

Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, July 25th, 2024

7:00pm VIA Mezzanine



Board members in attendance: **Justin Temple, Kyle Dziubla, Lauren Koehler, Erin Ludmer, Adam Sodersten, Kris Canto, Aubrey Freeman, Amanda Ferwerda, Wayne Pfahler, Eric Helsher, Bill Snow, Katie Baus, Earl Tollefson, Karin Shippar, Angela Hunt, Joe Beyler, Brian Lindow, Kristen Manning, Kaiti Bohacek, Megan Seefeldt, Jason Mattila, Mike O'Brien**

1. **Call to order** – Justin Temple called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.
2. **Approve Minutes from the June 2024 Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes by Kyle, second by Amanda. Motion passed.
3. **Ice Inc. Report** (Mike O'Brien) – Will talk about tournaments later. We are holding the U15 Boys National tournament, which is going to be huge. Will have roughly 12 tournaments throughout the year.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (Erin Ludmer) – Will defer to the budget approval in New Business.
5. **President's Report/Region 4** (Justin Temple) – We need this boards help over the next 4-5 days to attend the annual WAHA meeting to support Region 4. We will be sending out a Sign-up Genius tomorrow and need to get 30 people to fill the bus to come and vote. Meeting is on Saturday, July 27 starts at 8:30am, bus will leave around 8:15am and be back around 3pm. Can be anyone actively involved in the organization over 18.
6. **Committee Reports and Updates**
 - a. **Registrar's Report** (Adam Sodersten) – Sent out transfer emails to the 7 families.
 - b. **Fundraising** (Mindy O'Brien) – No report.
 - c. **Coaches Committee** (Joe Beyler) – Coaches website is ready for applications.
 - d. **Ice Scheduler** (Earl Tollefson) – Start putting in some games, some practice times are in. Preseason ice should be good to go.
 - e. **Website Update** (Karin Shippar) – Registration is open for Try Hockey and LTP Open house. There is a new financial assistance request form. Registration is almost ready to go, just waiting on a few more financial approvals. Karin will send out discount codes to everyone on the board members.
 - f. **Jersey Coordinator** (Karin Shippar) – Game socks will arrive in August; replacement jerseys have arrived. Working on U6, U8, and U18. Will not need to order LTP because we have a lot left over. Should proceed with ordering 20 sets of U18 jerseys, \$62 each plus 1 goalie jersey.
 - g. **Equipment** (Megan Seefeldt) – No report.
 - h. **Legal Counsel** (Brian Severson) – No report.
 - i. **Concessions** (Brian Lindow/Lesley Steffin) – No report.
 - j. **DIBS** (Desiree Bates) – DIBS committee is recommending a credit card hold to charge \$50/hour for unfilled DIBS to be charged at the DIBS cutoff. Erin moves to add verbiage to the registration form to collect, Eric second. Motion passed. Will plan to limit it to 4 coaches by default.
 - k. **Recruitment** (Angela Hunt) – LTP open house is set. Angela would like to send an email out tomorrow, planning to do water bottle stickers (\$40 for 100) and Crocs jibbitz (\$350 for 200). If

they refer a friend, they can earn these rewards. Could potentially get rid of the pucks for recruitment. Table this until we go through the budget.

- l. **Girl's Hockey Committee** (Angela Hunt) – Girls try hockey free event is in Rink 2, equipment is up here. No big deal. We won a Breanna Decker girls hockey grant for \$2,000. With that, we are looking to expand the Jr. Lynx program to include U8 for 4 Sundays during the season. 4 coaches lined up for the U6 girls team. May try and push a U8 girls team as well once we get the registration. Girls Try Hockey event starts Monday, August 5, still need help with equipment.
- m. **Culture Liaison/CATS Subcommittee** (Eric Helsher) – Katie and Kaiti are going to come up with another gift for Mavericks, will do stickers again. Logan B. will join the review committee, should consider adding a player as well.
- n. **Communications** (Kristen Manning) – Verona Family Dental is going to partner with mouthguards again.
- o. **Apparel** (Kaiti Bohacek) – No report.
- p. **Photography Coordinator** (April Ong) – April will coordinate with Tara in late August.
- q. **Tournament Director** (Kendra Noll) – Will cover as part of the tournament conversations below. I was going to ask teams to do 2 baskets and have created a list with community places to ask for donations for additional raffle items. I also figured we could put something in the emails when it gets closer to any families who want to donate extras or have personal businesses that would like to donate.

Mike O'brien tossed out the idea that we let hosting teams decide if they want to do it and then keep the profits for their teams? I'm not sure many would take this on, and if we're looking for it to be a fundraiser for the association as it has been in the past for tournaments.

