

UVHA Board Meeting Minutes



March 10, 2015 ~ 5:30 PM

Kinney Pike Insurance, White River Junction, Vermont

1. **Attendance:** Crystal Simmons, Becky Dexter, Kylie Ammel, Sarah Morlock, Sandra Bailey, Matt Maher, Justin Barwood, Bill Mann, Kelly Park, Jason Spaulding, Alex DeFelice, Bill Mason, Bob Miller, Mark Cromwell
2. **Meeting called to order:** 5:21 PM
 - a. January 21st meeting minutes were approved (motioned by Justin, seconded by Bill Mann).
3. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. **Fundraising Report**-Sarah reported that the UVHA is just \$1,618.86 short of its annual fundraising goal. With the upcoming Skate-a-thon and Bantam Tourney concession fundraising, we are likely to exceed the \$30,000 goal.
 - i. **Skate-a-thon:** The Fundraising Committee is ready for Friday night's event. To date, 98 players and their families have responded that they plan to attend. Preparations have been made for food, entertainment and prizes. Sarah pointed out that, for safety's sake, coaches will need to take turns monitoring the ice.
 - ii. **Bantam Tournament:** Kristen Chapman has organized this weekend's concession sale. Association members have volunteered to donate goods and man concession. She has shared that she is close to having all that is needed for both Saturday and Sunday.
 - iii. **Pot-of-Gold:** Scott Hausler reached out to Sarah via email to inquire as to whether or not the UVHA was manning concession for the Pot-of-Gold Tournament, March 21st and 22nd. After brief discussion, it was decided that because a majority of teams will be away for the weekend in Hooksett for their own tournaments, there would not be enough members available to organize and run concession. The Town has accommodated the UVHA's request to maintain concession for our own events. In an effort to

be accommodating in return, Sarah will contact Scott and offer to assist in finding coverage for this event.

- b. **Scheduler's Report**-Bill shared that, after last week's few adjustments and additions, scheduling is now done for the season.
- c. **Webmaster's Report**-Kelly has the UVHA's PayPal account up and running. He suggested that it could be used for future fundraising ventures and for registration. Matt informed the group that at the most recent New Hampshire State meeting, it was announced that there would be an April 4th meeting to discuss the future of SportNgin. For many associations, there have been ongoing issues with data migration. SportNgin has not met the terms of its agreement with the State and it is likely that NH will consequently leave SportNgin for another provider. This is something to keep in mind when looking ahead to next season as it would complicate the registration process yet again.
- d. **Coaching Coordinator**-There will be June 20th and 21st Level 4 coaching clinics in Concord. Alex expressed concern with issues that arose from having background checks completed in both Vermont and New Hampshire. It was difficult to verify that a coach had in fact had his/her check completed in the other State. To avoid further confusion, he suggested that, next season, all coaches, volunteers, etc. have their background checks completed in one State. He also recommended that it be mandatory that all head coaches of travel teams attend the season start coach's meeting. This would ensure that everyone is on the same page and that everyone gets all of the information they need at the beginning of the season. Finally, he reported that the Bantam Invitational Tournament is now officially USA Hockey sanctioned, after paying a \$50 fee and filing the appropriate paperwork.
- e. **Equipment Manager**-The Board concurred that a committee needs to be formed to determine the quality of the jerseys as they are returned, rather than the responsibility being on the shoulders of one individual. A day or two will need to be designated for jersey drop off, following Hooksett and Sectionals. Bill brought up the need for the Board to be planning for the purchase of jerseys for next season.
- f. **Treasurer's Report**-Ryan was unable to be present. He provided a report for the Board's review. Justin shared highlights from the budget report, including that the UVHA had finally received a bill from Cardigan for our ice rental at the start of the season (at a rate of \$185 an hour). Given the fundraising goal is met, it appears as though the UVHA will be "in the black."
- g. **Registrar's Report**-Kylie shared that only a couple of delinquent accounts remain. It is her understanding that the UVHA will draw scholarship funds for Hartford residents from the HYHA account. The Try Hockey event brought in 26 prospective players. USA Hockey sent the UVHA 40 free jerseys and sticks for participants. Kylie and Sarah reported that this event was an overall success and Kylie is planning to enroll the UVHA in USA Hockey's 2-and-2 Challenge, a growth initiative that will provide the association with free equipment, given we

meet the program parameters. One requirement of this Challenge is to distribute and collect a season-end survey. Kylie will create this survey, utilizing Google Surveys.

