

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2018, 6 p.m.

President-Elect Brian Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Misi Watters, Paula Austad, and Brenda Egli noted as absent.

Audience: Sue Culbertson

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Minutes from the January meeting were distributed to the Board. There were no email votes since the last meeting. Jason made a motion to approve January meeting minutes. Stacy seconded the motion. All approved.

b. Treasurer – Nichole Jesberger

Stacy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Jason seconded. All approved.

c. President Elect – Brian Sullivan

Nothing

d. Past President – Stacy Hollfelder

– SP Ice Update

Last meeting – Feb. 27 chamber mixer, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, would like to use tables, expected to be well attended by the chamber, no one objected. There was a problem with the heater going out. Tony had the motor repair, may have a problem with installation. Dave will follow up on that.

Follow up with skate sharpener – Spence's machine may no longer be available, so he will look at the sharpener in the old pro shop owned by On Ice Promotions, and provide an idea of what it is really worth. They wanted \$9,500 originally. (New one is around \$11,000.) SP Ice would still operate it.

Nutrition booth was approved by SP Ice Board as well. They don't have any objection to non-fundraising educational displays.

e. President – Misi Watters

Absent

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee – Still needs to meet with the treasurer to review hours

b. Annual Fundraising Committee – February drawing happened and checks are cut.

c. Communications Committee – All practices for Tuesday are confirmed, no longer tentative.

d. Cardinal Cup Committee – Monica Gross has some ideas that she wants to sit down and talk about after the season, before next year is set up. Betsy reminded the board that we didn't increase fees for Cardinal Cup even though ice fees went up, so we should look at financials.

e. Concession Stand Committee – They were pleasantly surprised that this weekend filled up for volunteers.

f. ACE Director(s) – Suzanne started working with Neil and Brendan for what skills they would like to see with mites and mini-mites so they can give more concrete feedback. Jason wants to make sure board is removed for evaluation processes.

March 7, 7 pm at Buck & Honey's is next breakout and beverages session with Barry Richter. Jerry is going to share ideas on evaluations and go through with the coaches and have some discussion, then bring it back to the board.

Jerry will also follow up with coaches regarding Try Hockey for Free on March 3. Brian has mentioned it to midget players and Brian and his assistant coach are planning to help as well.

g. Region 4 Meeting

There was no meeting since our last meeting. Next meeting is Wednesday at 7 pm at MIA and Paula is schedule to go. A question was raised about the coach of the Mitey Badgers forming a squirt team next year. It is under AAU, not USA Hockey.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. Mini-Mite – Kristie Tennie – Going to the Sauk tournament this weekend, have 31 players. Kristie has some ideas for next year. They liked the extra mini game, better communication to parents, education. Parents want to know why the “rules” of hockey aren’t followed for cross-ice. Jerry is happy to talk to any parents or help out. Mini-mite programming committee will be added to the agenda starting in March. Last session – parents need to return equipment, and if they want to keep it, hand over a check. Also need to contact equipment.
- b. Mite – Paula Austad –absent – She sent a note that mites are headed to Dubuque and Waunakee for jamborees. She will send an email about goalie equipment. Apparently, it is has been used at pond hockey and has a lot of wear and tear that shouldn’t have happened. Nichole noted that mini-mite and mite equipment should be held in equipment room. Tony is also looking into options for equipment storage (nets/supplies) as well. Nichole will bring up items to the equipment room. OBHL had asked about the dividers for a 3x3. As they are not really intended for adult use, SPYHA would rather not.
- c. Squirt - Carrie Rose – She was asked why we start so late by multiple families. She has asked this before. It is a challenge with scheduling games. This will be discussed under old business.
- d. PeeWee – Chris LaRowe – PeeWee A state tournament in three weeks. They have \$300 toward items for bag tags or other gift bag items. Nichole will send them their state fees less the amount that they had for playdown game allotment.
- e. Bantam – Brenda Egli – absent
- f. Midget – Suzanne Doody – 23-5, one home game left on Feb. 24, looking forward to St. Louis tournament in March.
- g. Coaches’ rep. – Jason Ledford – added info to new business, please reach out to those who might be interested in coaches’ rep position for board as Jason is planning on “retiring.”

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Evaluation Policy
Jerry had reviewed this information above. Feedback after meeting with coaches
- b. Hockey “Unlimited” Event
Carrie would like to remove it from the agenda. It can be revisited when there is more interest/involvement.
- c. Share Nights
Paula didn’t have any updates per Nichole.
- d. 2018-2019 Scheduling
Discussion of evaluation kick-off and the perception that Sun Prairie starts late, balancing players who also are in fall sports with hockey season kick-off. Some associations start after SPYHA, but have one weekend of tryouts and are “done” therefore earlier than SPYHA, or just have shorter/fewer evaluations overall. The evaluation policy with its minimum four session tryout set-up was done to allow some flexibility with fall sports conflicts or player illness.

