

## West Fargo Hockey Association Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6 p.m.

West Fargo Sports Arena 520 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave W West Fargo, ND

### Board Members:

*Present:* Josh Benson, Joel Honeyman (via AnyMeeting Call) Alex Aughinbaugh, Sarah Elkins, Kelly Kisell, Seth Rehm, Shana Wilson, Anthony Houkom (via AnyMeeting Call), Brent Kuehne, Kayla Goebel (via AnyMeeting Call), Eric Nelson

*Absent:* Jareb Raan, Corey Moos

### Others Present:

*Gaming Manager:* Jason Campbell

*Hockey Director:* Jason Gregoire

**Members Present:** None

## PROCEEDINGS:

**Meeting called to order** at 6:02 p.m. by President Josh Benson.

### Minutes Approval

Wilson motioned to approve the June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting minutes as provided to the board of directors. Motion was seconded by Nelson. Approved by all; motion passed without dissent.

Wilson motioned to approve the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes as provided to the board of directors. Motion was seconded by Nelson. Approved by all; motion passed without dissent.

### June 2020 Financial Report

Raan

Due to the recent 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday the June 2020 financial report was not received until late afternoon on July 20th. As Raan was absent due to illness at the meeting the presentation of the June 2020 financial report it was decided to table this topic until the August 2020 meeting.

### Quarter 4 Gaming Report

Nelson/Campbell

Campbell presented the information regarding the Quarter 4 Gaming financials. As part of the mandated closure of gaming due to COVID-19 some sites during Quarter 4 were shut down for one to 1 ½ months. Even with the temporary closure of sites, our gaming continues to be on track and comparable with the numbers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter there was an overall rise in bingo with e-tabs continuing to be the leader in gaming revenue. A year end analysis will be presented for the financial year at the next board meeting.

### Old Business: Junior Gold Update

Gregoire

As an organization we will offer the option for players to participate in Junior Gold for the upcoming 2020-2021 season. Gregoire stated that the fee of \$500 has been paid to the league in order to hold our spot for this team. The fee is refundable and will be returned to us should we not be able to field a team in the upcoming season. If we are able to play the fee will continue to transfer from season to season each year that we field a Junior Gold season. Currently there will be 11 teams in the league as Bismarck and Minot have each added a team this year. Junior Gold will first be offered to players who fall in the U18 age range (16, 17 & 18 years old). Registration dates have yet to be determined with the season set to commence around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November.

Communication regarding the new Junior Gold team will be relayed through the new hockey newsletter on August 1<sup>st</sup> with the possible utilization of social media outlets. Teams will play around 35 games throughout the season with 2 tournaments during the season and 2 practices per week. Gregoire stated that a prospective coach has offered to be the head coach for this new team. The board agreed to have him proceed with securing this person for the season. Registration cost of Junior Gold will be \$500 with the same fundraising and Dibs requirements per family that apply to the rest of the Stampede organization. As the league is under NDAHA the same COVID-19 regulations will apply to this team as well. An All-Star team will be selected statewide from the players participating in Junior Gold with the option for play in a national tournament.

#### **Stampede Apparel**

**Gregoire**

Gregoire and Kraft are pursuing additional purchase options for Stampede apparel through Squad Locker which is a part of Sports Engine. This will streamline the process for families ordering apparel and create ease of use regarding log-ins and payment options. Squad Locker offers a wide range of apparel brands and prices for our organization. The company representative offers support with logos, stocking apparel options and shipping. Kits with several apparel pieces will be available for a set price along with the ability to purchase individual items as well. Kickbacks are available to the Stampede organization in 5, 10 and 15 percent increments from the purchases made by members.

Positive features of using Squad Locker include the ability to make customizations to garments, direct shipping to members, quick order processing time of 10-14 days and the ability to keep the store open year round with seasonal changes for merchandise offerings. Size runs will be made available in the office for families to access and try on before ordering with the possibility of offering limited items for sale in the hockey office. A suggestion was made to create a small committee (2 to 3 members) and offer dibs for completion of the work. This will be created with the purpose of supporting Kraft in the selection of items to be offered through Squad Locker. Stampede apparel will still be available for purchase through local retailers such as Play It Again Sports and Scheels. The Squad Locker store will open in early August with more information communicated in the upcoming hockey newsletter.

