

**Alexandria Area Hockey Association Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2024
6PM – Runestone Community Center**

In Attendance: Josh Hills, Melanie Belsheim, Ben Vangsness, Matt VanBruggen, Amber Blakesley, Rebekah Summer, Andrea Nyberg, Cory Oberg, Apryl Putnam, Getty Johnson, Brittney Thoreson, Taylor Hayes, Paige Savelkoul

Absent: Brian Klimek

- **Call to order:** 6:00pm
- **Approve Agenda:** Hills/Summer
- **Approve Minutes – September 2024:** Vangsness/Nyberg
- **Financial Reports:**
 - **Gambling (Rebekah)**
 - Additional details for Gambling reports are reported to the board members from financials submitted to the Gambling Control Board. These reports are available upon request to the membership.
 - Gambling sites update
 - Donation Request:
 - Alexandria Area Youth Tennis Association \$1,500 (needs approval)
 - Motion to approve donation request, Hills/Putnam, motion carried.
 - RCC Ice \$26,000 (needs approval)
 - Motion to approve payment, Hill/Putnam, motion carried
 - Budget Request: \$73,100 (needs approval)
 - Motion to approve budget request that includes ice payment and tennis donation: Putnam/Blakesley, motion carried
 - Gambling banking signature approval: Rebekah Summer (gambling manager), Matthew Van Bruggen (President, Gambling Chair), & Garret Johnson (Vice President) - needs approval
 - Motion to approve bank signature transition from Joel Loveland to Getty Johnson as new VP, Hills/Nyberg, motion carried
 - Move gambling bank account to Viking Bank (needs approval)
 - Motion to approve transition from Bremer to Viking Bank, Hills/Hayes, motion carried
 - Rebekah Summer submitted resignation of her position with her last day on December 15th.
 - **AAHA Financials (Ben)**
 - Reviewed balance sheet
 - Motion to consolidate bank accounts and move one from Bremer Bank to Viking Bank: Hills/Putnam, motion carries
 - Discussion around moving cash in bank to a 12-month CD, motion to approve Putnam/Hills
 - Good financials at this time of year compared to last year
 - Motion to approve September Financials: Hayes/Hills, motion carried
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Vice President Report (Getty)**
 - Brought the two banners out to NorthStar to hang

- **Secretary (Brittney)**
 - Tournament Hotels posted on website
 - Rostered all mite level groups and Bantam/U15
 - Mite House League teams are going from 12 to 8, discussion around how we transition from 12 sponsored jerseys to 8. Consider dual named teams for next year.
 - Will roster remainder when all tryouts are completed
 - Registration Numbers are at 357
 - Working with SportsEngine to get “Help Page” fixed with updated “how-to” documents on website
- **Communications (Andrea)**
 - Sway concussion info went out – October 28th and 29th
 - MN wild info needs to go out for Olympic Mites
 - Henn House info to go out explaining the change
 - Review Social Media/Website Policy
 - Hockey Association Picture – Heather Scott has offered to do a picture at no-cost
 - How to manage who signs up for Rink Rookie - 2 year max
 - Will be completing audit and identify process to confirm who is signing up for rink rookie program
 - Updates continue to be slowly made to website
 - Discussion around USA Hockey or MN Hockey programs that have AAHA hockey players on teams, encourage social media posting for those that make a team or to the top camp
- **Tournament/Team Manager (Amber)**
 - Helmets dropped off at Cowing, Posters in AAHA Office
 - 1- 12B open- Offering discount (November 29-Dec 1st)
 - 1-10UB opening- CPR dropped (Dec 13-15)
 - VFW tournament- will have meeting soon with Jim
 - Apryl and Amanda- Bantam Level
 - Claire Dutton- 15A
 - Tournament Apparel Link is live on tournament page
 - Work to get AAHA Mite Jamboree tournament posted
 - Team Manager and Tournament Manager Meeting to take place after tryouts completed (1st week of November)
 - Helmet stickers ordered from Winning Edge
 - Ideas for locations to hold paper scorebooks and iPads for the season
 - Working to get slushie vouchers printed for tournaments
- **Volunteers/DIBS Coordinator (Apryl)**
 - Concession DIBS have been filling nicely
 - Working on projected numbers for overall DIBS this year
 - Discussion on DIBS distribution for each team allowing the head coach to distribute all budgeted DIBS across head coach and assistant coaches
- **Concessions (Josh H)**
 - Working on getting the menu boards up and completed
 - Working on updating the job duties for concession and how it's posted
 - Meeting with Zorbaz on Walking Tacos
 - Signage and Displays for Infection Control
- **Sponsorship/Fundraising (Getty J)**
 - Worked with Colleen to send out the last invoices to collect for golf scramble

- Looking in to a gun raffle fundraiser for next year
 - 40 families still have to pick up raffle tickets to pick up – considering another raffle ticket pick up
 - **Equipment/Rink Rookie (Melanie B)**
 - Considering multiple equipment handout times next year and create some clarity
 - Had discussion around player owned jerseys for next season
 - Need additional tryout jerseys for next year
 - **Retention/Recruitment (Taylor H)**
 - Team photos Nov 20&21
 - Changed ads
 - Blake Stienbring media help
 - **Director of Hockey/Hockey Committee (Cory)**
 - JP Nei stepping in to PeeWee Coordinator Role
 - High School Updates
 - Fundraisers
 - Bingo for Boys
 - Purse Bingo for Girls
 - Beginners Clinic is going well
 - Tryout Clinic Updates – evaluators liked that the groups were split already
 - Tryout Results
 - Tryout Planning
 - Will plan to push out survey on tryout process
 - New policy stating that all coaches are not allowed to drink on game day until the last game is complete for the day
 - Bantam/U15 coach selection is completed and feels like there is strong coaching staff on all teams
 - Registration numbers and team sizes were discussed
 - Goalie Training
 - Reward high character, how do we do this? Discussion around improving culture and reputation of hockey players in the schools and community
- **Old Business:**
 - RCC expansion
 - Explore Alex
 - Charitable Gambling Committee Application
 - Social Media/Website Policy Discussion and Approval
 - Sponsors vs. non-sponsors
 - Motion to approve the new social media/website policy, Summer/Hayes, motion approved
- **New Business**
 - Tryout Feedback
 - Email Management and Board Communication
 - Website cleanup
 - DIBS
 - Alicia-USA hockey registration fee reimbursement (email 9/13/24)
 - Alicia spoke to the board on mission for the season
 - Goal is that Alicia will be observing/evaluating games off-ice, and help coach/grow the referees
 - Review LiveBarn for learning as a tool to help develop the officials
 - Looking in to free account for officiating review

- Lower number in officials
 - 10 green officials
 - 40 total local officials/51 total
 - 11 left due to college

Meeting Adjourned: 8:48pm

Next Board Meeting - November 24th, 6PM
Location - RCC

Mission Statement

The Alexandria Area Hockey Association (AAHA) is committed to providing a quality environment for youth hockey players to learn and enjoy the sport of hockey.