

# Butte Amateur Hockey Association (BAHA) Meeting

## Tuesday, June 18th, 2024

### Call to Order

Matt Ewanic  
Bill LaVelle  
Alicia Bogert  
Zach Woods  
Rachel D'Amico  
Jason Brown  
Sidni Markovich  
Kristi Wilson  
Toni Byrnes  
Oly Peterson  
Mark Brodeur  
Josh Harned  
Keonni Harned  
Stephanie Stodden  
Josh Columbe  
Cherie Estenson  
Jenn Marjamaa  
Ciana Roeber  
Dan Johnson  
Kylie Jaksha  
Sarah Jaksha  
John Jaksha  
Nicole Dunn  
Johan Beekes  
Hunter Varney  
Breanna Evans  
Nate Japp  
Mark Malkovich  
Brandon Stodden

### Start – 6:38 PM

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes –Bill motioned Kristi and Jason 2<sup>nd</sup>-passed

### Unfinished Business

- 1. Organizational Name Change/Jerseys-** Although we had enough for a quorum, we did not have enough votes (6) to pass this motion. When we were discussing at the last meeting, not once did we discuss the benefits the Butte Irish Junior team would have with this name change. The only thing Bill stated was he would love to have the support from our club. We can have another discussion about the positives and negatives about changing the name. We will invite nonmembers that support or oppose the name change to speak. We will put a time limit on each person (3 minutes) in order to keep things flowing. Once everyone has had a chance to speak, we will put this to a vote.

Zac started the meeting letting folks know that this topic was not handled the way it should have been. This came about from looking at new jerseys. The organization was trying to speed the process up and make it more cost effective for families. The supplier is taking too long to get some of the jerseys and the cost is increasing (\$180) New Apparel for

families is a concern, as this would be a cost for families. He let folks know that this stemmed from updating/getting new jerseys. Zach also set expectations of how he would like the presenters to present. He does not want feelings to be involved.

Some of the concerns that were brought up while Zach was speaking were Breanna Evans asked about how this change affects the organization financial? Website financially has to be paid yearly. More work on adjusting logos Banners not very many that need to change. Maybe \$150 can get for \$50 now. Metal can be laser done. Cost has not been checked for that. Nate Jaap asked about the copyright of the Irish logo. And if the Irish paying for our facility. Bill said we could use his logo at no cost. There is a rental agreement with Irish and the Change of ownership contract is completed. Will the volunteering change for the Irish. Hours will be honored and stay the same. Ciana Dale asked about after the games cleaning is Bill going to pay the youth organization or how was that done. Zach said this is something that needs to be discussed.

Ciana Dale asked what the result of the survey was. The result of the survey was a total of 39 votes. 31 voted to stay the same and 8 voted for changing to the Irish name.

Toni Byrnes wanted to speak just from her experience of Fundraising. She is for Butte Irish herself. She would like nothing more than to see the organizations to be seamless. Her concerns are strictly financial. One question was if the contract was signed. No risk for BAHA. BAHA is 501c3. Businesses for the gala and businesses want help the Butte youth. We become the Irish it will be hard to distinguish the youth and the Irish. We should keep the groups separate. Fundraising needs to be separate. We should look at keeping things separate at this time. There is more to it than just a name. It may be detrimental for the organization to change anything from Financial/Fundraising.

Stephanie on behalf of Cyndra Fulton- Her concern is money. We don't even have money for the smallest fixes around the rink. Parents have been told the organization needs a new compressor (all of Chase's Hockey career). This name change will cost money. She likes either name but does not want to worry about ice having issues or the fire department shutting the rink down due to an ammonia leak. These things should be our first priority not a name change. It is not a necessity just a nice to have.

Stephanie Stodden- I have been a team representative for 8 years. As a parent she likes the Butte Copper Kings. It is who we are and who we have been. Change can be good but sometimes it's not so good. Coming from the other side she has website capabilities. It wasn't me who was asked or the other person that can do the website. That is a lot of work. From a tournament direction. We have logos with CCK that will not be able to use, and new designs would need to be used which is a cost.

Oly Peterson- I want to start by correcting Zach. Zach, you said it was a few days after making the decision. It was longer than two weeks before all hell broke loose. When I read about the name change, I felt like you renamed my first born. I have been with the organization for seven years. I have been cheering on the CCK. We built this name. Butte Irish is brand new and does not have a reputation in the community. People know about the CCK and I would love to keep this the way it is.