1. **New Business:**

- a. **Storm Midget Team-**Todd Bebeau attended the meeting to discuss prospects for a UVHA Midget team. Todd thanked the Board for the work they've done in recent years, noting program growth. As a feeder association for his Varsity team, the UVHA's success has been beneficial to Hartford Hockey. With this growth, however, Todd confessed there are new challenges. He's recently had difficult conversations with Bantam parents whose players are not likely to have a spot on his Varsity team next season. A Midget team would be another option for play for those not given a position on his Varsity team. And, because the Vermont Principals Association now allows players to double roster, a Midget program could give those Varsity players rostered but not getting ice time an opportunity for game play. Unfortunately, there are very few area associations with Midget programs for the UVHA to model after. Precision Valley Hockey does currently have a team. Kearsarge, Hanover and Lebanon are supposedly also interested in the development of Midget programs. Midget level play is often referred to as "goon" hockey. To avoid becoming a program with such a reputation, Todd made the case for strong coaching and careful planning. While Todd supports a Midget program and stated that it would be advantageous to his Varsity program, it would need to be a UVHA venture. The High School would not be involved financially nor from a coaching standpoint. His vision is that double-rostered Hartford players would practice with the Varsity team, but play games with the Storm Midgets. Bill pointed out that for this to even be a viable option, we would need enough core kids to fill out the roster in order to run a practice and cover ice costs. Todd and the Board agreed that this would need to be a true collaborative between local associations. In closing, Todd reiterated that he was "thrilled with UVHA's progress" and that he would be happy to do some fact-finding for the Board and report those findings at the next meeting.
- i. **Questions Raised:** What level certification is required of Midget coaches? Are Junior Varsity teams allowed to play Midget teams? Who do the few area Midget teams play?
 - ii. **Action Items:** Todd will contact PVA to have some of these initial questions answered. He'll also contact the Kearsarge, Lebanon and Hanover associations to get a sense of interest. Bill will look into whether or not Vermont has a Midget VP and Matt will talk to NH in regards to this as well. The association will also put out a "feeler" with the Hartford and Lebanon recreation departments in order to gauge public interest. Todd will attend the April 15th meeting and share what he has learned.

b. **Tournaments-**

- i. Bantam Proposal-The Bantam coaches and tournament coordinator presented the Board with a proposal which outlined the Bantam Tournament costs and revenue and the request that the UVHA pay for the Bantam team's entry fee. This proposal was put forth after parents voiced concern with the overall costs they would incur in hosting this tournament. Alex and Matt recently discussed the Bylaws, which clearly state that the association is responsible for our own team's entry fees when hosting a tournament. In the future, entry fees for other teams will be established to absorb our team's entry expense. This being agreed, Justin motioned to accept the Bantam proposal requesting that the UVHA pay for the Bantam team's tournament entry fee. Kelly seconded this motion. Bill abstained himself from voting as tournament coordinator. All voted in favor. Kylie requested that Bill, based on current experiences as tourney coordinator, create a document outlining procedure and considerations for future tournament hosting.
 - ii. Squirt 1 Tournament Concern-As Team Parent for the Squirt 2 team, Crystal Simmons had recently brought to Matt's attention some discord over the Executive Board's decision to pay for sectionals for the Squirt 1 team. Some parents were upset that the Board agreed to cover an additional tournament for this team when Squirt 2 parents were asked to cover the cost of the Hooksett tournament themselves. Matt had previously shared with Crystal the reasoning for the Board's decision. As Sectionals are not, in fact, an optional tournament, and, furthermore, the association would be fined and prohibited from participation in future State tournaments if not in attendance, the Executive Board voted unanimously to cover this expense to ensure participation. All present agreed that this was the correct course of action. However, some issue was taken with voting being limited to the Executive Board via email and outside of a monthly Board meeting. Matt referred to the Bylaws, stating that the Executive Board was acting within its authority to do so.
- c. **Pre-registration**-Kelly will create a Google survey asking parents to share their intentions for registration next season. This information will be valuable in doing some preliminary decision making regarding the number of teams and subsequent ice needs. This will in turn help to structure pricing prior to pre-registration going live. It was decided that this survey should be sent out as soon as possible and completed prior to April 1st. Although not official pre-registration, survey responses will "hold" spots for UVHA players before being opened up to players outside of the association.
- i. Registration Intent Survey: The Board determined that this survey should ask for a player's name, date of birth, current season's level of play, intended level of play, current association, parent(s) name(s), email addresses, and phone numbers.

- d. **Team Planning**-Justin shared projected numbers for next season based on the association's existing players. The Mite program will have around 41 kids between the Travel, House, and Termite programs. It was again recognized that these strong Mite numbers are an indication of the association's overall growth and health. Justin estimates 20 Squirt level players. Peewees are projected at 30, Bantams at 13. Given these estimates, the association should be actively recruiting Squirt players to field two teams and also coaches. Sandy Bailey voiced a concern that to keep a competitive team at the Bantam and Peewee levels, the association should consider a three day a week practice schedule.
- e. **Championship Banner**-Matt shared a photo of the two championship banners mocked up beside the UVHA's home rink banner. Option one is approximately 2'x 3' and option two is approximately 3'x 5'. Bill made a motion to purchase the smaller of the two banners, Justin seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the smaller banner. Kristen suggested that the Board consider the value in having banners made for teams placing both first and second, arguing it shows the association's competitiveness. Kelly motioned to consider purchasing and hanging runner-up banners in States and Sectional Tournaments. The motion was tabled until members of the Board are able to consider this further and examine the banners at other association rinks. This will be put to vote at a future meeting.
- f. **Girls Hockey**-Twin Valley has had a U12 Girls House team practicing twice a week, playing weekend games. They've also maintained a Girls Development program. Thus far, girls have been dual rostered. Twin Valley would like the UVHA to consider jointly fielding three teams, a U13 Vermont team, a U12 House team with a dual roster option, and a Girls Development program, largely consisting of U10 kids. There are not yet UVHA girls' numbers to support Twin Valley's needs. However, it was agreed that there should be continued discussion with other associations regarding the growth of girls programming.
- g. **Annual Meeting**-The annual meeting will be April 15th. Any proposed Bylaw changes need to be submitted to the Secretary, Sarah Morlock, in writing by the first of April.

2. **Meeting Adjourned: 8:46 PM**