

## WHA Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Location: PLIA Community Room 1

Time: 7:00pm Board Meeting



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeremy Johnson, Todd Randall, Kris Dorneman, Nate Shuller, Travis Young, Matt Engen, Adam Lalim, Allison Mathews, Adam Sullivan, Amber Dahl

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Eric Skott

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:** Lucas Deutsch, Karen Gromis, Molly Randall, Casey Shuller, Kristina Suttan, Mark Iverson, Jessi Eidson, Tori Simon

**CALL TO ORDER** 7:07pm

**MEETING MINUTES for February 2024:** Nate Shuller moved to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Travis Young. Motion carried.

**AGENDA for March 2024:** Nate Shuller moved to approve the March agenda, seconded by Amber Dahl. Motion carried.

### 1. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. **February Financial Review:** \$50k additional CD funds were moved. Closed the money market account with \$10k. All remaining funds for startup funds have been deposited. If further funds are needed, Allison should be contacted. Motion made to approve the February financials as presented by Nate Shuller, seconded by Kris Dorneman. Motion carried.
- b. **State Tournament Financials:** Net Profit from the Girls V State Tournament was \$18,038.59. That's about 160 hours of ice time covered for the association!
- c. **Maas Outstanding Bills:** Bills and accounts for Maas can be cancelled effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. BluePeak will be cancelled by Karen. Allison will cancel the utility bill for the Maas Arena.

### 2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Girls State Tournament Recap / Bidding for 2025 BV Tournament:** Todd wanted to thank all the volunteers and committee for all effort put towards the success of the Girls State Tournament. The sound and video team did a phenomenal job. Deutsch received very positive feedback from the tournament refs having a secure room. Discussion on a potential for bidding a state tournament going to a two-year bid. We are a strong contender for next year's tournament. Brookings has committed to holding out on bidding for next year for BV State if we choose to bid. We'd get 30% of the gate up front and then split 11 ways. Brookings' gate was \$32k this year and grossed \$16k for concessions. We have the opportunity to go to the Bid Board, Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau. Brookings pre-advertised the tournament in different bars/restaurants. Cubby's had free food for the players on their own dime. Whatever the Junior team is getting out of concessions during the game, we should be receiving something from the City. Brookings has 12 workers at a time to ensure it was running smoothly. Expenses for us would be the player/guest hospitality room, coaches' meeting supplies and things for the senior showcase. There would need to be a bid board committee set. Motion made by Adam Lalim to put a bid in for the Boys Varsity tournament for 2025, seconded by Amber Dahl. Motion carried.
- b. **Upcoming Camps / Summer Ice Schedules:** There are opportunities
  - i. **Infinite Edge & Power Camp** (<https://infiniteedgeandpower.com/about-us/>): Coach Valeriia Manchak-Jensen coming June 3-7, 2024 from 8am – 6pm with 5 sessions per day. Coach is willing to work with Mini Mites, Girls, and break out the boys. Goal is to have cost effective pricing for WHA skaters. If we had 2/3 Laker players and open 1/3 to outside skaters, goal

would be netting \$7,500 at a minimum. Coach Valeria expects Watertown coaches to be on the ice to reinforce what she's coaching. She plans to bring a D1 player to coach with her. \$125/player camp fee.

- ii. **Additional Ice Camps with WHA Coaches:** 2 days a week with an hour on the ice from April 2 – May 30. Roughly 18 – 20 hours of ice time. Discussion on appropriate price options per level.
- iii. **Goalie Camp Opportunity:** Cost of a camp is roughly \$9k. A donation was given by Glacial Lakes Payment Systems (Aaron Roberts) in the amount of \$4k to supplement this camp. Motion to secure the goalie camp with \$5,000 earmarked for the camp made by Adam Lalim, seconded by Jeremy Johnson. Motion carried. Further discussion was had on encouraging goalies to goalie and skating camps and supplementing costs either in camp fees or upcoming association fees if they attend all camps. A motion made by Nate Shuller set a *requirement* for goalies that they must attend all three camps to receive a \$500 camp credit. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Johnson. Motion carried.
- iv. **Additional Ice Time Discussion:** Motion made to create a Facility Utilization committee made by Adam Lalim, seconded by Kris Dorneman. Motion carried. Board concluded that committee would consist of Adam Lalim, Adam Sullivan, Todd Randall and Lucas Deutsch. This group will meet with the city soon to discuss additional ice time. Discussion points on the agenda are Stick & Puck, Club Skate, Facilities Usage (Concessions & Scheduling), Costs, Maintenance and Cleaning, Capital Purchases and Marketing (Dasher Boards for 2<sup>nd</sup> Rink).
- v.
- vi. Reminder from Jessie Eidson was that you must have a USA Hockey number to be on the ice and want to rent for the team. Would need a Safesport and Coach certified to be on the ice with players. Reservations must be made 14 days in advance. To get something going, we could have sanctioned and planned open hockey events. The only event not sanctioned was the Alumni game due to the equipment used during the game. For any coaches that want ice time for their teams or levels, who is responsible for paying? Jessie reminded that USA hockey #'s are only valid until June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **WHA Elections:** Amber Dahl (Secretary), Nate Shuller (U12 Development B), Jeremy Johnson (At Large B), Travis Young (League Level B) will be open for applications and voting. Nominations are to be sent to Kristina Suttan (Nominations Chair) by Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Voting rules will be sent out closer to the All Association Meeting. One vote per player in good standing for the board elections.
- d. **Financial Planning for Next Season:** Budget committee (Allison & Karen) plans to meet prior to the next board meeting.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Horn Purchase for Main Rink:** Mark Iverson is bidding an air horn for the rink. The Admiral is a horn that has a deeper sound and is 150 decibels. Black Sheep Manufacturing (Mark Iverson's company) is willing to donate in exchange of some marketing opportunities for the company. Suggested location is above the scoreboard. Adam Lalim made a motion to approve bringing the purchase of the horn to the City of Watertown for approval, seconded by Nate Shuller. Motion carried.
- b. **Security Guidelines:** Will allow SafeSport to handle approvals of volunteers.
- c. **Year-End Banquet:** All Association Meeting: Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Station. Awards will be announced at the All-Association Meeting & Election – no announcements prior to the All-Association Meeting. All league levels will have their own gatherings.
- d. **Pivotal Locker Room Proposal:** Finishing the Varsity lockers was more expensive than what was expected (~\$9k). Total quote to finish Coaches locker room was \$50k. Todd responded to the City that WHA is not in a state to pay for this. The City offered to pay half of the quote to fulfill fire code. Anything WHA purchases for the facility is owned by the City. No action to take.
- e. **Legacy Night Committee:** Tabling for this meeting but will keep on WHA radar. Would like 15-20 for a committee to support this event.

