

## New Prague Hockey Association

### Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Dual Meeting Location: HillSpring Church and Google Meets

Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 8:00 P.M.

Due to scheduling conflicts for several Board members, this meeting time was pushed out to 8:00pm rather than our usual 7:00pm start time in order to ensure that we would have a quorum for all voting matters. This change was decided and communicated to Board members and Coordinators (via email) and to the association (via announcement on the NPHA website) by 2:30pm on 06/08/2021. Meeting called to order at 8:01 p.m.

#### ATTENDANCE:

##### NPHA Board

President	Sam Blank	present
Vice President	Rick Carey	present
Secretary/Registrar	Miranda Vertnik	present
Treasurer	VACANT	
Manager Director	Sara Westing	present via Google Meets (9:52pm)
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	present
Fundraising Director	Brian Vosejka	present
Board Member at Large	Aaron Neumann	present
Past Board Member	Jason Ashley	present via Google Meets

##### Coordinator Positions

NPACC Manager	Kevin Cassidy	absent
Gambling Coordinator	Nate Borwege	present via phone
Ice Time Coordinator	Mike Nazzal	absent
HDC Coordinator	Tim Applen	present via Google Meets
Volunteer Coordinator	Jen Mushitz	absent
Concessions Coordinator	VACANT	
Mite Coordinator	Anthony Anderson	absent
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	absent
Tournament Coordinator	VACANT	
Sponsor Coordinator	VACANT	
SafeSport Coordinator	Mike Franklin	absent
Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Sarah Hartman	absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	VACANT	
Concession Stand POS Specialist	Erick Christianson	absent
COVID-19 Point Person	Sarah Donovan	absent

**Others present:** Brad Drazan (HS Head Coach and HDC Member); Lornette Schmitz (parent interested in Concession Stand Coordinator position); and Crystal Wong (parent interested in Treasurer position).

**Approval of Treasurer Position:** At the beginning of the meeting, we heard from Crystal Wong who is interested in the Treasurer position. She shared that she has an associate's degree in accounting and

works as a financial administrator for Rasmussen University. She noted that she has experience collecting debts from parties with outstanding balances owed and understands that she will be asked to do this for the association at times. She has experience with reconciliations as a financial aide administrator and noted that she has great attention to detail as she's had to follow strict accuracy guidelines in her role. Jess made a motion to approve the appointment of Crystal Wong to the Treasurer position, which was seconded by Rick. Motion carried 7-0 (one Board member absent – running late, and one position vacant). Crystal will now serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors and will work closely with Krystal Beedle, her predecessor, for training purposes over the course of the season. Crystal will hold this position until the association membership has the opportunity to vote on the Treasurer position in April 2022.

## I. REPORTS

1. **Secretary's Report (Miranda Vertnik):** The Meeting Minutes for May 2021 were shared with the Board on May 13<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Brian to approve the May 2021 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Aaron. Motion carried 8-0 (one Board member absent – running late). Miranda will post the May 2021 Meeting Minutes to the NPHA website.
2. **Treasurer's Report (Krystal Beedle):** The May 2021 Treasurer's Report was shared with the Board on June 8<sup>th</sup>. As Krystal was not in attendance at the meeting, Sam provided a brief summary of the report that was submitted to the Board. Of note, expenses since the last report include prepayment for 17 tournaments that have been booked for the upcoming season. The report also included a list of eight families who have an outstanding balance due with the association from the 2020-21 season. Those families with returning players will not be able to register until their balance is paid in full. It was also noted that there have not been any deposits since the last report, which is to be expected for this time of the year. Aaron made a motion to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent – running late).
3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege):** Nate shared the Gambling Reports for March 2021 and April 2021 prior to the meeting. Of note, Nate shared that he and Susan Murphy need to do some investigating as we are coming up short on money earned from the raffle calendars. They will need to cross check the numbers from registration. He also noted that the association did not sell any extra calendars this year. All raffle prizes were mailed on April 13<sup>th</sup>. One prize has not been processed by the winner, so that check will be cancelled and new one will be issued. He noted that the pull tab program at Carbone's Pizza will be up and running soon now that the bar seating has reopened, they are just working on getting training for their staff (which is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>). To date, the MN state legislature has not yet approved a state government budget to be effective July 1, 2021. If the state budget is not approved by June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Gambling Control Board will discontinue operations on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will not resume operations until agency funding is approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Miranda made a motion to approve the March 2021 and April 2021 Gambling Reports as well as to approve the Pre-Approvals for Allowable Expenses and Lawful Purpose Expenditures, which was seconded by Jess. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent – running late).

