

UPPER ST. CLAIR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting—Open Session—January 13, 2019 (at Ice Castle)

Board Members Present

Ed Gaussa
Jake Ploeger
Brad Sileo
Dan Sinclair
Kevin McNally
Erik Happ
Pete Gialames
Dave Speer
John McShane
Jesse Sweet

Board Members Absent

Laura Schuster
Tara O'Brien
Prashant Gosai

Additional Attendees

Bob Woomer
Cormac McCarthy
Heather Gaussa
Michelle Fisher
Glen Siniawski
Amy Shegan Siniawski
Russ Ball
Lisa McQuade
Todd Eberle

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Brad Sileo at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Report of the Secretary

- Minutes from the December 9, 2018 Board Meeting-Executive Session were discussed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Team Updates—Business Managers

- Tara O'Brien was absent, but Brad Sileo provided a brief report regarding the Varsity team:
 - Brad stated that the team applied to participate in U.S. Nationals, but that only one team from Western Pennsylvania could be selected. The selectors chose Pine Richland, which is undefeated so far this season.
 - Brad stated that a parent of a recently-injured player inquired about receiving a refund for a portion of season dues. The Board noted that the injury occurred in a PAHL game. The Board agreed to table the issue until a future meeting to see if the player returns to game action this season.
 - Brief discussion was held regarding players who may need to seek medical waivers in order to participate in PIHL postseason games.
- Dan Sinclair presented the report on the JV team. Dan noted that the team's record is 10-1-1. The team will be playing scrimmages against Erie Cathedral Prep, Mt. Lebanon JV1 and possibly Peters JV1 in the coming weeks. Dan stated that one player may need a medical waiver for postseason play.
- Laura Schuster was absent and no report was presented regarding the MS1 team.
- Kevin McNally stated that there was nothing significant to report regarding the MS2 team. One player may need to seek a medical waiver for postseason play.

PIHL Representative's Report

- Pete Gialames presented the PIHL Representative's report.
- Discussion was held regarding the "25% Rule," which Mid-Am adopted in 2017. Under the rule, no more than 25% of any roster can be made up of players who are "playing up" from a younger age classification.
- In USC, this rule implicates the Middle School teams, which play under a Bantam classification in USA Hockey, but for which some second-year PeeWees frequently play up.
- For the current season, PIHL granted MS teams a 1-year waiver.
- Pete stated that Mid-Am is considering a modification to the rule which would allow for 25% of the maximum roster size to play up. In USC's case, since Middle School teams are permitted a 30-player roster, each MS team would be allowed 7-8 PeeWees.
- USC will contact Mid-Am to offer its support for the proposed rule modification.
- Mid-Am will vote on the issue in April.

Treasurer's Report

- Dave Speer presented the Treasurer's report.
- Dave stated that the organization's bank balance is about \$89,000, with approximately \$14,000 still due to come in.
- The net for the fundraiser was \$21,300.
- The year-end balance is on track to be between \$20,000 and \$22,000, which will be slightly less than it was at the beginning of the current season.
- Discussion was held regarding fundraising for the 2019-20 season. The issue has not been decided, but consideration is being given to making the fundraiser non-mandatory.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Senior Rec night was held on January 7.
 - The Board thanked Sherry Woomer, Laurie Finn and Rona Daley for planning the event.
 - Bob Woomer stated that the event would have been better if the coaching staff had publicly acknowledged the seniors during the post-game party, and if a representative of the Board had attended the post-game party.
 - Erik Happ stated that four of the five senior families emailed the Senior Rec night committee to express thanks for a successful event.
 - Discussion was held regarding the need to publicize the post-game party to the entire organization in the future.
- Discussion was held regarding the Annual Banquet, which will be held on April 7.
 - The Board agreed that several non-members of the association should be invited: Bill Schmidt, Kevin Detrick, Steve (the strength coach), Ryan Koch and Asa (the school videographer).
 - The budget has been established consistent with previous years.
 - Brad noted that the USC school district is reminding all organizations that no alcohol may be served at any events in which minors are present, so there will be no bar at the event.

