

The Rockford Hockey Association (RHA) Board of Directors met Monday, February 22, 2016 at 8:00PM at Cedar Rock Sports Plex. The meeting was called to order at 8:07pm by Craig McPhee.

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Chuck Veen, Erin Weber, Craig McPhee, Tom Marchlewski, Jason Hodel, Donielle Austin, Casey LaMore, Ken Sergott, and Dennis Santos

ABSENT: Dave Bina

GUEST: Kevin Rop

Meeting Minutes: January meeting minutes sent via email after last month's meeting. No changes submitted. E. Weber motioned to approval; meeting minutes approved and will be posted on the website within 7 days. E. Weber will follow-up with D. Bina regarding changes to December 2015 minutes. February meeting minutes will be sent out within 7 days of board meeting; please review within a week. If there are no changes to the minutes, then *de facto* approval.

Open Membership Forum: None.

Committee Reports:

MAHA – *in absentia* via email from K. Sehlmeyer –

- Need to make sure all players have mouth guards. The refs will be receiving instruction from the referee in charge (RIC) that they will enforce this rule in D6 from this point forward in all rinks in D6.
- Tier 2 Travel Spring Tryout cannot begin until March 21, 2016.
- Tier 2 Travel 2016-2017 Tryouts cannot begin until May 1, 2016.
- STAR reports are down for the season.
- MAHA and USA Hockey are looking at including goalie equipment as part of the One Goal Equipment next year.
- Our One Goal Grant report is due to Lyle. We need to share where we spent our funds as part of the grant. Donielle emailed Lyle with receipts; we have spent our full \$1,700. Donielle will submit OneGoal grant; Donielle will also submit USA Hockey grant proposal for U8 program.
- The current JV League is NO longer recognized by MAHA. If we want to have a JV team next year they will be part of the Adray league.

ADRAY – Dennis Santos – Kevin Wood talked with D. Bina; tournament at CRSP was excellent; many compliments. The reason for JV going under Adray is the leadership changes for WMJVL. The board requested D. Santos ask Adray to consider sending invoices to associations registering teams. End-of-year meeting is TBD. Dennis Santos will continue as our Adray representative for the coming season.

Marketing/Growth – Casey Lamore – February THFF (February 20, 2016) report: 74 participants; 32 LTS; 28 LTP. We had 17 walk-ups this year and we are connecting with families from Greenville. C. McPhee requested how registrants heard about THFF; per C. Lamore participants hear about THFF through word of mouth and THFF Valentine's cards. Want to have a girls-only THFF in the fall (October). We need a better job of coordinating on-ice help for THFF. Need to set an expectation for coaches to be at on-ice events if not playing. As a comparison, Blades charged \$150 for 4 sessions of LTS/2 sessions of LTP.

Policies/Compliance – Nominating Committee – Sent call for nominations to the association. E. Weber sending out follow-up emails to nominees to accept/decline nomination. Status of positions to date: President - one candidate awaiting response; Treasurer - three confirmed candidates; Coaching Commissioner - two candidates (awaiting responses) and one tentative candidate; Member at Large - two confirmed candidates and one candidate awaiting response. Committee will present a slate of candidates during the March conference call, will collect "bios" for the ballot by mid March, and prepare final ballot packet for annual meeting.

Director Reports.

General Manager/Ice – Chuck Veen – Ric meeting with the township tomorrow regarding external storage restrictions. J. Hodel sent tentative spring ice time; C. Veen will send tentative spring schedule out on Friday to board.

Coaching Commissioner – Jason Hodel –

- Spring League associations are Fox, Hawks, GRAHA, and Rams (Squirt & PWB). J. Hodel developed tentative plan (4 practices, 4 games). Patterson is available for final tournament.
- PeeWee Travel for Spring – We need to get players. Big Rapids players interested in coming to Rockford. There would be 8 to 10 practices, 1 tourney in Detroit, and showcase with local teams before Fall travel tryouts starting May 1st. Need to post dates and information on the website.
- Fox bought Kentwood so Kentwood Hockey will fold. Meijer AAA05 team is dissolving.
- For fall, Big Rapids has potentially 6-7 PeeWee A players.
- C. Veen will create tentative Fall schedule to present at conference call.
- Fall Travel update – PeeWee A: minimum 14 players (ideal 15), J. Hodel agreed to coach if we have enough qualified players. PeeWee AA: yes. Bantam A: C. Rhoades will coach. JV/Midget: C. Davis will coach.

