

**Watertown Hockey
Association 9/25/24 - 6 PM
Meeting Minutes**

<p>Board Of Directors Vega Nutting Michael Ledoux Chris Nethers, <i>Learn to Play Liaison</i> Jordan Reber Shane Caswell</p>	<p>Executive Committee Vega Nutting - <i>Board President</i> Michael Ledoux - <i>Board Vice President</i> Brian Nutting - <i>WHA Treasurer</i> Amanda Caswell- <i>Secretary</i> Michelle Rist - <i>WHA Registrar</i> Jonathan Rose - <i>Ace Coordinator</i></p>
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- Establish Quorum Present- Majority of Directors (3 or more) required
Board members present- Vega, Chris, Shane, Mike (6:20pm arrival)
Executive committee present- Vega, Mike, Jon, Michelle, Amanda
- Call Meeting to Order (*Vega*)
 - 6:15pm
- Approve Meeting Agenda, August and September 2024 Meeting Minutes (*Vega*)
 - Vega: Motion to accept meeting minutes
 - Chris: 2nd Motion to accept meeting minutes
 - Ayes: 3
 - Nays:0
 - Abstentions: 0
- Officer Reports
 - Registrar (*Michelle*)
 - Registration Update
 - 18: 12
 - Valkyries: 32
 - 8U: 31
 - 10U:7
 - 12U: 28
 - 14U: 21
 - 16U: 20
 - Jersey Order
 - Order won't be available before 10/10 and no official date for arrival has been provided by the company. There are enough orders for a second, but we do not have enough to receive a discount.
 - Secretary (*Amanda*)
 - Contact Directory
 - The board and executive committee contact directory needs to be completed by each board and executive committee members in the google document.
 - Sports Engine for Communication
 - This is an efficient mode for Board communication. It keeps a historical trail of correspondence and removes text discussions and

communication from personal contacts. All board and executive council must sign up as volunteer to be added.

- As a reminder all board members should be registered through WHA including background check and safe sport training.

- Public Participation
 - In Attendance
 - Derick Notz, Brittany Fields-MacIntosh, Dave Cushman, Ginger Sherrill

- Directors and Coordinator Reports
 - Valkyries Girls' Program (*Amanda*)
 - Inaugural Practice will be held Sunday, September 29th at Watertown Rink. There were enough girls registered at 12/13U to create a team that is going to the Massena "Fight for a Cure" all girls tournament October 18-20. Valkyries are investigating all girl tournaments in March/April after Snowbelt and Northern League play is over. Oswego hosts a tournament in January that is being investigated as league play is being scheduled.
 - Valkyrie parents are interested in more practices. It would be \$90/hour for the Watertown rink. A discussion occurred about Valkyries access to ice that would ultimately be given back to the city and was already purchased by the WHA. No decision was made.
 - Snowbelt representative discussed the leagues resistance to all girls programs. It was reported that ongoing discussions with Snowbelt League will continue as the girls' game continues to grow.
 - Discussion about male and female coaches and value of social female representation. All are welcome to volunteer, but there is an emphasis on female involvement in the game. Currently there are 4 female coaches and a few males registered with the Valkyries from a few different associations. Emphasis in the discussion about female oversight of locker room to assure we are appropriately providing supervision. This will be done with a safe sport trained manager, parent, and/or coach.
 - Continued advertising will occur through the season specifically at the 8/6U levels to garner interest. Recruitment ideas include:
 - 2024 IIHF World Girls' Hockey Weekend is set for October 11-13, 2024
 - Feb. 5, 2025 National Women and Girls in Sports day
 - Girls try hockey for free
 - work with 6U/8U programs at regional associations including have upper level girls attend practices to help; would like to promote coaching and refereeing opportunities for upper level girls as well.
 - 32 girls registers
 - 6U- 1
 - 8U- 5
 - 10U- 4
 - 12U- 11
 - 14U- 7
 - 16U- 2
 - 18U- 2
 - Ace Coordinator (*Jon Rose*)
 - An overview of individuals that need to register as a coach with the association was provided. The registrar will continue to work with the ACE to assure all coaches are in compliance with requirements to coach.