## II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Open Treasurer Position:** Crystal Wong was appointed by the Board to fill this position at the beginning of the meeting. Please see above for more details.
2. **Open Coordinator Positions:**
  - i. **Concession Stand Coordinator:** Lornette Schmitz was present at the meeting to discuss her interest in this position. She shared that this will be her family's fourth year with the association and that she is interested in being more involved in the operations of the program. She has experience managing events at her church that have involved a great deal of planning and ordering of food and other goods to sell. She noted that she is organized and is a fast learner and feels she would be a good fit for this position. Miranda made a motion to approve the appointment of Lornette to the position of Concession Stand Coordinator, which was seconded by Rick. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent – running late). Brea has indicated that she will assist with training in a new person, Miranda has provided Lornette with her contact information to get that process started.
  - ii. **Tournament Coordinator:** Sam shared that he has been in contact with Lauren Heuer, a Mite level parent, who is interested in this position. She has some experience with organizing tournaments as she did a great deal of work for the association this past spring organizing the end of the year tournament. Sam confirmed with Lauren via text during the meeting that she is willing to take on this role. Brian made a motion to approve the appointment of Lauren Heuer to the position of Tournament Coordinator, which was seconded by Jason. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent – running late).
  - iii. **Sponsorship Coordinator:** This position remains open, Sam will continue to serve in this role as needed, but would like to see someone else take the position.
  - iv. **Recruitment & Retention:** This position remains open.
3. **Condition of outdoor rink:** Sam will learn more on this topic at the NPACC Board meeting that is coming up next week.
4. **Association-Wide Equipment Sale:** Sara had reported during one of our recent Board meetings that there is a parent interested in organizing this event. During that meeting we discussed the idea of holding this event during our season kick off event. Further discussion on this topic yielded the idea of holding a larger season kick off event and no longer holding our end of the year party, but instead at the end of the season hold the Beer Bash fundraiser (which was typically held in January). The Board will reach out to Justina Cloutier, who has been in charge of the end of the year party in the past, to see if she may be interested in organizing the season kick off event instead.
5. **Off-Season Planning:**
  - i. **Approval of the 2021-22 Budget:** The Board met on May 20<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup> to conduct the 2021-22 Budget Planning. The process is not fully complete as we are awaiting information regarding the needs for a few line items. Of note, during these meetings the Board discussed reasons why we have had very minimal interest from non-parent coaches. Possible reasons include the travel distance to our facility and the low stipend that we have offered non-parent coaches to date. In order to be more competitive with other nearby associations the Board approved a stipend increase to the range of \$3,000-\$5,000 for non-parent

coaches. We will plan to advertise our interest in hiring more non-parent coaches in each of the upper levels on MN Hockey. This was discussed with the HDC Coordinator so that he was aware of the Board's support to pay a more competitive rate to qualified non-parent coaches who are a good fit for our program.

- ii. **Handbook Review:** Special sessions are scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to review and revise the NPHA Handbook for the 2021-22 season.

### III. COORDINATOR UPDATES

#### 1. President

- i. **NPACC Manager (Kevin Cassidy):** Sam noted that the arena will be providing reimbursement to the team manager of the Intermediate Mite Grey team whose gift cards that were to be used as the team's fundraiser basket which were taken and reportedly distributed to arena staff.
- ii. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege):** No further updates at this time.
- iii. **SafeSport Coordinator (Mike Franklin):** No updates at this time.

#### 2. Vice President

- i. **HDC Coordinator (Tim Applen):** Tim reported that he has had many conversations with Brad Drazan about the prospect of having a Junior Gold team this season, noting that it has been very good to work with him on this topic and that he thinks this will be very good for our program and for the hockey players in our community. Tim shared that the HDC has been busy booking tournaments for the upcoming season and that we have some very good ones on the schedule. Unfortunately, the Fargo tournament was full for 10U teams, but we are on the waiting list (we should hear back in October). Tim noted that we are still waiting to hear from a few families who will likely petition up for their players, and that it would have been nice to hear from those families before booking tournaments. Miranda noted that the Handbook says they have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to submit their petitions, but noted that we can change the date for next year as we are revising the Handbook next week. Tim noted that it would be ideal to have petitions submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup> in the future – we will plan to change the deadline for the 2021-22 Handbook. We are still waiting to hear back from several arenas on their ability to offer ice to our program, as they are still waiting to find out from their home associations and programs to know what they will have for available ice times. Tim shared that the HDC had a meeting with Team Genius and they have changed their membership from association based to individual based (this does not affect their tryout software that we use). He also noted that MEGA Goaltending has launched their own app, he was not sure on the cost, but the HDC will be looking into this further to see if it is something we would like to add to our hockey program. Sam will be signing the xHockey contract and will send it to Tim. Tim reported that he had Brad Drazan have been working together to identify core skills for each level of play. They have been looking at the skills identified by USA Hockey and Canada Hockey. They will also plan to include Butch K in this process. These skills will be those that the HDC and coaching staff will assess our players on throughout the year. Tim noted that the HDC has an



