

**New Prague Hockey Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Meeting Location: NP Fire Department Meeting Room
Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

NPHA Board

President	Aaron Lindholm	Absent
Vice President	Jason Olson	Present – via Google Meets
Secretary	Miranda Vertnik	Present
Treasurer	Ben Jones	Present
Director of Operations	Mike Westing	Present
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	Present
Board Member at Large	Kirk Crabb	Present
Past Board Member/BMAL	Tony Robles	Present
Interim Manager Director	Amanda Will	Present – via Google Meets

Aaron notified the Board that he would not be able to attend the meeting due to work commitments that required him to travel out of state. Jess led the meeting in Aaron’s absence.

Coordinator Positions

Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Amanda Will	Present – via Google Meets
Concession Stand Coordinator	Ashley Lindholm	Absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	Absent
Fundraising Coordinator	Kristina Dillon	Absent
Gambling Manager	Nate Borwege	Present
HDC Coordinator	Tim Applen	Absent
Ice Time Coordinator	Tyler Kienow	Absent
Mite/8U Coordinator	VACANT	
NPACC Manager	Justin Hauge	Absent
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	Absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	Brandy Rife	Absent
Safe Sport Coordinator	Chelsea Casey	Absent
Sponsorship Coordinator	Kristi Nelson	Absent
Tournament Coordinator	VACANT	
Volunteer Coordinator	Aimee Bombardo	Present
Website/Technology Coordinator	Dallas Akre	Absent

Others present: John Prokopec (BA level parent)

2. REPORTS

- Secretary’s Report (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda shared the Meeting Minutes for September 2023 with the Board on Sept 19th. There were no suggested revisions or changes to the minutes. A motion was made by Jess to approve the Sept 2023 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Ben. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent). Miranda will post the Sept 2023 Meeting Minutes to the NPHA website.
- Treasurer’s Report (Ben Jones):** Ben shared the monthly financials with the Board prior to the meeting. He noted that our financials are looking pretty good for what we had

budgeted and how things are shaping up so far. It was noted that it is a bit hard to delineate funds coming in on payments plans and which bucket they fit into (raffle calendars, skater fee, fundraising, etc.). We discussed the non-parent coach fees that need to be assessed to each player on our Bantam teams (all three BA teams have an NPC assigned). Miranda noted that she will put together a spreadsheet for Ben with this information. He noted that the off-line payments we have set up for our hardship families and two split families have been working out well. Ben reported that Butch, xHockey, dryland have all been paid in full for the season, so we have more expenses out as compared to this time last year. Preseason Ice and Coaches fees have been paid as well. Miranda made a motion to approve the September 2023 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Mike. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent).

3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege):** Nate provided the July and August 2023 Gambling Reports during the meeting. Nate reported that rent out was higher for August as compared to previous months, but this is because the previous month profits were high, and it has a trickle-down effect. He noted that Aug is historically a slower month in pull tab sales. Nate shared disappointment in the NP Chamber of Commerce for their actions in moving in on our pull tab sales at Smoke and Fire. All this happened without our knowledge, and we were suddenly contacted and told to remove our pull tabs from the establishment. After discussing this with the restaurant, Nate reported that he was able to keep our charitable gaming there, but the relationship is damaged, and we will see a loss in sales there since the chamber is now running games there too. Nate reported that we will be starting meat raffles at Smoke and Fire beginning in mid-November. We have partnered with a local meat market to purchase items there for a discount to be raffled at the restaurant. We will need to seek volunteers for this program, likely 4-6 people who will rotate weeks and run this program from mid-November through March. Nate also noted that he needs volunteers to help shred the old pull tab games – he will ask Brad Drazan if the boys high school program might be interested in this as a service project. Miranda made a motion to approve the July and August 2023 Gambling Reports as well as the Pre-Approvals for Allowable Expenses and Lawful Purpose Expenditures, which was seconded by Tony. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent).

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Available Coordinator Positions:**

1. **Gambling Manager** – As discussed in previous months, Nate will be stepping down from this role and would like to train someone to replace him. He is working on the position description (is looking at other programs for some guidance). Jess will send out a communication about this position again and folks will be directed to Aaron for more information.
 2. **Website/Technology Coordinator** – Dallas Akre volunteered for this position. On Sept 21, via text, Jess made a motion to approve Dallas' appointment to this position, which was seconded by Miranda. Motion carried 9-0. He has already started working to clean up the website and has updated the photos on site with our newer photos taken last season.
 3. **Tournament Coordinator** – Position posted, no interested candidates at this time. NPHA will be hosting the Pee wee B2 end of the year tournament. This position may be best filled by a PWB2 parent, we will ask Kevin Woitas to reach out to those families.
2. **Mite/8U Equipment Rental Program:** Mite gear fitting dates scheduled for 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24. On Oct 3rd, via text, Aaron made a motion to approve 12 DIBS hours to be split between two members to assist Kristi with the fitting dates, which was seconded by Miranda. Motion carried 9-0. An email with details about the fitting was sent out to the membership on 10/3 and info has been shared on our Facebook page and the NP

Happenings Facebook page. It sounds like we were able to outfit 8 families with rental gear during the first fitting event.

