numbers are settled and tryouts are over. Historically, the board has set the numbers of teams and roster sizes by level based on projected numbers and communicated this at the start of tryouts. However, during tryouts actual numbers of players change and giving the board little time to react and consider other options. Based on our post-mortem from last year and feedback from the membership, the board needs to be flexible to appropriately evaluate all of the options prior to announcing the teams. Earlier in the meeting Gail Lamos indicated that board action this year with setting a lower team roster size for peewee is in direct contradiction with the boards action in the previous year. The board acknowledges that our actions this year might be inconsistent this year. The issue is that player numbers will change right up to and during the

tryout process creating the risk that board may prematurely make decisions prior to tryouts and may not reflect actual player numbers. Additionally, the board recognized that the tryout process is a difficult period of time due to many factors limiting the time necessary to fully evaluate the options. Accordingly the board as defined three primary actions this year to avoid confusion for parents and board members:

- When player projections are in an unsettled state, we will plan accordingly to address all team size and roster size options and not commit until the board has the ability to review the outcome of the total registrants by level.
- We will hold a board meeting to review and discuss all options prior to taking final action. The meeting will be held on Sunday October 7, the day after the last tryout sessions.
- The phone calls to players advising which team they will be on will be made after the board meeting and once head coaches for each team are selected and announced.

Several members expressed concerns and disagreement with making player cuts from the travel program. Some had concerns and disagreement with the historical guidance on roster sizes, particularly at the peewee level. Others expressed the need to be consistent year over year. Others argued that each year presents different challenges and the board needs to be flexible. One noted that the policy states that playing travel hockey is a privilege and not a right. Also, the board recognized that the decisions made this year may seem contradictory to decisions made in previous years. In the end the board agreed to keep options open and to finalize matters upon the completion of tryouts.

- Discussion was had regarding the Play-Up Proposal that was submitted and presented by the Gleason Family. The board considered historical precedent which was firmly against moving players up to the next level. After careful consideration the board ultimately declined to make a motion to accept the proposal. The primary reasons in staying with the current practice included;
 - The opportunity for players to gain valuable leadership experience;
 - The reality that players at the higher end of one level may be comparable to the lower to middle tier of the next level.
 - All comparable peer associations do not allow this option, the primary exception being smaller association where player numbers necessitate movement to different levels.
 - There is a venue for players to participate in a select organization like the Glades.
 - USA Hockey changed to the current format of birth year changing from the birth date concept that was proposed.
 - Concerns over administering such a program and the potential challenges it will place on an already busy board to oversee the process.

Action Items:	Date:	Responsible:
1. Jerry, Craig and Jeff will discuss VSAHA tournament application		
2.		

Related Materials:
Treasurer's reports
Play-up Proposal

Coaching List and Tryout Protocols
Registration Status Report