

**Mankato Area Hockey Association
 Monthly Meeting Minutes
 Monday, August 10, 2009 7:00pm
 North Mankato Fire Department
 North Mankato, MN**

Board Members attending: (X = present, E= excused absence)

Jason Westerlund, Pres.	E	Dave Breiter	X	Holli Loe	X
Jeff Nickels, V.P.	X	Darren Bruns	X	Ken Bentson	A
Sue Salzle, Treas.	X	Lynette Cline	X	Chad Lebert	X
Traci Hays, Secretary	X	Shaun Reddy	X	Tresa Lacina	X
Mike Steindl	X	Kirk Swenson	X	Char Rivers	X

Other Members

Jo Nickels, Gambling Mgr.	E				

Meeting Called to Order:

Vice President Jeff Nickels called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Attendance – Guests: Tom Christenson and Derek Chapman

Follow Up Business Addition: Under Preliminary Business for the budget need to add Derek Chapman and Tom Christenson

Review and Approve current agenda

Need to correct the date of the next meeting from September 13th to September 14th.

Motion to approve agenda

M/S/P: Chad/Darren

Review and Approve Minutes of last regular meeting

General discussion covering the minutes. Motion to approve minutes.

M/S/P: Holli/Tresa

Gambling Manager Report and Expense Approval: presented by Chad Lebert

Reviewed the LG1004.

There was transfer from the gambling account to the General Checking account in the amount of \$5000.00.

We made the transfer from Hooligan’s gambling profit in the amount of \$1500.00 to MN State University.

We are watching Bobby Joe’s and WOW Zone for their profitability.

M/S/P: Shaun/Darren

Treasurers Report: - Sue Salzle

- Presented check register/expenditures
- Received 14 checks from Jackie Campbell for home tournament registrations

- The checking account balance is \$12,255.65 plus a deposit of \$1000.00 from Schwan's and a deposit of \$5000.00 from the gambling transfer.

M/S/P:

Fundraising Report: –Char

- April will check into wreath sales to see what our profit would be.
- Working on the 'Beer For A Year' fundraiser. It would run through the gambling side and the numbers would be numbered. Jeff is working with Tow Distributing to get donations.
- Looking at September 24th for the MAHA night at Rounder's event. We would need to solicit some silent auction items for this event. It will be an event for the whole family.

M/S/P:

Expansion and Growth: Kirk Swenson and Darren Bruns

- Kirk and Darren met with Pat Hentges at the City of Mankato and it was determined that it would be beneficial for MAHA to have a representative from the Association present at the October Mankato City Council Meeting. The City is talking about putting a temporary bubble in place. Kirk is trying to set up a time to visit with Mark Knoeff from the City.
- Currently there is \$150,000.00 in the City's general fund plus \$100,000 in donations available and slotted for hockey in the Mankato area. The City recently took over a property with a garage and they are moving the garage to an area by East High School and we could possibly use that as a warming house/storage.
- Kirk and Darren will meet with Bernie Faschnacht and Mark Knoeff before the October City Council meeting.
- The Mankato Jaycees may also have some funds available to donate. Possibly \$30,000.00.
- Need to follow up at the September Board meeting to make sure that we have a MAHA representative present at the October meeting.
- The City of Mankato is giving ASA 2 million dollars to update their facility for Women's Hockey.
- Talked about ice costs and we pay the same amount per hour of ice at ASA as we do at the Alltel Center.
- The Anthony Ford Foundation is working towards fundraising for another sheet of ice. We would like to have rights to that ice.

Sponsorships – Traci Hays

- We will contact the Mankato Clinic to see if they are interested in a sponsorship
- We also need to contact Schwickert's to see if they would like to sponsor
- Erbert's and Gerbert's is a sponsor
- Mike Steindl has made personal visits to a lot of businesses that we have obtained sponsorships from.
- Several sponsors were listed and they will be added to the Sponsorship master list.

Operations Committee: nothing to report

Registrar Report – Holli Loe

No report presented

Communications: – Dave Breiter

- Changes to the website have been made
- Each of us has an e-mail through the hockey association. Dave will look into this to see what our e-mail addresses are.
- Dave will get Holli a hotmail e-mail address for the website.

Follow Up -Handbook:

Went through the Handbook at the E-Board meeting and marked the necessary changes that need to be made. These changes will be made and submitted to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for approval. The HOC has some sections that will need to be updated as well. We will not be making printed copies but it will be posted on the website.

Follow Up – By-Laws:

Section 2.3 Election of Directors should be changed to 13 directors.

Section of Article V – Annual Membership change to meeting will be posted on the website versus printed in the newspaper.

Section 6.3 Duties and Standards anywhere it reflects Hockey Operations Manager it should be changed to “Hockey Operations Chair”.