3. **Locked locker rooms at arena:** No updates on this as of yet.

4. **Registration Updates**

1. **Preseason Development Camp:** In total we had 159 upper-level players participate in the preseason camp in some capacity (full camp, partial camp, or tryout preview only). So far, we have 68 Mite/8U players registered for the preseason camp, which is scheduled to begin on Oct 15th for their age level.

2. **Regular Season Registration:** We currently have 286 active player registrations (we had a few registrations that are inactive – one was a duplicate registration; a couple players withdrew due to injury, and some decided not to play). The registration deadline was 9/1, any returning player registrations (except for Junior Gold) that come in since that date have a \$50 late fee applied. Totals by level are the following: Mite = 86; Girls 8U = 24; SQ = 43; PW = 51; BA = 49; JG = 5.

3. **Coaching Applications:** We currently have 72 coaching applicants so far (we had two more that withdrew their coaching applications before tryouts). Of those 72, 61 are parent coach applicants, and 11 are non-parent coach applicants. All three BA teams currently have at least 1 non-parent coach assigned. We need to approve our JG coaching assignments as Miranda would like to include a brief bio about each of the non-parent coaches in a communication about the JG program that will go out to the association. Just waiting for those recommendations from the HDC.

4. **Manager Applications:** We currently have 13 Team Manager applicants, but not all upper-level teams have a volunteer yet, so there are some gaps that will need to be filled. Amanda shared which applicants had been assigned to the upper-level teams thus far. Aimee Bombardo shared that she would be willing to help train Melissa Sticha into managing at the Mite level if their players are assigned to the same team.

1. **Updates following meeting:** Manager assignments are as follows: BA-A: Katherine Gorr; BA-B1: Amanda Will; BA-C: Sara Westing; PW-A: Chad Franek; PW-B2: Kevin Woitas; PW-C: Brandy Rife; SQ-B1: Brad Breeggemann; SQ-B2: Erica Denzer; SQ-C: Melissa Whitmer; 10U-B1: Jaye Beckius; and 10U-B2: Sam & Crystal Blank.

5. **ATM Status:** We are still running into dead ends in finding the key to the ATM. NPHA owns the unit and would like to get rid of it, but need to ensure that there is no money inside. Ben will continue to investigate this.

4. **COORDINATOR UPDATES**

1. **President**

1. **NPACC Manager (Justin Hauge):** No updates.
2. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege):** No further updates.
3. **Safe Sport Coordinator (Chelsea Casey):** No updates.

2. **Vice President**

1. **HDC Coordinator (Tim Applen):** Tim was unable to attend this meeting, but Jason shared some updates. It was noted that a lot of hard work was put into the tryout process by our HDC, many hours at the rink and work being done outside of the rink to coordinate the process. Following the announcement of teams, HDC members and Board members received multiple emails/texts/calls from parents upset with the results. All were reminded that we really need to respect the 24-hour cool-down period to help support the process. Jason noted that the process of reviewing scores and placing the line for each team went very well, no names or

jersey numbers were known when making those determinations. The evaluators placed the teams with the blind scoring.

2. **Mite/8U Coordinator (Anthony Anderson & Brad Breeggemann):** Jason reported that we a potential interested candidate to fill this role. We will have him go through the process to see if it will be a good fit.
3. **Ice Time Coordinator (Tyler Kienow):** Jason shared Tyler's updates, noting that schedules had been added to teams prior to team placements. The game draws have happened, we are just awaiting district approval before finalizing the schedules. When that happens, the schedules will be loaded into teams. Time for our JG has also been set aside on the calendar.
3. **Treasurer**
 1. **Concession Stand Coordinator (Ashley Lindholm):** Kirk noted that a new freezer had been purchased and installed in the concession stand – the old one was sold and paid for the majority of the new one. He also noted that we made \$317 by working at the Dozinky Beer Garden. All who worked the shift agreed it was fun and would do it again, hopefully with a better shift where we might make more money. The arena has agreed to turn over the management of the vending machines at the rink to the association – Ashley is working out those details and will start filling the machines.
 2. **Fundraising Coordinator (Kristina Dillon):** Fundraising packet turn-in dates are coming up on 10/26 and 10/28.
4. **Secretary**
 1. **Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda provided the following updates regarding waivers: Thus far, we have 7 waivers into NPHA (all of them are Mite/8U players), four of them are fully processed and three are awaiting approval from TCU Hockey. We also have 9 waivers out of NPHA (six of these are for 12U, one is for Squirt, one is for 15U, and one is for JG) these are fully processed.
 2. **Volunteer Coordinator (Aimee Bombardo):** Aimee reported that the concession stand is scheduled for opening on Saturday. She is only posting shifts in two week increments in case there are any games rescheduled as that can really mess up the concession stand schedule.
5. **Director of Operations**
 1. **Equipment Coordinator (Troy Gilbertson):** Jerseys are on time; teams will have them within the next week.
 2. **Outdoor Ice Coordinator (Jeremy Denzer):** Mike has coordinated the sale and pick up of our broken ODR Zamboni to the Rink of Dreams in exchange for free ice time.
 3. **Tournament Coordinator (VACANT):** No updates.
6. **Communications Director**
 1. **Sponsorship Coordinator (Kristi Nelson):** Jess will reach out to Kristi for updates.
 2. **Website & Technology Coordinator (Dallas Akre):** No further updates.
7. **Board Member at Large**
 1. **Recruitment & Retention Coordinator (Brandy Rife):** Kirk shared that Brandy did not have any updates to report. Jess noted that she had received some compliments on the new Facebook posts for the association but noted that credit is actually due to Ashley Lindholm who has been creating the new social media content in an effort to help support Recruitment and Retention. Nice work Ashley!
8. **Past Board Member:**
 1. **Clothing & Apparel Coordinator (Amanda Will):** Amanda noted that the apparel links are set to close on 10/15. They will reopen after Mite/8U placements.