#### **Registration Update**

**Wilson/Gregoire**

As of July 20, 2020 West Fargo Hockey Association has 500 players registered for the 2020-2021 season. Gregoire compared these numbers to this time last year when registrations were at 100 players. We have well surpassed that rate from the previous year and continue to grow. In order to be on track with the previous season of play Wilson notes that would need about 120 more registrations before the window closes on August 15<sup>th</sup> for travel teams and October 18<sup>th</sup> for non-travel teams. There are two weeks left in the regular registration window for travel teams before late fees will be assessed. Gregoire reported present registrations by levels as follows:

- Termites: 74
- Mites: 77
- 8U: 21
- Squirts: 94
- 10U: 25
- Pee Wees: 76
- 12U: 21
- Bantams: 72
- 14U: 8

The Intro to Hockey sessions are expected to bring more registrations for the organization in relation to the Termite, Mite and 8U levels after the Intro sessions are complete. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for registration of players that are new to West Fargo Hockey for those participating in Termite, Mite/8U, Squirt/10U Non-Travel teams and Recreation Level of play in the upcoming season. Gregoire noted that the Intro to Hockey currently has tentative dates set that will be released upon confirmation and procurement of the One Goal bags coming from China to ensure that sessions will have adequate equipment available for players.

**Center Ice Update****Nelson**

Nelson has been in communication with the fairgrounds regarding the annual Center Ice Event and current Smart Restart regulations that would need to be adhered to if the event were to be held. Social distancing and contact protocol would need to be in place and monitored for all aspects of the event including silent auction items, games, food service and dependent upon available fairground staff at the time of the event. Center Ice is tentatively scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> and requires about 2 months of lead time to plan and execute properly.

With the current level of "green" in the state of North Dakota regarding COVID-19 it could be possible to host Center Ice but questions remain about whether the organization should proceed with the event. The decision was made to table further discussion about proceeding with Center Ice for the 2020-2021 season until the August board meeting.

**Angels Transition Plan Update****Benson**

Benson stated that the final agreement regarding transitions, waivers and future play in connection with the Angels Hockey program has been signed by all parties involved. FYHA, WFHA, Angels Hockey and NDAHA agreed to a common transition plan and waiver process. Updated waivers have been sent to the families that are currently affected. Families are to initiate the waiver process with the appropriate organization before registering with the preferred hockey organization. WFHA will honor early bird discounts and regular registration rates to those families that have been affected by this process and were not able to register by the early or regular registration deadlines due to the timing of the waiver process and transition plan.

**Hockey Treadmill Sale****Benson**

Benson announced that the hockey treadmill in the dryland training space in Vets 2 has a potential buyer interested in the equipment. Benson, Kuehne and Houkom will work together with the buyer to set up an agreement with specific terms and a contract in relation to the sale of the equipment. Gregoire has planned to transition the current space occupied by the treadmill into a goalie dryland training room. It was suggested that a portion of the proceeds from the sale could then be used to make improvements to the current space housing the treadmill in order to make it functional for goalie training. Updates to the adjacent dryland training room could take place at the same time as well.

Kuehne made a motion to sell the hockey treadmill to the prospective buyer based on the current market price and conditions for equipment of this type. Aughinbaugh seconded the motion. Approved by all; motion passed without dissent.

**COVID-19****Benson**

Benson has been in contact with Bob Bye from NDAHA and Gregoire engaging in discussion related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. It appears that USA Hockey will most likely allow the decision making in relation to play to happen at the state level. At this point, unless conditions change or the governor hands down specific direction, the hope is to move forward with the 2020-2021 season. Currently North Dakota has no travel restrictions for players but travel may be impacted by decisions made in the state of Minnesota.

Monitoring to see how the surrounding states respond with special regards to Minnesota will be important as this may significantly impact tournament play for our teams. There may be opportunities this season for Stampede to seek collaboration with FYHA to co-host tournaments or for WFHA to explore the possibility of hosting some of our own tournaments.

Gregoire and Benson have been discussing the possible need for waivers related to COVID-19 and the upcoming season. USA Hockey currently has a standard waiver that each player/parent signs when registering for the season. Benson voiced a recommendation that perhaps we should begin to research and seek outside council for beginning the process of creating a waiver specific to our own organization. This could be imperative when looking at the possibility of

hosting/co-hosting tournaments during the upcoming season. Vogel Law Firm was suggested as a business that could support us in our needs with creating a waiver. A waiver specific to WFHA could add an additional layer of protection for the liability of our organization during the upcoming 2020-2021 hockey season.

Aughinbaugh made a motion to seek outside council for the purpose of obtaining a price quote in conjunction with the process of creating a waiver related to COVID-19. Seconded by Kisell. Motion passed without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm by Benson.

**Board of Directors**

*Josh Benson, President*

*Joel Honeyman, Past President*

*Alex Aughinbaugh, Executive Vice President*

*Jareb Raan, Treasurer*

*Sarah Elkins, Secretary*

*Kelly Kisell, Director of Hockey Operations*

*Corey Moos, Director of Tournaments*

*Seth Rehm, Director of Compliance & Safe Sport*

*Shana Wilson, Director of Membership & Recruitment*

*Anthony Houkom, Director of Business Operations*

*Brent Kuehne, Director of Facilities & Equipment*

*Kayla Goebel, Director of Communications & Marketing*

*Eric Nelson, Director of Fund Raising & Gaming*