various activities to be stored on a Google Drive document to streamline processes. Acknowledgment of the difficulty of recruiting volunteers was presented with discussion about how to attract and encourage others to help. There was a concern of institutional knowledge walking away when volunteers leave, stressing the importance of investing in good practices for sustainability and record keeping. He emphasized the importance of enhancing and improving processes, rather than overwhelming volunteers. The hope with more volunteers and involvement would reduce workload specifically for the president and board. A focus on recruiting volunteers was seen as a viable option to address the current challenges including getting managers to identify parents that would be a good fit for various positions.

- Safety Director, Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), and basic first aid/CPR equipment (*Shane*)
 - WHA must enhance policies around players safety and health. An injury/condition occurred at practice and there were not first aid supplies available. A discussion of regarding basic first aid needs of WHA occurred including need of first aid kits for all teams and at the rink.
 - Vega: Motion to purchase 12 first aid kits and supplies
 - Chris: 2nd Motion to purchase 12 first aid kits and supplies
 - Ayes: 4
 - Nays: 0
 - Abstentions: 0
 - Shane will provide a list for items that are needed, will purchase and construct first aid kits for distribution.
 - Best practices about EAPs will be sent by Shane for consideration to assure coaches are prepared for emergency situations. Documents can then be created and distributed for coaches. Shane will begin working on EAP documents for the Watertown rink. This will help fulfill the NY state mandate about cardiac emergency care preparedness by youth organization.
 - Though not required by USA hockey, AED/CPR training is going to be financed by the WHA for all coaches that do not hold current certification. This will contribute the NY state mandate as well.
- Golf Tournament Overview (*Vega*)
 - It was rained out the entire day and turn out for foursomes was down. There were no volunteers at youngers levels of the WHA.
 - Shane Wizner is stepping down from overseeing the golf tournament fundraiser. This is a significant fundraising need and we need someone to take it over.
- Status of 16U & 18U refunds from last year (*Vega*)
 - Refunds will be issued 9-26-2024
- 6/8U Coaching (*Chris*)
 - Overview of Proposal (Provided during the meeting) from Power Play to take over 6/8U level.
 - Need to create a model for association growth.
 - 123 kids went through PowerPlay in 2023-24.
 - A discussion about the challenges of retaining young hockey players and the need for a comprehensive plan to address these issues took place. It was suggested surveying former player families to understand why they left WHA

and proposed subsidizing the cost of the program to attract more players. An emphasis of the importance of having coaches in place to maintain the program's success was discussed. The board agreed to consider these suggestions and to further discuss the matter in the future.

- Zoom meeting before October 1st with board to discuss Moving forward.

- Describe/clarify qualifications for head and assistant coaches.
 - Tabled

- Sports Engine Sites (**Michelle**)
 - Discussed in secretary's report

- New Business
 - P.O. Box (**Vega**)
 - Tabled

- Other Business:
 - Inquiry about 6/8U level (**Derek Notz**)
 - Discussed in the 6/8U Coaching Discussion

- Action Items:
 - Amanda to send out Google document for board members to update their contact information
 - All board members to register as volunteers, complete background screening and SafeSport training
 - Shane to draft emergency action plan and safety procedures for rink
 - Shane to send list of recommended items for first aid kits
 - Shane to purchase 12 first aid kits for teams
 - Board to schedule follow-up meeting to discuss power play proposal further
 - Brian to provide updated budget forecast with current registration numbers
 - Review bylaws regarding sharing of financial information publicly
 - Brian to provide breakdown of tournament costs for 6U/8U teams from last season

- Meeting Adjournment
9:28pm
 - Vega Motion to adjourn
 - Shane 2nd
 - Ayes: 3
 - Nays: 0
 - Abstentions: 0

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Caswell, Secretary.