9. **Manager Director:** N/A

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Parent Concern:** Discussion was given at the beginning of the meeting to concerns that John Prokopec came to share with the group. He began by introducing himself and sharing his coaching and NPHA Board history. He talked about goalie development at the Bantam level, specifically how he believes having two goalies at the A level would allow both current B1 goalies to develop further before reaching the high school level of play. He noted that if a B goalie moved up to A (whichever goalie that had the higher tryout score between the two of them), that goalie would grow through having in-net experience at the A level and the goalie who remains at B will grow by having more time in the net versus having a shared net for the season. John noted that the B1 goalies have experience playing A level teams since last season multiple associations in our district fielded AA and B1 teams without hosting an A team, thus those B1 teams were likely comprised of many A players (USA Hockey rules say that associations that host a AA team, must also host an A team for this reason – but our district has allowed multiple associations to bypass this rule). He felt that placing one of the B1 goalies at the A level would not be a huge stretch for that player because of last years' experience. John indicated that he has a meeting scheduled with Ryan Drazan to talk about this further tomorrow and he is hoping that another member of the HDC will be in attendance. He thanked everyone for the time to speak and for all volunteers for their time supporting this youth hockey program.
2. **Special Session Scheduling for Mite/8U Team Approval:** The group agreed to try to schedule our Mite/8U approval meeting for Monday, Nov 13th. Miranda will confirm with Aaron and Tim before sending out a virtual meeting invitation.
3. **Review of Disciplinary Procedures:** In the interest of having everyone present for this discussion, the topic will instead be reviewed next month. Jason noted that D6's disciplinary procedures are currently being reviewed and we should have more information from them soon so we will be able to review any changes that have been made at the district level as well as our own in-house procedures.
4. **Closed Session 10/09 for Upper-Level Team Approvals:** A closed virtual session was held on Oct 9th to review the recommended upper-level teams (except for JG). All Board members and the HDC Coordinator were in attendance. The meeting was held from 8:00pm – 9:50pm. Tim shared the HDC's recommendations and attention was given to each team including players and coaches. Tim noted that we currently have one Bantam player who will be starting an extended tryout evaluation soon as he was out for tryouts due to an injury. The HDC will follow the extended eval protocol and make their recommendation regarding team placement once the process is complete. Miranda made a motion to approve the Bantam, Peewee, Squirt, and Girls 10U teams as recommended by the HDC, which was seconded by Mike. Motion carried 9-0. Jess sent out the team rosters at the end of the meeting to the association. Miranda rostered all players and coaches on both USA Hockey and SportsEngine by the following afternoon. Some coaches have not been rostered with USA Hockey and are ineligible to join their team on the ice until they complete their coaching requirements. Miranda has been in regular contact with coaches about their training requirements.

6. **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES**

1. **Interim Manager Director (Amanda Will):** Amanda noted that she is in the process of reaching out to team managers. Miranda shared that she would send a communication to managers to share with families about locker room monitors.
2. **Director of Operations (Mike Westing):** Mike shared that he had received communications from a few parents who were upset following team announcements.

Procedure calls for folks to reach out the HDC Lead for their level of play to voice a grievance, but some folks are feeling as though they cannot do that or are intimidated by the process. Some folks also told him that they are concerned they might share their grievance but then it won't be shared with the Board, they would prefer to have a Board member present for those conversations since Board members are voted in by the membership.

3. **Board Member at Large (Kirk Crabb):** Kirk shared that he also received some complaints from members who feel a lack of transparency about the tryout process. He noted that some parents would like to see their child's score and get feedback after tryouts, during the season, and after the season has ended.
4. **Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** No further updates.
5. **Past Board Member (Tony Robles):** No further updates.
6. **Treasurer (Ben Jones):** No further updates.
7. **Secretary (Miranda Vertnik):** Reminder that the Fire Department meeting room is already booked for what would be our November meeting, thus meeting is pushed out to Nov 15th. The website has been updated and Jess will send out a communication. MN Hockey is now also offering a play-down exception for 16-year-old girls where there is not a 19U team – they can now play down to the 15UA level.
8. **Vice President (Jason Olson):** No further updates.
9. **President (Aaron Lindholm):** No updates.

Tony made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mike. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent). Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Miranda Vertnik, NPHA Secretary/Registrar.