Other challenges discussed included finding tournaments, especially for Squirt C teams, that matched the available weekends, and the late scheduling meeting. Region 4 didn’t follow their own policy for timing of that meeting (should have been two weeks earlier), and while they have told teams not to schedule beforehand, SPYHA was one of the few that didn’t, and then had challenges scheduling games. Scheduling took a little longer/ran later this season as well, as it took Tony a while to get acclimated to the scheduling software. Open weekends had been provided in advance to board level reps to start looking for tournaments, but not everyone was able to get consensus on where to go. Tournament selections by the board are difficult, because some people get upset about board-selected tournaments, believing teams should select them, not the board. This year, people were upset that the board didn’t take enough action to determine tournaments and several were full. It is a no-win situation, and someone always seems to be upset. It was also shared that some families were taken aback that there were additional tournament fees beyond what is included in dues. (This information is outlined in the registration document.)

Given the feedback, the target for providing estimated game schedules will be approximately Sept. 15, shortly after travel registration (which would confirm number of teams) closes. Betsy will start rough scheduling to get the preliminary request in by the March 1 timeline requested; however, she does not intend to be the scheduler for the 2018-2019 season, and someone else will need to take this over after April 1, when the next volunteer session begins.

Nichole made a motion to start 2018-2019 evaluations on Mon., Oct. 8. Stacy seconded. Carrie voted no. All others approved, and motion passed.

There was additional discussion on when to start mite and mini-mite programs. It might make sense to delay mini-mites until after Try Hockey for Free, given the challenges with finding coaches to run the separate "transition" program. If mini-mites started after Try Hockey for Free, new players could still do a sampling program, and then either choose to end participation or continue. At this time, the dates for 2018-2019 Try Hockey for Free haven't been announced. Betsy took the action to contact USA Hockey to see if she can get more information.

Nichole made a motion to begin the mite season on Wed. Oct. 17. Suzanne seconded. All approved.

e. Try Hockey for Free – March 3

Suzanne and Brian have been recruiting bantams and midgets to help out, so we expect to have enough on-ice help. Volunteers for other aspects are lagging behind, with state tournaments, including high school, and jamborees pulling people away.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Membership Changes (release and admittance requests)

None

b) Appointments (committee)

Nichole asked if Betsy had asked anyone to take over scheduling. She mentioned that Carrie had expressed some interest. No further action was taken.

c) Shooting cage discussion/committee

Dave Batterman had contacted Betsy asking that SPYHA find representatives to meet with him to discuss the potential of a shooting cage and make decisions related to its feasibility, weighing pros and cons, as well as costs. Aside from cost, supervision is the key concern, and was the biggest challenge with the previous location (now a locker room). With a closed off space, no one can adequately supervise the space. There are also liability concerns to explore. Placement is a challenge. There are some rinks where the "shooting cage" is an open area next to bleachers, and it can be really annoying to listen to the puck banging against a wall, especially if you've paid to watch a game.

Brian asked about the benefits of a rink-based shooting cage. Players could shoot at home, and in the past, that is what has been done. You can usually find hockey players' homes by looking at the garage door!

Jason believes that kids just don't do as much outside shooting anymore, and if we have something at the rink, kids will shoot more pucks. He does agree that supervision is a key, and it has to be carefully thought through. His squirt team did off ice twice a week, so there is at least some willingness to do activities like this. At the same time, not all coaches may be available or interested in making the commitment. Still, it would be neat to have something like the Excel program they have in Edina, which also incorporates weights and other fitness activities.

Chris Larowe and Brian Sullivan agreed to join the committee, and Jason also suggested Aaron Kostichka. Betsy will forward this information to Dave.

Goalie training was mentioned as a possible additional need, understanding that the association did pay a fee, but perhaps with many practices in Oregon there wasn't much training benefit. Betsy will check into participation and email the board.

d) 2020 State Tournament Bid

SPYHA is set to host 2019 Squirt 1B state tournament March 2-3, 2019. Bids for 2020 are due by April 1, and carry a \$100 bid fee. Jason made a motion to submit bids for Bantam B, Squirt A, and PeeWee B tournaments. Nichole seconded. All approved, and motion passed. Betsy will submit the bid..

e) Other Business

Jason inquired about a rumored U14 girls Polar Caps Region 4 meeting on Wednesday at 6:15 pm, prior to the Region 4 meeting. He was wondering if this was for all associations, or just select ones. Jason is willing to attend. Misi will be contacted to see if she has additional information.

f) Closed session

No action was taken in closed session.

Motion to adjourn: Nichole. Jason seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.