- f. **Coaching Committee Nominations:** Would like to find 2 committee members added to group (Jeff Brink & Travis Bramer going off committee). Amber Dahl made a motion to approve Jeff Brink's nomination to the Coaching Committee, seconded by Adam Lalim. Motion carried.
- g. **Hall of Fame Table Sponsorship:** Amber Dahl made a motion to approve the sponsorship of tables (up to \$2,000 total), seconded by Adam Lalim. Motion carried. Event is April 12<sup>th</sup> in Sioux Falls. Adam Sullivan is being inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame that evening.

#### 4. **OFFICIAL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS-** reports if any information

**Coaching Committee**, Adam Sullivan, Vice President, Lucas Deutsch, Staff: Created Exit Interview questions. Interview times are scheduled. New Coaching Committee will be present during Exit Interviews.

**Dibs/Volunteer Committee**, Sabrina Welder, Chair: No update

- DIBS Restructuring – Discussion for the board was having different positions available and ensuring processes are established, communicated and accountability for open positions.

**Registrar Update**, Jessi Eidson, Chair – As the season begins to wrap up, Randy (state registrar) sent a reminder that any acceptance of a volunteer or board position, needs to be completed with SafeSport training and Background screen within 45 days of acceptance. Adam Sullivan raised question whether we should change our election timing to be closer to September. Goal for the state is to have all needing SafeSport to be completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Work with Jessi on an offer letter with details listed out.

#### 5. **GENERAL COMMITTEES**

**Marketing & Fundraising Committee**, Molly Randall, Chair

- Annual Recognition & Fundraising Event (Laker Legacy Night)
- Dueling Pianos Event – Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Station
  - Jenny Kasuske is selling tables and purchasing silent auction items for sales
- Pricing on Dasher boards isn't yet established. Molly would prefer selling Dashers before any wall space.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> is a tentative date for PLIA Open House for BIN Donators
- Gun Raffle is close to having expenses covered. April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the Rooster

**Nominations Committee**, Kristina Suttin, Chair

- Nominations for WHA Elections open through March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed how many people are needed for committees; Marketing Committee needs 5
- New Family Coordinator Volunteer – Travis Young volunteered himself

**Grow the Game Committee**, Aaron Roberts, Chair

- **Try Hockey for Free Recap:** Great turnout and THANK YOU to all that assisted with equipment. Fun day. We are looking at dates for April to get the same kids back out on the ice again. Will sanction a day for them to come back.

**Equipment Committee**, Lindsey Stricherz, Chair: No update

**IT Committee**, Jeremy Johnson, Chair: No update

#### 6. **STAFF UPDATES**

**Operations Manager**, Lucas Deutsch: Needs to purchase new helmets for the association and some bags.

**Business Manager**, Karen Gromis

#### 7. **FACILITIES – kitchen discussion**

- a. **Old Skate Sharpener:** Old sharpener went to Adam Sullivan at a value of \$250. Adam personally purchased referee nets and sweaters for the WHA. Motion made by Nate Shuller to pay the difference of expenses to Adam Sullivan in the amount of \$150, seconded by Jeremy Johnson. Motion carried.

#### 8. **ASSOCIATION WIDE INFORMATION**

ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

**ADJOURN** – motion made to adjourn by Nate Shuller, seconded by Allison Mathews. Adjourned at 10:08pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00 pm, PLIA