

WYSA 2020 Annual Meeting

5/26/20

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Amy Blain, Brian Casey, Rick Morris, Kara Simoneau, Don Collins, Steve Rubman, Bill Welch, Ryan Burns, Lindsay Rocca, Lisa Van Dorpe

Public participation: Lisa Stewart, Jeff Timmins, Mike Morel, Eric Hubert, Frank McPherson, Jeff Vinciulla, Rick Defeo

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Election results:

President: Brian Casey

Treasurer: Steve Rubman

Bantam Age Director: Brian Casey

Pee Wee Age Director: Rick Morris

Mite Age Director: Ryan Burns

LTP Director: Andy Reed

Valley League Rep: Jeff Timmins

Coaching Coordinator: Don Collins

Motion made to nominate Steve Rubman as treasurer. Motion passed.

President's Address:

The Association

Objective - Shall be to implant firmly in the youth of the community, both boys and girls, the ideals of good sportsmanship, while attaining quality skills for the safe and healthy execution of ice sports.

- The objective will be achieved by providing supervised competition and instruction in games applicable to Ice sports. The supervisors and personnel of the association shall bear in mind that at all times the attainment of good sportsmanship, athletic skills, while increasing the children's self esteem is more important than winning games.

- **Started in 1969, closing out our 51st year**

- **Accomplishments**
 - Great value for the money
 - 15 Full Season Teams: We had 2 half-season Midget teams and a half-season U18 team.
 - Had 3 middle school teams this year.
 - Board members ran a very successful fundraiser night for the 7th year in a row. This year's was again very successful.
 - One first place champion in the Valley League-Squirt 3 and three runners up – Mite 1, Mite 2 and Mite 4. No playoffs due to COVID-19.
 - 4 teams played in the MA State Championships with the Bantam 2's winning the State Championship! Peewee 2's and Squirt 2's also participated. Bantam 1's Tournament was canceled due to COVID-19.

- Two tournament championship winners: Squirt 2s and Mite 2s.
 - Purchased where needed.
 - Participated in the Bruins Learn to Play program for the 3rd time. With 60+ skaters. This program has been very successful.
 - The learn to skate and learn to play programs were successful.
 - Teams were able to maintain a practice schedule of two practices a week for the most part.
 - Communication to the Association really improved at the end the season.
- **Challenges**
 - COVID-19 will have significant impact on the organization moving into next season.
 - Tryouts could not be held due to COVID-19.
 - Practice and skills attendance as the season goes on does see a dip. Especially late in the year.
 - The pull of select hockey continues to have an impact on the program. As mentioned in past annual reports the 2006 group moving into Bantams and losing players has created real challenges at the upper age group.
 - To help grow a girls program need to continue focus on the youngest ages as numbers are improving but not at a sustainable number.
 - Looking forward, the tryout process does put pressure on coaches.
 - The focus needs to continue to be about player skill development.
 - Need to continue to add new faces to board and encourage new members to be vocal participants.
 - Tryout process and placements—continue to improve communication to parents in advance.
 - Improving scheduling and communication to members.
 - Improving our social media messaging.
 - Focused communication the parents that have skaters in the Bruins Learn-to-Play as well as our LTS/LTP program to help us grow the numbers of players at the youngest age groups.
 - Adding more members to the Board to gain new voices and perspectives.
 - Fundraiser success is too critical to the Association’s bottom line. Also, tremendous amount of work.
- **Financials**
 - Refer to the Treasurers’ report.
 - Difficult decisions made by the board
 - Equipment purchases
 - Continued to run with smaller teams
 - Bad debt held to a minimum
- **USA-Mass Hockey**
 - The State Championship changes introduced a few years ago are definitely a positive. Aligning the program sizes fairly.
 - Mass Hockey including CORI’s when coaches sign up is a big improvement.
- **The Board – New faces for this season mixing with existing members.**
 - Meetings normally had strong numbers of attendees.

- New members of the Board as well as visitors were welcomed and encouraged to their thoughts.
- **Objectives for the coming year**
 - Run the association for the good of the members
 - Update and review our By Laws and Policies
 - Control costs with an eye towards running profitably without the fundraiser.
 - Continued focus on hockey operations
 - Support for coaches
 - Oversee skills performance and have a plan.
 - We have had successful fundraising events. Needs to continue.
 - Continue to bring in new board members
 - Work to run with transparency
 - Grow the organization by focusing on ways to add kids at the youngest age groups.

Financials:

Running at a loss. Still working with auditor. Report needs to be submitted by September. Loss of \$34k for the year. Saw a drop in participant fees. We had increased fees around Sports Engine. Credit card fees were up this year. Fundraiser was up. We made just over \$18k. \$16k net. We had a good year last year so we didn't have to dip into savings. We still have \$64k in savings. \$36k in operating. Still in fairly good shape. Need to look at fees for this year, registration. Can't sustain this type of loss year over year.

Still awaiting payment from one person for this past season.

Financials include the actual amount we spent in March. The \$34k loss does reflect that we didn't pay as much this season for ice this year because of COVID. Also includes coaches fee. Should be inclusive of all fees for the year.

Bill requested to compare 2018-2019 season with this season to see where the differences are. We had fewer people at the higher levels register. Increased expenses this year as well. Increased ice times and fees. Steve to review.

Bantam went from three full teams to two very light teams. That one age group had a significant impact. We had \$6k in donations the year before, which we didn't get this season.

We will need to increase fees this year. To stay in line with increased costs. Skills costs went up by \$8k as well.

Game only Bantams this year (3 or 4) paid \$999.

Appointments:

Nominated Lindsay Rocca as Equipment/Purchasing Director. Motion passed.

Nominated Kara Simoneau and Michele Kelly as Fundraising co-chairs. Motion passed.

Communications – Lisa and Amy to discuss offline.

U18 Girls:

Steve and Brian to discuss offline to get link up and running this week.

Tryout deadline – we need to communicate a deadline. Send a mass communication to everyone, post to social and have age directors follow up with those not registered.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.