

**Soo Michigan Hockey Association
Monday March 18, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Big Bear Hospitality Room**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by president, Joe Esson
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Cheyenne Holappa, Heather Klever, Joe Esson, Renee Labadie, Tim Labadie, Matt Parker, Damon Whitten
Motion made by Tim, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.

Dennis Eby and Shaun Schummer emailed the board about their absence tonight.

3. **Approval of agenda:** ***Motion made by Matt, seconded by Tim. Motion approved.***
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from February 26, 2024:**
Motion made by Damon, seconded by Matt. Motion approved.

5. **Director Reports**

- a. **President** – Joe mentioned that he would like to see the Soo Elk’s Squirt team keep their jerseys this season for winning the State Championship this season. He feels that those kids worked hard, and they deserve to keep them as a keepsake for winning.
Motion made by Damon, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.

Joe also said that he received a total of 11 emails with regards to having a Bantam A team for the 2024-25 hockey season. Joe stated that ten emails were in favor of having a Bantam A team and one email was against it and that email was from a nonmember of SMHA.

- b. **Vice President** – Renee mentioned she has gotten one rental equipment returned. She has had parents requesting to keep it for their player for spring league and another player that wishes to keep it throughout the summer.

Renee has also gotten a couple of quotes for new jerseys, and depending on styles the prices can range from \$36.00 and \$50.00 per jersey. She’s been working with Ryan at the LSSU Pro Shop and will continue to look around.

Renee ordered the banners for all NIHL divisions champs. The cost of the banners is covered through NIHL.

- c. **Treasurer** – Cheyenne sent an email to George Atkinson on March 14 regarding closing out the Cabin Fever Tournament, and she has not heard back from him. Matt Parker recommended that a time sensitive follow up email be send again.

Cheyenne received at “thank you” card and a check for \$250 from Bridgett Sorenson, St. Ignace Events Manager thanking the SMHA board for the use of our rink dividers.

Cheyenne mentioned that we are still in need of an accountant for the SMHA board. Joe did reach out to someone to see if they were interested in the position and unfortunately, they weren't. Therefore, Cheyenne will reach out to Chuck Leonhart and get a job description of what he does, and we will get it posted as soon as possible.

- d. **Secretary** – Heather gave an update with scheduled banquets, still waiting to hear back from Peewee AA and Midgets.
 - e. **Coaching Director** – Damon received coaching applications for the following divisions: Squirt, Bantam and JV. He didn't receive any applications for Peewee. They will repost for that division to see if anyone is interested in submitting an application. Damon would like to schedule interviews within the next two weeks. The deadline for selection of coaches is May 10, 2024.
 - f. **Travel Director** – Absent
 - g. **Tournament Director** – Vacant
 - h. **Bantam/Midget Director** – Matt would like to have clear communication as to who can/can't be on the bench. He refereed a game a few weeks ago and there was some discrepancy when it came to a coach being on the bench. He feels that this should not even be something that a ref should be dealing with in March.
 - i. **Squirt/Peewee Director** – Tim would like to see extra ice time available for girls within the association. After the girls' team played in the Katie Robinson tournament, there was such a positive reaction from the girls playing together and he thinks it would be a great idea to do once or twice a month.
 - j. **HIP/Mite Director** - Absent
 - k. **Ice Scheduler** - Cheyenne had nothing to report since the season has ended.
 - l. **Registrar** – n/a
6. **Old Business** –
- a. **Trophy Case** – There is nothing to update as of today. Tim is waiting for an invoice for the glass from Rick Mackie.
 - b. **Bantam A Travel Team - *Motion made by Matt that there will be a Bantam A team for the 2024-25 season, seconded by Renee.***
Cheyenne – yes Heather – yes Renee – yes Tim – yes
Damon – yes Matt – yes Motion approved.
 - c. **Midget/JV Team** – There are 35 players that will be eligible to play at the Midget/JV level. Hockey associations around the state are phasing out of Midget B & BB programs and are going with JV. Joe has contacted MAHA reps and there are JV divisions in the league, which can play in districts and state tournaments. Joe mentioned that he has been put in for the JV coaching position and if awarded he plans on taking a full roster of 20 players and holding tryouts. This division in that

past used to take the first 20 players that registered, and this team will be considered a travel team.

Motion made by Matt that there will be a JV team for the 2024-25 season, seconded by Heather.

Cheyenne – yes Heather – yes Renee – yes Tim – yes
Damon – yes Matt – yes Motion approved.

d. Tournament Director - Motion made by Cheyenne that Ken Talsma be elected in for the SMHA Tournament Director, seconded by Tim.

Cheyenne – yes Heather – no Renee – yes Tim – yes
Damon – yes Matt – no Motion approved.

e. Communication Coordinator – This is a position that Rob Horn said he would be interested in filling. Motion made by Matt that we accept Rob Horn as a member of the SMHA, seconded by Heather.

Cheyenne – no Heather – yes Renee – yes Tim – yes
Damon – yes Matt – yes Motion approved.

Motion made by Matt that Rob Horn be elected in for the SMHA Communication Coordinator, seconded by Damon.

Cheyenne – no Heather – yes Renee – yes Tim – yes
Damon – yes Matt – yes Motion approved.

Motion made by Damon that the Communication Coordinator be a voting position on the SMHA board season, seconded by Matt. *this is a bylaw change and it was written in letter form by President Joe Esson requesting a change in the bylaw. This was read in front of the board and audience.

7. New Business –

- a. MAHA Representative –** Clarification: Mark Kavanaugh is a District 7 Representative for MAHA, that position has nothing to do with the SMHA Board and is a position that is voted in by MAHA. Joe Esson is the SMHA representative for MAHA.
- b.** Matt was asking for clarification as to Cheyenne holding 2 positions and one being a voting position and the other being a non-voting position. The treasurer is a voting position, whereas the ice scheduler is a non-voting.

Public Comment:

Andrei Sawruk wanted to know if there was anyway the board could go through USA hockey or MAHA to see about getting a waiver signed to have Canadians allowed to come over here and play. He volunteered to help get this process going.

Matt Parker commented that he would like to see something put on the agenda to have something in writing, possibly a policy as to why they are not allowed to come over.

Jeff Killips wanted to know if MAHA gets money from associations that host district or state tournaments. He heard that Howell, Michigan donates back the money to MAHA for what they get hosting district and/or state tournaments.

Jason Payment would love to see our association put in for hosting districts/states.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm. Next meeting scheduled for Monday April 29, 2024 @ 6:00 pm at the Big Bear.

Minutes taken, typed, and submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Klever', written in a cursive style.

Heather Klever, SMHA Secretary