Article VI – Grievance Committee

Last Page

Please bring a copy of the By Laws to the next meeting so we can discuss and approve the changes.

Traci Hays will bring 9 Board Member books for the new members of the Board.

Preliminary Budget:

- The E-Board will meet and bring in a proposal in September. We will vote in September regarding registration costs.

Registration Fees for the 2009/2010 Season:

Level 1 - \$140.00 which is an increase of \$10.00 from last season

Level 2 - \$140.00 which is an increase of \$10.00 from last season

Level 3 - \$170.00 which is an increase of \$10.00 from last season

Level 4 - \$170.00 which is an increase of \$10.00 from last season

Squirts - \$485.00 which is an increase of \$20.00 from last season

U10 - \$485.00 which is an increase of \$20.00 from last season

PeeWee - \$650.00 which is an increase of \$20.00 from last season

U12 - \$650.00 which is an increase of \$20.00 from last season

Bantam - \$720.00 which is an increase of \$20.00 from last season

U14 - \$720.00 which is an increase of \$20.00 from last season

M/S/P: Holli/Shawn

** We are doing a gradual increase to help absorb the increase in ice Costs**

After increasing rates we are still \$24,000.00 in the negative in relation to balancing our Association’s budget. The budget proposal included a lot of projections based on last year’s numbers. We have approximately 314

players in the Association. Tom Christianson talked and raised the question if we need to start skating sooner? Should families have to pay for Fall Hockey? They are hoping that Fall Hockey can start the day after registration.

Some sponsorships that have come in have been ear marked for equipment which will help to offset that section of the budget.

We currently have funds in our checking account that are for Scholarships from the Goals for Kids and Kato Engineering. When Al Rheome asks for those dollars Sue will need to cut him a check.

Our ice costs may be the key to balancing our budget. Are we going to skate at the Alltel Center? Is it more cost effective for us to go to New Ulm? Should we use Alltel as a last resort?

Sue will send out a final revised proposal of the budget and we will review as a Board to see how to balance the budget.

Tom Christensen will assist Holli Loe with questions at registration regarding the move up policy.

Derek Chapman – Intern:

- Derek will work with Tom Christenson and Jeff in regards to Marketing of MAHA. Anyone who would like to have Derek assist them with something should go through Jeff or Tom.
- He will be working with schools to promote hockey.
- Would like to put a program together so MSU athletes can go into the schools and read with kids and then go into their gym class and play games.
- Derek will work with Shane Bowyer at the SI, attend Board meetings, attend HOC meetings and help with Tournament Committee as needed.
- He is from Burnsville and will be graduating in the Spring of 2010 with a degree in Sports Management. He played hockey in high school. He will also work with the Stag and Tom will have some projects for him.

Tom Christianson – HOC Chair:

- District 4 President and Mark Jacobs is the District 4 Representative
- Talked about the Residency Rule that recently passes, where you go to High School is where you play.
- When we have a team that goes to a State Tournament they will now have to pay \$400.00 as an entry fee which is different from past years. This will need to be updated in the Handbook
- There will no longer be banquets before State Tournaments.
- During Regional and State Tournaments representative from the District will go around and watch games. They have also fielded a lot of questions last year around the fact that if you lose 1 game and be done brackets.
- These concerns need to be shared with the President of District 4.
- District tournaments will now be 16 team round robins versus bracketed.
- Fee for Districts went up to \$475.00.
- District 4 patches need to be on all jerseys for PeeWee, U12, Bantams and U14.
- Each Association will be billed \$100.00 for automated arbitrator system.
- Brett Jordan and Amy Jordan will be on this system to schedule referees.

- Ejected coaches will get a \$100.00 fine that the Association will have to pay. District 4 had a lot of fighting penalties last year and players were out for 3 games. District referees can add additional games if needed.
- There is currently no rule as far as being stricter regarding checking from behind.
- Have seen players kicking other players and they have been suspended for 15 games, needs to go to a hearing.
- Tuesday, September 15th is the Tournament Director Meeting at ASA at 7:00pm. Traci Hays will attend this on behalf of the Association. Tom Christenson may also be present.
- The HOC held a meeting on August 9th. The committee is as follows:

Tom Christianson – Chair
 Darren Blue – MSU Men’s Hockey
 Brady Peters – experienced hockey individual
 Shaun Reddy – pulse on hockey in the past in the Association
 Eric Means – MSU Women’s Hockey
 Chris Hvinden – Mite/Mini-Mite Coordinator
 Curtis Doell – West High School Boys Hockey Coach
 Aaron Anderson – East High School Boys Hockey Coach
 Cara Samuelson – West High School Girl’s Hockey Coach
 Nate Fuller – East High School Girl’s Hockey Coach

Tom foresees that once the season is up and running they will all be involved. Tom likes to have a lot of mini group meeting and work off of an agenda. It is good when the group is able to make a decision. They have had meetings involving Try Outs, Fall Hockey, Levels 1 through 5 and the U10 girl’s team. Various individuals have been involved in these meeting such as Chris Hvinden, Darren Blue, Ken Essay and Tom.

