

Soo Michigan Hockey Association
Monday September 25, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
Big Bear Hospitality Room

1. Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by vice president, Renee Labadie
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Shaun Schummer, Tim Labadie, Renee Labadie, Heather Klever, Cheyenne Holappa, Joe Esson, (Mark Kavanaugh sent a message to Renee saying he was running late – he arrived at 6:28 pm)
Absent: Chris Lane, Dennis Eby and Dan Crimin all sent an email to the board letting us know they will not make the meeting. Diane Maleport sent a text to Renee letting her know she wouldn't be at the meeting. **Motion made by Tim, seconded by Shaun. Motion approved.**

According to the SMHA bylaws:

Excused Absence – An absence is considered excused when the Director contacts the Secretary in advance of the absence. The Secretary shall contact the Treasurer in advance of his/her absence.

A Board member with three [3] unexcused absences may be dismissed from the Board of Directors by a majority vote.

3. **Approval of agenda: Motion made by Heather, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.**
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from August 28, 2023: Motion made by Shaun, seconded by Tim. Motion approved.**
5. **Director Reports**
 - a. **President** – Mark was not available.
 - b. **Vice President** – Renee let the board know that the pucks were in. She did have to order some larger size house socks and those along with the first aid kits will be here by the end of the week. She will get a bill from Denny next week and submit it to Cheyenne.
Renee also mentioned that the fee for NIHL this year will be \$100 per team and will be paid for by the association.
Renee requested that Cheyenne put it on social media that she will be at the Big Bear for equipment rental on Tuesday (September 26) 4-5:30 pm and Thursday (September 28) 4-5:00 pm.
 - c. **Treasurer** – Cheyenne handed out the SMHA income statement as of September 25, 2023, and the Register Report 08/01/23 through 9/25/23.
Cheyenne will do a revised budget for next month.
 - d. **Secretary** – It was discussed with the board the following House sponsors will be assigned to the following teams.
U8 – CC Hall & UP State Credit Union
Squirt – Elks Youth Committee (Labadie) **Squirt** – Lock City (Brown)
Peewee – Central Savings Bank **Bantam** – Soo Builders

Midgets – Soo Coop Credit Union

*We are still waiting for payment from one travel team sponsor. Cheyenne sent an email requesting payment. Renee will be following up with another email.

Heather did mention that when any board member sending an email, please DO NOT attach it on to an existing email. It causes too many problems when trying to go back and find something. Please, create a new email and send it to the nine other remaining board members. In the subject line, please type in what it's with regards to. That way it will be easier for the board members to try and locate something.

- e. **Coaching Director** – Dan was absent.
- f. **Travel Director** – Dennis was absent.
- g. **Tournament Director** – Chris was absent, he emailed the board with a question. A coach from Soo Ontario asked if we would allow a 2012 birth year "A" team to compete in the 12U house bracket. The board discussed it, and they thought it would be best to put their names on a list and wait until it comes closer to the weekend of the tournament to see where we stand for teams.
- h. **Bantam/Midget Director** – Joe had some suggestions to making our association better and not have so many parents/players wanting to leave and go to Canada and other associations.

Joe said that we need to strengthen our house programs. He suggested by have all the teams in the SMHA by having both house & travel wear the same color jerseys. He'd like them both to be affiliated with LSSU.

Joe also suggested that maybe the house and travel teams wear different color jerseys. He thought maybe we could reach out to Denny at the Pro Shop to see if the teams could get a discount.

Joe mentioned that the association should set a standard of only having a "AA" team for each division and not trying to have "A" teams. Trying to have an "A" team has been presented to the board in the past and it never ends well and all it does it cause problems.

Another thing Joe thought might help the association would be to have HIP, U6 & U8 programs be completely free. He feels that our numbers would go way up for that younger group and with the numbers being higher, you could make 5-6 teams up from U6 and U8 to play each other (in their division) and halfway through the season, switch players up on different teams (within their division). He mentioned that maybe they could see if some LSSU Laker players could drop in from time to time and help work with the kids.

Joe also suggested that ice be made available during the summertime for house & travels players to skate together.

Joe is aware that by suggesting that HIP, U6 & U8 be free, we will need to come up with money in other areas. He mentioned raising the cost of registration by \$50, also bringing back the booklets with team photos, schedules, and advertisements.