Treasurer – Craig McPhee – Reviewed outstanding receivables and payment plans. Cash balances are solid. Hat Trick Raffle due 2/29; D. Austion will follow-up with team managers regarding due date. End-of-Year Banquet – Food costs possibly \$5/person; \$10/family. Received an invoice from C. Green \$4,000. The association does not have an official contract with C. Green but this will be paid. As a board, we need to clearly define expectations of all our resources.

Registrar – Tom Marchlewski – No report. We have 222 players including LTS/LTP. T. Marchlewski will follow up with CRSP regarding the Bantam drop-in spring/summer league. T. Marchlewski is our board rep for the JV league.

Secretary – Erin Weber – Suggested next month's board meetings be Monday, March 7 (conference call) and Monday, March 21 (in-person meeting) to avoid conflict with annual association meeting on Monday, March 28.

President – Dave Bina, *in absentia* via email –

- D. Bina ordered an update to the 2-and-2 Challenge poster, RAMS HOCKEY stickers for the divider boards, and blue lines with RAMS embedded from FastSigns. D. Bina intends to order 6 white boards for the locker rooms at ~\$150 each.
- The JV players and coaches were absolutely the key to success at Try Hockey for Free. I will be writing them a letter of thanks and appreciation. For future THFF sessions, we need more help with the kids that cannot skate; consider assigning 1-3 kids to each coach/helper and have that coach stay with them the entire time.
- D. Bina suggested reducing fee for goalies to ensure the association has a solid core of goalies. The consensus from the board is that there is no reduction in fees for goalies at this time.
- D. Bina will emcee the end-of-year meeting/banquet this year. E. Weber will send last year's agenda to board for review and revision.
- D. Bina will update the RHAIL and distribute to the board this week. Please send D. Bina new items that come out of the Board Meeting.
- Tryout dates need to be set for each team – Pee Wee A, Pee Wee AA, Bantam A, JV(x2?)
- Adray and MAHA representation needs to be revisited. D. Santos confirmed he will continue as our association's Adray representative. C. McPhee will contact Kevin Sehlmeier regarding MAHA representative role.
- As a board, D. Bina a decision needs to be taken regarding the Hockey Operations position. Shall we continue or cease? If the decision is to cease I do not recommend doing so prior to tryouts as this process has historically been fraught with drama and he has helped manage our way through.
- D. Bina will comprehensively support the transition to the new RHA leadership team.

Members at Large –

Donielle Austin – Hat Trick Raffle reminder to association this week. Everything due this no later than Sunday, February 28.

Casey LaMore – no report.

Ken Sergott – no report.

Old Business.

Annual Meeting – March 28 at 5/3 Ballpark – This will be discussed further during our March 7th conference call.

Trophy Case – C. Veen – Location selected as well as dimensions and basic design. Construction is in process.

New Business.

Spring League – Discussed under Coaching Commissioner's report. Pay up front for entire spring league; spring travel tryout and schedule still being worked on by J. Hodel.

Fall Travel Tryouts – C. Veen will schedule ice for early May.

JV Team(s) – Open discussion regarding the feasibility of two JV/Midget-level teams. There are concerns over staffing coaches for the teams as well as having enough players, as well as scheduling ice. No resolution at this time; topic to remain open for discussion.

Storage and skates for THFF – Rental skates from CRSP are not always the best option for our THFF participants. Consider a call-out for used equipment (donation to the association) for such events. The association needs a better storage solution.

Communication.

March Board Events:

Conference call – Monday, March 7, 2016 at 8:30pm

Board meeting – Monday, March 21, 2015 at 8:00pm at Cedar Rock Sports Plex

Annual Meeting – Monday, March 28 at Fifth Third Ball Park

Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM by Craig McPhee.