Mark B- Head coach for the Butte Irish. He has embraced the city of Butte and has been here for a season and a half. I have made Butte my new home. Why change? When you are one of the few organizations in North America and don't embrace the name and culture of the junior team in the same city. As an outsider looking in, Butte really doesn't have a strong hockey base and does contain people who are new to the sport and going with the flow and are letting emotions get in the way. My goal is to create a youth organization with huge numbers and talent so all the players can stay in Butte and not have to travel around the country. The change is for the kids! My goal is to fill the rink and get the community behind the kids and the kids support the community. He had Butte Irish players are responsible for prep

work done to the rink. I had player flushing pipes, painted rink surface, laid the lines and clean the oil spills. Why are we doing this? It's for the kids!

Hunter Varney- Played of the Cobras in 19. Every place he played has followed the junior team. It means something the youth is wearing the same colors. Having the kids wear the same colors. I know 3 coaches that played for the Cobras and give back to the organization by coaching. He is for the name change. He understands the cost and there is cost on everything.

Ciana Dale- It was brought to the board and the board made a decision. Yep! This is an organizational decision. You have how many people in the organization, and it was up to 6 of you. Zac interrupted Ciana to tell her that this is why we are all here. Oly chimed in to say it is still up to 6 people today. It is not up to the 32-39 people that voted. It is still up to 6 of you. Jason interrupted Oly and asked the people in the room if any of them would like to do any of these jobs please raise your hand. Oly said she will be the ice scheduler and will be with him. If you don't trust us to come in here to make the best decisions for our organization. We just don't look at changing the name. We discussed the pros and cons and came up and said we need something untied. Ciana said it should have been put out there first. The way this was handled was not the best way. It felt like a dictatorship. If it was brought to the table to process it may have a different outcome. Zac agreed and said that is why it was brought to the organization.

Layla Harned was too nervous to talk so her father Josh talked on her behalf. She said it would rather see it go to the Irish as one organization show that we are unified (even though there are two separate entities). She is for the name change.

Oly asked what the benefits are: Mark B asked why we are not one organization. Unity is one. The other part was jerseys. He can get jerseys cheaper. Bill offered up his supplier to help our organization. He doesn't get anything from this.

Johan Beekes-We are all pointing fingers at Helena and Bozeman were not very good when he played. He is here for the kids. We need to be a team and focus on what is best for the kids. The reason I coach is because I love hockey. I don't care what the name is. It is for the kids.

Sidni Markovich- When the Butte Irish were here back in the early 1990's, she owned them. It was hard because BAHA didn't want to have the Irish help. They didn't want the Irish to help at all. We used to have 2700 people. Having the groups united would be great with the help of the hockey town The emotional side is huge piece of this. She asked 3 of the kids and all are attached to their jerseys and the flip side is it better for the organization to be joined and everyone is helping everyone out.

Cherie Estenson- she and her family is new. I support the Irish. It is an emotional thing. I don't know if it is best to unite. She did not have anyone reach out. Running into community members and they are not for it. She feels we are more united than the 90's. It would be nice to have the Irish more involved. It is very family involved and emotional. It would be nice to unite the youth and the Irish in a positive way I think we need to that.

Jenn Marjamaa- why Irish? To bring it back. As back in the early 2000 it used to sell out and he wanted to bring back to what people remember.

Sarah Jaksha- I think it is going to a big financial impact on the organization. I think a cost analysis on what actual it will cost and bring those numbers back in. A cost analysis should be done.

Kylie Jaksha-From what I hear, everyone in the room says it is for the kids. She does not see where the survey is equating to anything or accounted for. I think a lot of support has been made from CCK. A lot of yearbook pictures are CCK. A lot of the kids have pictures in the yearbook. I think to change that would be like what we made already.

Brandon Stodden- He feels like we are not in the right place to change. The Irish have only been around for 1 year maybe wait until they are around awhile like 5 years to change.