Joe did mention that we need to invest in more rental equipment.

- i. **Squirt/Peewee Director** – Tim said the draft skates went well for the squirt division. They had 23 players and names were sent off to MAHA to pick teams.
- j. **HIP/Mite Director** – Shaun didn't know why HIP coach was on the agenda for tonight as nobody has contacted him with any interest. He did say that he would tr and reach out to some parents. HIP practice is on Monday & Wednesday nights at the Big Bear from 5:30-6:30 pm.
Shaun did register (2) U8 teams for Silver Sticks as he wanted to make sure they got a spot. He must have that registration paid and was wondering where to get the money from? It was decided that it would come from the Kaine's account.

Renee did tell Shaun that the U8 jerseys were in, and she picked them up and left them at the Big Bear.

- k. **Ice Scheduler** - Cheyenne mentioned that the (2) Squirt house teams will be sharing ice on Monday & Wednesdays and that was per Tim Labadie. Cheyenne will be checking with Jake Johnston to see if the Peewee AA team would like to move their practice ice time up.
- l. **Registrar** – Diane was absent, she did want Renee to let the Squirt/Peewee and Bantam/Midget directors know that the coaches/assistant coaches for the house teams need to get their USA Hockey # into her before their first practice. Currently the only two coaches she has are Joe Esson & Dan Klever.

- 6. **Old Business** – On 9/5/23 Joe Esson requested the board’s approval to assist two Midget JV players have their registration paid for using the Matheson Fund. **Motion made by Cheyenne, seconded by Joe. Motion approved.**
The board voted in the U6 coach for the 2023-24 season go to Andre Jaques. **Motion made by Shaun, seconded by Tim. Motion approved.**
On 9/20/23 an email was sent by Tim Labadie that Bruce Brown was interested in being the second Squirt house coach. **Motion made by Tim, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.**

7. **New Business** –

- a. Renee gave us an update on Adray. The cost this season will be \$200 per team. League starts October 13-February 11, 2024.
As of right now, this is how the divisions look:
Squirt – Possibly 10 teams in the league – playing 20 games.
Peewee – 6 teams in the league – playing 15 games (Soo, Cheboygan, Petoskey, Gaylord, Alpena, Kalkaska)
Bantam – 3 teams in the league (possibly 1 more, waiting to hear from Cheboygan if their gong to have two teams this year) – Soo, Cheboygan, Alpena,
All teams will be in the playoffs. The meeting for scheduling will take place on Sunday October 8 in Gaylord, Renee did not have the time of the meeting as they didn’t have one yet. Coaches and managers will be notified of the information. There will also be a meeting for U8 in a couple of weeks.
- b. Team picture bid dates will be posted on social media. The bids will need to be in by Monday October 9, 2023. Once a photographer is chosen, they can schedule picture date/times with the coach/team managers.
- c. Renee will oversee ordering back tags for Lock City and other jerseys that need them.

Public Comment:

Nancy Robinson presented the board with the information of the 3rd annual Katie Robinson Memorial Showcase. Last year’s showcase raised \$12,000 with the money going to the Diane Peppler Shelter and towards the Katie Robinson scholarship through the Chippewa County Community Foundation. This year’s goal is to raise \$18,000. Nancy mentioned that all teams registered will play 4 games. It’s a “Play for Fun Showcase. All players are invited to attend that Lady Lakers game on Friday night. They are having a pizza party for the girls. This showcase is only open to A, B and C teams. It’s a fun weekend for the girls!

Nancy did ask if SMHA could try to get a girl’s team to register for the showcase. Nancy said that she and her husband would pay for the registration for the team.

Another parent who is also coaching this year said it would be nice to have a roster prior to the kid's starting hockey. Hard to know how to contact parents when they have no information.

A parent wanted to know the rules with regards to playing in Canada and Canadians playing in the US. Why is it so easy for our players to go over there and play, but Canadians have a hard time coming over here?

Damon Whitton agreed with Joe Esson and the suggestions he made about trying to recruit more kids to play for SMHA. Damon would love for LSSU to partner with SMHA.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm. Next meeting scheduled for Monday October 30, 2023 @ 5:30 pm at the Big Bear.

Minutes taken, typed, and submitted by:



Heather Klever, SMHA Secretary