

Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting

March 1, 2017 - 6:30pm – Conference Room – 5000 S. Minnesota Ave

President John Sievert called the Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting to order.

Board members in attendance were:

Bryan Kouri (Past President), Mindy Hansen (Tournament Dir.), Brian Schumacher (City League Dir.), Bryce Pattison (Development Dir.), Todd Ramsey (Travel League Dir.), Kyle Hanisch (Treas.) and Matt Althoff (Sec.). Matt George (V.P.) was excused. Thus, a quorum was present.

Also attending were Wendy McDonnell (Dir of Operations), Dan Houck (Dir of Hockey), and Cherry Hunter (Exec. Asst).

Open Forum

Parents from the West Bantam Blue team came to meeting to make grievance over what they perceived to be unsportsmanlike conduct by East Bantam Blue players during the state tournament held the weekend before. Perceived bias against the West team was cited by West parents and attributed to the positions of authority, namely the Bantam League Manager and two SFYHA Board members, who have players on the East team. Frustration over there not being adequate orange/TJ jerseys available for the West team to wear during the championship game played the Sunday before contributed to the hard feelings felt by West parents who were present.

Alternative viewpoints were offered on the instances cited. With regards to the practice schedule, it was pointed out that the Board was responding to feedback consistently heard from the Association in its implementation this year of a static practice schedule. It was not an anti-West conspiracy as was alleged. With regards to the use of the TJ Rensch jerseys, it was pointed out that Board policy established to guide their use, which explicitly requires pre-tournament request and board approval, had been violated via the manner by which they were availed to the West team. With regards to alleged gestures made by East players, the West parents were assured the individuals accused would be addressed by parents and coaches.

Collectively, board members and parents alike identified the need for the SFYHA to make policies that establish expectations for conduct and guide use of SFYHA resources better known among the association's membership.

Treasurers Report – A mid-term (Jan 18, 2017) statement of financial position was reviewed. After discussion and a motion by Ramsey (seconded by Sievert), the report was adopted on a 6-1 vote (Kouri the lone dissent).

McDonnell shared that efforts to become familiar with the reporting capabilities of the recently-adopted accounting software so as to present expenses and revenues against budget as part of the monthly treasurer's report are continuing.

Travel League Report – Ramsey reported from the most recent advisory council meeting that discussion focused on identifying successors to the current League Managers. A majority of the League Managers will be new to the role next season because of attrition.

Preliminary discussion around team allotments and projected registrations was held. Multiple models were proposed orally as concepts for board members to consider. Variables and critical considerations that would need be taken into account were identified. Included among many variables is the possibility of the elimination of a SDAHA-mandated geo-split of leagues within the SFYHA. The finite inventory of available ice time was also a critical consideration.

The need for earlier registration (coupled with the possibility of progress-billing as a way to assist parents with the financial investment that it requires) was identified as a probable component to arriving at a solution for the upcoming '17-'18 season.

City League Report – Schumacher presented to the Board a proposal for bringing new uniforms to the Older City League. Design was reviewed and a pricing mechanism also considered. The model of the high school league, where athletes are expected to purchase the jersey and allowed to keep it at the conclusion of their participation with the SFYHA would serve as the funding mechanism. Feedback was given on the jersey design to ensure that the Flyers logo was consistent with SFYHA norms. After discussion, Kouri seconded Schumacher's motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor to authorize the proposal's implementation for the '17-'18 season.

Development Report – Pattison reported that updates in this area would be covered in the Director of Operations report.

Tournaments Report – Hansen reported on the last remaining SFYHA-hosted tournament of the season, the Varsity Girls SDAHA tournament. Extraordinary efforts had been put forth by the organizing committee and a particular focus paid to the opening ceremonies to be held on Saturday, March 4. A talent/production company was enlisted to produce the event. Significant revenues from program ad sales had been raised to pay for the additional production costs. The committee's remarkable efforts were commended.

The Director was instructed by the Board to ensure the committee's understanding that net revenues are due to the SFYHA. If realized, the Board will discuss how best to allocate the revenues for future use.

Director of Hockey Report – Houck gave a report summarizing his activities since the last meeting. Highlights included:

- Attending multiple Flyers games and offering constructive observations made to coaches
- Offering open, league-level practices to improve skills.
- Conducting practices at multiple levels thereby giving him direct exposure to many different skaters in the Association
- Addressing on- as well as off-ice behavior issues witnessed at particular age-levels

- Coordinated a second Jr. Stampede clinic offered to SFYHA players during President's Day break.
- Facilitated the volunteering of Jr. Stampede players to assist at MiteFest.
- Preparing with the DO to bring offseason programming that would be offered through the SFYHA

Anecdotes of the DOH's impact being made within the Association were shared by Board members.

Director of Operations Report – McDonnel offered a report summarizing her activities since the February board meeting. Areas of emphasis included:

- Meetings with businesses to propose corporate sponsorship of the SFYHA
- Communicating off-season programming offerings to membership and facilitating registration
- Review of budget in preparation for upcoming fiscal year
- Preparations for an earlier registration period for the upcoming season
- Cultivation of committee membership and facilitation of the SFYHA Board nomination process

With nominations closing the following day, McDonnel shared that two of the four open seats on the board would have contested elections and that nominations had been received for all four directorships.

New Business

At the suggestion of Schumacher, the Board discussed holding a SFYHA booth at the KSFY youth sports expo to be held the March 16-17. A schedule for staffing the booth was preliminarily established.

Old Business

The board revisited the discussion on a means to apply its policy for hosting friendly games in conjunction of jamborees. The discussion revealed that the two scenarios need to be viewed distinctly in the Board's effort to equitably pass along the true costs of hosting games while also continuing in its effort to extend the same courtesy of not assessing visiting teams costs when hosting friendly competitions that has been extended to Flyer teams. Discussion on a document circulated by Pattison was again deferred until a later meeting, citing one or two variables that need be taken into account before implementing the policy for the upcoming season.

Discussion was held over the TJ Rensch jerseys. Sadly, their intent to commemorate the life and contributions of a very instrumental coach in the association whose life was shortened by illness, has not been fully realized. Controversy has found its way to their use on multiple occasions in recent years. Whether the Coach Rensch's contributions ought be memorialized through the jerseys any longer was discussed. Though a motion to retire them from use was advanced, the Board choose to defer any action so that more time could be spent exploring the reasons for the controversy and reflecting on whether the jerseys could in fact still realize their intention.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, April 5, 2017
6:30pm – 5000 S Minnesota Ave ~ 2nd Floor Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew K. Althoff
SFYHA Board Secretary

Adopted 27-Mar-2017 by oral resolution at meeting / written correspondence
(date) (circle one)