Kristi Wilson- I have literally been taking notes about why people are for or against. And I think the reasons are very valid on both sides are really good. I would like to see unity and now is not the right time to change the name. I think we need to start from the ground up. I think we need to give the families more time. In the future, change. Give families time to adjust to the Irish. She thinks we should change the name in 1 to 2 years and make a plan. We are also known to rush into it. Win the families over. Keep our jerseys for one more year. I will not work on any of the changes. I can't add another task. I will not be helping with anything for the name change. I have too much on my plate now.

Josh Columbe- I have been in the organization for 34 years. I have been with the Butte Blues, Bill played for the Irish. I am 100% for the Irish. Every place he has played the Jr. team, and the youth had the same team name and jerseys. It is the best feeling in the world. I am 100 % for it.

Mark Ewanic- would like to clear something up real quick. The email made it sound like I had the parent's best interest in mind. He did not have the best interest in mind. He doesn't care about the name. He voted no. He votes no on everything that costs the rink money and is not a necessity.

Motion to table the name change Bill motioned, Sidni, and Alicia 2<sup>nd</sup>-**amended**

Sidni would like to amend the motion and a committee be filled immediately with members at large, board members, and members of the Irish and CCK organization to investigate more into the pros and cons of the name change.

Kristi makes to amended motion to hold on buying jerseys for a year- Jason. Alicia 2<sup>nd</sup> -**passed**

Rachel made a note that if we had this must enthusiasm put into how we keep kids in our organization and how we grow this organization, we could do great things.

2. **Locker Rooms**- There are a lot of items still in the locker rooms. Donate the bags in the locker rooms. An email will be sent out shortly to remove wood and then we can get rid of the metal. Wait to assign locker rooms. Biggest teams will get biggest locker rooms. Going to
3. **MT Tech Contract**- Zac and Dave have been working on the contract. He will send that out. Also had the Irish contract to review. He will send that to the rink.
4. **Sprinklers System**- Quote on Head cost. The sprinkler guy said he will come and look at the pipes.

### **New Business**

1. Gala- Toni is going to look at the Front Street Station and work with Metals and have a different theme sometime in September. Toni requests to store silent auction items so she doesn't have to bring them to her house and then back. Took hours to haul around.
2. Specified terms for secretary and treasurer were already discussed in the April meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report – Alicia Bogert**

1. Current status of BAHA account(s)
  - a. Total Available Funds
  - b. Accounts Payable (bills to pay) and Receivable- motion to remove Ryan Nielson and Dave Tuesday and add Jeremy Christenson and Alicia Bogert (not a signer). Jason motioned and Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> - **passed**
    - i. M/S/P to pay bills - Kristi motion to pay the bills Jason 2<sup>nd</sup>-**passed**
    - ii. Outstanding invoices –

iii. Review Taxes

2. Move SARTA money into a high yield savings account. Alicia motions- Kristi and Jason 2<sup>nd</sup>-**passed**

**Rink/Building Manager – Jason Brown**

1. Update- Dave would like to do the Digger camp on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Summer Projects Status- the tree stump was removed. Road mix will need to be put down.
3. Mark asked Jason if we can do ice maintenance on a weekly basis after curling next year.

**MAHA Representative – Jeff Dennehy**

1. Reached out to MAHA about cross rostering. Rules will not change. The meeting will be in Butte this year. After this meeting he will have a few ideas for the upcoming season.

**Age Group Representative Director – Kristi Wilson**

1. Neglected volunteer hours and helping adults getting the adult league done. Will work on this soon. Registration will open July 1, 2024. Plan on doing the early bird discount from July 1<sup>st</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Registrar – Jaki McCarthy**

1. Not present

**Coaching and ADM Director – Vacant**

1. Update

**Referee-in-Chief – Mark Ewanic**

1. We may not need a clinic as everything will be going on-line. Even level 1. He will keep refs posted. Mark will still schedule something for everyone to meet so refs can meet each other.

**Community at Large Representative – Bill s Sidni Markovich**

1. Has an official amount of \$7500.00 from the subcommittee. Only asked that it be used for Chiller and compressor items.

**High Performance Program Coordinator – Bill LaVelle**

1. No update. Nothing new.

**Ice Scheduler**

1. Oly Peterson to take over this position.

**Tournament Scheduler- Stephanie Stodden**

1. Can they be sanctioned? Do we have the budget to start sanctioning the tournaments? Yes.

**Next Meeting** – July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Meeting Ajourned**-8:41p.m.