They have an established and written out a good program for the in-house. Dan Devenport had written a placement report and this has been given to Tom. HOC is satisfied with the current move-up policy that is in the Handbook.

The U14’s had a meeting with some parents from New Ulm – Ruthann Kragh and Kerry Snelson facilitated the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to see if some parents thought it would be possible to form a coop with Mankato and New Ulm. If we get a U14 team together we will have about 8 girls that will be able to remain in the Association. It would be better to form a U14A team so they would have better competition. We have a good chance to have 4 U14 teams in our district. In order to make this happen we will need to have some U12’s try out to move up. They will register at their age level and then submit a letter of intent to try out for a higher level. At registration they will be flagged as far as wanting to move up. There is a U10 girl that would like to play with the boys as a squirt. The HOC would like to protect the girl’s side of the program. HOC will write the rule if any girl wants to go to play on the boys side they need to make the top “A” team. If they do not make the top “A” team they will be able to try out for U12’s but need to be in the top of the group. Last year there was a girl that moved to play PeeWee B. If there is no team on the girl’s side she can play on boys. If a team is available on girl’s side they should try out for the girl’s side versus playing on a “B” team for the boys. One tidbit that was shared is that every girl that has been recruited for the MSU Women’s team had/has played with boys at one point in their career.

Question was asked “Will there be a level 5”?

There is a proposal to have a Squirt A, Squirt B and start an in-house Squirt league. There is no “C” hockey at the Squirt level. We would like to have 4 in-house teams. They would start with 6 to 8 on a team and skate together for about a month. After about a month they would be split.

Will we need to adjust the cost? We will save funds on referees etc. We will keep the fee the same amount as they will still get the same amount of ice time as the other Squirt teams. Hopefully they will be able to bring in some new kids at the Squirt level since these teams do not travel. We will adjust cost accordingly as we know more. We will certify these teams as “C” teams so they can go and play some games with some other associations after the first of the year. We would possibly set up a home to home series with Albert Lea. A lot of times the numbers dictate the size of the teams.

Bantam C – Last year they had a lot of trouble finding games. Peewee’s going A, B, B1 and C. Tom talked with District 8 to see if we can get some support which will get us more games.

For future we will work on more inter league play. Tom will confirm when interleague roster verification will be. He will let Holli know. A lot of associations are doing on-line registration with USA Hockey. Squirt and up need to be registered.

Fall Bantam Camp: Kids need to be registered with USA Hockey when they come in.

This will be a learning year for everyone.

Registration:

Friday, September 11th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday, September 12th from 9:00am to noon

Registration will be held at the Sports Institute.

Apparel will be outside along with Scholarships, Fundraising, and Equipment. Angie’s Kettle Corn will donate popcorn bags for registration along with Erbert’s and Gerbert’s for subs. We were able to get pop donated from Pepsi.

Al Rheome will be there for Scholarships. Anyone in need of a Scholarship will need to set something up with Al. All fees should be paid in full by December. Anyone needing special payment arrangements needs to talk to Sue.

Maverick Games:

MAHA has been in contact with Tim Marshall and Mr. Powike from MSU regarding the December 18th Maverick game at 7:37pm against Omaha. MSU will give team managers tickets for players to get in for free. Families will be able to get a group rate as well.

We will be setting up a table with autographed Maverick clothing etc. and people can register to win these items. MAHA players will be able to wear their jerseys that night to the game. Derek will also try to organize the Little Chipper program for this game. He will work with Chris Hvinden on this project.

Advertising for Registration:

We will advertise in the Free Press, Home Magazine and we were able to get some in kind radio spots for Radio Mankato. Thank you to Mike Steindl for arranging this.

Darren Bruns will be in charge of placing the ads in the paper and for doing the radio spots. He will also get the information to Dave Breiter for the website.

Char will also put registration information in the glass cases at ASA.

Association Photos:

Tresa Lacina has some inquiries as to how do we decide who does our team photos for the Association. We currently go with Sports Pix but we will always accept a bid.

General Statement:

We are a group and we support all decisions that are made even if we do not always agree.

Tom and the HOC committee need our support as well. If there are some issues anyone has we can direct them to the HOC to field.

Follow-up Business:

- Handbook (table until September)
- By Laws (table until September)

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- Handbook Changes
- By Laws
- Preliminary Budget discussion
- MAHA Night at Rounder's
- Board Member Stipends (Sue Salzle)
- Registration Re-Cap

Next Regular Meeting

Monday, September 14th

Location NMFD at 7:00pm

Adjournment: 9:55pm

Motion to adjourn

M/S/P: Shaun/Tresa