Raffle Tickets: Once a decision is made on how to handle baskets, I can order bulk raffle tickets, create ticket signs etc.

Goodie Bags: I've stated a list of local businesses to reach out to. I was planning to ask for enough donations for ALL tournaments and then I can share with individual tournament directors so that it's only one person reaching out instead of different people for every tournament.

- r. **Update from ALD's**
 - LTP (Kris Canto) – Open house on October 12, no change with numbers. Currently have 52 jerseys, so will not need to order any this year.
 - U6 (Aubrey Freeman) – 48 total, with 14 girls.
 - RWB (Amanda Ferwerda) – Expecting 55-60. Considering to expand the Mite tournament, asked if there was any possibility of having both rinks? The PeeWee C2 tournament is the same weekend, willing to be creative.
 - Squirt (Wayne Pfahler) – 48 total, will have 4 teams. 3 solid goalies, 3 people wanting to sign-up for halftime goalie.
 - Peewee (Eric Helsher) – 52 plus 5 goalies and 1 potential goalie, more than enough coaches. 4 teams.
 - Bantam (Bill Snow) – 52 + 3 goalies, no Dodgeville and no Monroe. Planning to have 4 teams. Projecting to send 6 kids over from Dodgeville.
 - Mavericks (Katie Baus) – 32 skaters, 2 goalies. NIHL scheduling is underway for the A team. Minimal interest for the 12U team, planning to open it up on the website to see what the numbers are. Would like to encourage having a 12U team but need to solidify it sooner rather than later. Will start doing targeted outreach.
 - Midget (Mike Bakalars) – No report.

7. Old Business

- a) **U16 Mavericks Team (Justin)** – Not planning to move forward with this right now for at least 1 year.

8. New Business

- a) **Budget Review and Approval (Erin)** – Review of the 2024 to 2025 budget
 - Team Managers should include the Hockey Sales cost in the team fees they collect at the beginning of the year.
 - Fees are increasing because of a 4th tournament and all levels will get an extra sheet of full ice for the first few weeks. Will also be adding multiple skills sessions with Josh Biser for each level.
 - Will market it as “Early Bird” discount of \$100 for people that register in August.
 - Lauren will send out a message to the board about the ice fee increase prior to registration opening.
 - Motion to approve the budget from Katie, Karin second. Motion passed.
 - We are going to allow families to do a monthly payment.
- b) **Tournaments (Eric)** – Ice Inc. is running tournaments for every Squirt, PeeWee, and Bantam team (except PeeWee A because of State). They have hired a tournament coordinator and will have a corporate sponsor. This is a big opportunity for Verona Youth Hockey to get involved and increase fundraising. We have an opportunity to a club run 3v3 tournament on September 7 for Squirts, PeeWee, and Bantams (potentially U12 and U14 girls too), which is going to run by Verona Youth Hockey. Will need someone to own the Hockey part, food and fundraising, and will need a volunteer committee. Bill and Eric will handle the Hockey part, Kyle and Justin to own food, Kendra to own fundraising, and Angela will create a sign-up genius for volunteers.
- c) **Eval Modifications (Kyle)** – Small committee of 7 people formed as a follow-up from last year to review the evaluation process. Focus areas – there are a lot of kids, matching like skaters, and adjustments to the scoring system. 1st session will split the skills night into skating, 1v1, and 3v3, 2nd session will be puck skills and 5v5, 3rd session will be 5v5 ranked against like kids starting at the bottom up and will eliminate the callbacks. Will add a 6th evaluator and 4 coaches to average out the 7th evaluator. 6 evaluators will be on the benches during the 3rd session. Will be sharing the evaluator criteria with families and updating the parent handbook. Kyle and Justin will be running mandatory tryout meetings for Squirts and PeeWees. Goalie process is going to stay the same. Bantam will be forming teams earlier this year because of high school being later and state being earlier. Will be doing internal scrimmages and some outside games. Going to add 5 outside evaluators.
- d) **Parent Handbook (Lauren)** – I will create a shared Google doc again and send out a link for people to review and make updates. Would like all input by August 9 so we can get the handbook published by mid-August.
- e) **Neck Guard discussion (Megan)** – Not planning to provide neck guards for any rental equipment.
- f) **Request for Release (Justin)** – Second year PeeWee would like to transfer to Oregon. Motion to approved the transfer for this year by Eric, second by Erin. Motion passed. Eric will communicate with the family.
- g) **Maverik goalie**– Skater is from Monroe would like to commit that she will be a single goalie. Erin approves, second by Katie. Motion passed.

9. Motion to Adjourn – Motion to readjourn by Eric, seconded by Katie, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.