- A time spot is being planned to use a video recording of Varsity Head Coach Justin Becinski, who is unable to attend the event due to a travel conflict.
- Association member Lisa McQuade stated that the banquet is boring for most of the Middle School players, and wondered whether a separate event (i.e. a skating and pizza party at Ice Castle) could be planned for the Middle School players. Discussion was held on this idea. It was agreed that Erik would send an email to the Middle School families noting the suggestion and asking them to vote on three different ideas: (a) make no changes to Middle School participation in the banquet; (b) have a separate party for the Middle School players; and (c) not invite the Middle School players to the banquet and hold no separate event for them. The Board will then discuss the results of the survey email to decide whether any changes will be made for this year's banquet.
- Discussion was held regarding whether to field two JV teams for 2019-20. The projected number of skaters could be as high as 50, with seven goalies in addition.
 - It was noted that due to the projected number of players, the organization will either have a second JV team with possibly a small roster, or 10+ players will have to be cut.
 - Kelly Rohrich did not attend the meeting, but sent in an opinion on the issue, which stated: "I'm of the opinion that we don't need 3 teams. It dilutes the program and trying to acquire sufficient ice time and competent coaching is difficult. If fees go up, then they go up. Unfortunately, nobody plays the sport because it's cheap. Same thoughts apply to middle school. Just because 50 kids CAN play doesn't mean they should play. That's what amateur teams are for. Field the best players to build a strong program that kids strive to be apart of moving forward."
 - Some attendees stated that there should be no problem with cutting players.
 - It was noted that if an extra team is fielded, the Board will need to hire more coaches and will have to discuss whether to seek additional ice time for practices.
 - It was noted that the organization's goal will remain to field the best possible Varsity team for years to come, which will necessitate developing younger players.
 - No final decision can be made until after tryouts when the number of available players is known for certain.
- Player fees for 2019-20 were discussed. It was noted that potential fee increases may depend on whether a second JV team is fielded. It was also noted that if fees are not increased for 2019-20, they almost certainly will need to be increased for 2020-21. Dave Speer agreed to present a proposal to the Board at the February meeting.
- Prior to the meeting, Chrissy Sileo submitted a report on the Outreach Committee via email. Highlights include:
 - The fundraiser and food drive for SHIM was a success. The organization raised \$482 and collected 391 pounds of food. Heather Gaussa, Ann Shirey, Amy Garces, Jane Kilzner and 18 players delivered a check and the collected food to SHIM.
 - Players and adults representing the high school and middle school teams helped to serve dinner for two nights at the City Mission in Washington, PA.

- Hat Trick for the Homeless was able to donate 90 winter hats to homeless people through hat sales and fundraising.
- Planning is underway for upcoming Outreach events including Mini Thon and making bagged lunches for Light of Life Ministries.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bob Woomer asked if it's possible for the Varsity team to participate in another tournament for the 2018-19 season. The Board had not planned an additional tournament but is not opposed to the idea. It will be considered for this season and next season.
- Jake Ploeger stated that Sherry Woomer obtained fundraising cards from Primanti's. The cards are available to all association members. For a limited time, if the card is presented to Primanti's when paying a bill, the restaurant will donate 10% of the amount paid (excluding alcohol) back to the organization.
- The Board noted that JV assistant coach Matt Metzler did not update his coaching module by the December 31, 2018 due-date and is therefore ineligible to coach for USC. Discussion was held regarding how to use the money that would have been paid to Metzler for the second half of the season. The discussion was tabled until a future meeting.
- It was noted that playoff commitments for opt-in teams (JV and MS) are due soon. The organization will opt in for all such teams. The costs are included in the 2018-19 budget.
- Preliminary 2019-20 tryout dates were discussed. High school tryouts are likely to be held during the first or second week of May. Middle School tryouts will also be held in May, and the Board will attempt to schedule around the Deer Valley trip for 6th graders.
- Discussion was held regarding summer hockey leagues for 2019:
 - Mt. Lebanon will host the 5 on 5 leagues for high school and middle school.
 - Cormac McCarthy agreed to manage the middle school participation, which should include two teams.
 - Both Justin Becinski and Dave Stock want to participate for the high school team(s).
 - The deadline to register is March 1.
 - It was agreed that any participation in the Quest 4 on 4 summer leagues will be managed outside the organization.

The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at a location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Sweet, Secretary