

UPPER ST. CLAIR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**Board Meeting—March 14, 2017 (at Ice Castle)**

**Board Members Present**

David Finn  
Brad Sileo  
Frank Buonomo  
Holly Perella  
Prashant Gosai  
Laurie Petito  
Pete Gialames  
Tara O'Brien  
Ed Gaussa  
Michelle Fisher  
Mike Daley  
Jesse Sweet

**Board Members**

**Absent**

Anne Marie Kopach

**Additional**

**Attendees**

Pam Giacobbe

The Board Meeting was called to order by President David Finn at approximately 7:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Board's February 22, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Pete Gialames presented the Treasurer's Report.
- Pete presented a recommendation that the Board move the USC Hockey Association checking account from PNC Bank to First Commonwealth Bank in order to reduce banking costs. Frank Buonomo made a motion to accept the recommendation. Ed Gaussa seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Pete stated that it appears likely that the account will show a positive balance at the end of the season in an amount around \$35,000.
- The Board discussed ways to reduce the surplus.
- Discussion was held regarding issuing refunds to graduating senior families, and issuing credits to underclassmen families.
- A motion was made to provide for the following scenario: Credits for the 2017-18 season will be provided to returning families of players who played during the 2016-17 season, and checks will be issued to families of graduating seniors from the 2016-17 season in the following amounts:

- Varsity skater: \$260
- JV skater: \$200
- Middle School skater: \$130
- Varsity goalie: \$130
- JV goalie: \$100
- Middle School goalie: \$50

For those returning players receiving credits for 2017-18, the credit will be applied to the final payment due for the 2017-18 season.

For those players new to Middle School, JV or Varsity in 2017-18, no credits will be provided.

The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of the Board.

### **2017-18 Tryouts and Fees**

- Discussion was held regarding tryouts and fees for next season.
- It was agreed that total fees charged to families for 2017-18 will be the same as 2016-17.
- It was agreed that the tryout fee for all players would be reduced from \$300 to \$150.
- It was agreed that the commitment fees will be: \$500 for Varsity, \$500 for JV and \$300 for Middle School.
- It was agreed that remaining fees, including amounts that were formerly a portion of the tryout fee and/or commitment fee, will be billed to families via installments.

### **2017-18 Middle School Coaches**

- Discussion was held regarding coaches for the Middle School teams for the 2017-18 season.
- The Board anticipates enough players for two teams.
- Neither head coach from 2016-17 wishes to return for 2017-18.
- Frank Buonomo reported that several parents with coaching experience and with middle school aged players have agreed to coach during the 2017-18 season. These coaches are:
  - Ed Gaussa
  - Glenn Siniawski
  - Tom Schuster
  - John McShane
  - Kevin McNally
  - Seth Kilzer

### **2017-18 High School Program Changes**

- Frank Buonomo presented to the Board a list of recommended improvements to the high school program (affecting both Varsity and JV) to start with the 2017-18 season.
- Recommendations included the purchase of a storage locker to be located at Ice Castle. The storage locker would be stocked with various items including: practice jerseys, pucks,

pinnies, shooter tutors, water bottles and first aid supplies. Total cost estimate: About \$4,200.

- Recommendations further included adding a strength and conditioning component to the high school program. Such component would include retaining a trainer on-site at Ice Castle Fitness and requiring all players to attend off-ice strength and conditioning at Ice Castle Fitness in conjunction with practices. Costs for this recommendation are estimated at: Approximately \$3,000 for the trainer and approximately \$7,000 for player access to Ice Castle Fitness (based on a rate of \$25 per player per month).
- The Board agreed that the recommended changes could be implemented for the 2017-18 season. Regarding funding the changes, Dave Finn offered to head up a fundraising effort, along with Frank Buonomo and possibly Bill Goodman.

### **Proposed Changes to the Bylaws**

- Discussion was held regarding proposed changes to the Bylaws.
- Preliminary discussion was held regarding increasing the length of certain Board terms and staggering the elections of certain Board terms. Discussion on this matter was tabled until it can be taken up by the Board and studied fully during the 2017-18 season.
- Pete Gialames shared with the Board recommended Bylaws changes from USA Hockey. A motion was made to recommend that these changes be accepted. The motion was seconded and it passed. The recommendations will now be presented to the General Membership at the Annual Meeting on April 3, 2017. The General Membership will vote to accept or reject the changes to the Bylaws. The recommended changes will be shared with the General Membership both in advance of and at the Annual Meeting.

### **Varsity Coaching**

- Discussion was held regarding the Varsity coaching staff for 2017-18.
- Head Coach Ray Conway's agreement expires at the end of the 2016-17 season.
- Frank Buonomo met with Coach Conway and discussed various issues with the Varsity team, as well as the organization's plans to improve the overall culture of the program.
- Frank discussed other potential coaches who might be interested in the Varsity job, as well as potential assistant coaches.
- Discussion was held regarding Dave Andrews, the current JV coach, possibly serving as an assistant on the Varsity team to focus on goaltending.
- Mike Daley made a motion that the Board offer to extend Coach Conway's agreement for one year (the 2017-18 season) with a Board option to extend the agreement for a second season (2018-19). Pete seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3, with two abstentions.
- Frank stated that he would inform Coach Conway of the Board's vote.
- Jesse Sweet agreed to review Coach Conway's existing agreement and to draft recommended changes to reflect the term of one year with an option for a second year.
- No decisions were made on coaching for the JV team.

**The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on April 3, 2017 at Boyce Middle School. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on a date and at a location to be determined.**

Meeting concluded at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jesse Sweet, Secretary