noted that he would really like to see NP offer an opportunity for our older players to continue to play hockey in the event that they do not make the HS team as we know that sports are a great influence in a kids' life. He noted that he would even like to hold some combined HS and Junior Gold practices so that he can work with the players and help get them ready for the HS team. We will need to hire a non-parent coach to coach this team. Since the 2021-22 Budget is not yet finalized, the Board will look to ensure we have allotted enough funds to support this. Ideally, the Junior Gold team will have two practices during the week and games would be held on the weekends. Miranda will plan to work closely with the HDC in setting up registration for the Junior Gold team. The Board would like to thank Brad D for his commitment to the association and to NP hockey.

- 2. Preseason Clinic Planning:** According to the NPHA Handbook, the oversight of the Preseason Clinics falls upon the Board Member at Large. As Aaron is new to this role, we will plan to reach out to Brad Breeggemann, who was his predecessor and ran the Pre-Season Clinics in the past to see if he would be willing to assist with this task. As this event has also been run historically by the Mite Coordinator (even before Brad B served as both the Mite Coordinator and the Board Member at Large), we will connect with Anthony Anderson to see if he has any desire to be involved in this process as well. As soon as the dates of the Preseason Clinics are known, it will be important to share that information with Miranda so that she can create the registration link for the clinics on SportsEngine.

## V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- 1. Fundraising Director (Brian Vosejka):** No updates at this time.
- 2. Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** No updates at this time.
- 3. Manager Director (Sara Westing):** Sara noted that the Elko/New Market parade is coming up in the near future and asked if we planned to participate in it. It was determined that putting something together at this time would be too rushed, instead we will focus our efforts on finding a volunteer to plan ahead for the Dozinky Days parade this September. Sara shared that organizing parades is a big responsibility, there is a lot to consider and plan for (especially around the children's safety).
- 4. Past Board Member (Jason Ashley):** No updates at this time.
- 5. Board Member at Large (Aaron Neumann):** No updates at this time.
- 6. Treasurer (Crystal Wong):** No further updates at this time.
- 7. Secretary/Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda has the 2021-22 NPHA Coaching Application ready to roll. She had shared it with Rick and Tim to review for any necessary changes, no revisions were made apart from updated dates. This link will be shared with our coaches from last season and will be posted to the NPHA Facebook page as well. We will also plan to advertise our desire to hire additional non-parent coaches (we budgeted to increase the non-parent coaching stipend to be more competitive with what is offered at neighboring associations) on sites including MN Hockey and some nearby colleges. Miranda also notified the group that had sent out the links to the Board members with instructions on how to complete their USA Hockey registration, background screening, and SafeSport training for the Board/Coordinator flex roster. Miranda will share this email with Crystal as well as information pertaining to our upcoming Handbook Review meetings. Information on the flex roster will be shared with the appropriate Coordinators in the coming weeks as well. Miranda also reported that she had added some of the

action photos to the website that were taken by Dan Iverson last season and that she had added a short description of the upcoming Board meetings to the Home page of our website as was discussed last month. Finally, Miranda shared that she will be unable to attend the August Board meeting due to a trip that has come up for her husband's work.

8. **Vice President (Rick Carey):** Rick shared that he has reached out to Troy about hockey socks and that they have determined we will plan to switch back to knit socks for our Mite level players – it has been noted that the sublimated socks did not hold up very well for our Mite players this season. He noted that he will be working with Troy to help install the shelving in the equipment room and will assist him with taking inventory of what we have. He noted that the arena still has some things in the association's shed, Sam will plan to talk to Kevin about this.
9. **President (Sam Blank):** Sam reported that he had a good conversation with Brad D today before the meeting and that he hopes to see Taylor R become more involved with the association as well to help support our girls' hockey program. Sam and Brad discussed having the HS players involved with our Mite players on the ice again this coming season as we were unable to do this last season due to the pandemic. Discussion was given to the need for more goalie development in our program. Rick will reach out to the Mite Coordinator about holding more goalie camps throughout the year to help generate more interest in this position at the Mite level. In previous seasons, the association has offered a Goalie Rebate program in which half the goalie players' skater fees were refunded if they completed the entire season in the goalie position. We will discuss offering this again.

Motion was made by Jess to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Brian. Motion carried 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:55pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Miranda Vertnik, NPHA Secretary/Registrar