

Alexandria Area Hockey Association Agenda
May 22, 2024
6 PM - Runestone Community Center

Monthly Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Brittney Thoreson, Josh Hills, Getty Johnson, Taylor Hayes, Melanie Belsheim, Ben Vangsness, Joel Loveland, Josh Waldorf, Matt VanBruggen, Amber Blakesley, Rebekah Summer, Kelli Drapper, Andrea Nyberg, Cory Oberg, Apryl Putnam (virtual)

Absent: Brian Klimek

- **Call to order: 6:22pm**
- **Approve Agenda:** Loveland/Hills – motion carried
- **Approve Minutes – April 2024:** Thoreson/Nyberg - motion carried
- **Welcome Ben and New Board Members and Cory Oberg**
 - Ben will be taking over the treasurer role, Kelli's last meeting as treasurer
 - Welcomed new board members: Getty Johnson, Melanie Belsheim, Taylor Hayes
 - Executive Committee Election (President, Vice President, Secretary)
 - Joel Loveland nominates Matt VanBruggen as President, Josh Waldorf makes second. Motion carried.
 - Josh Hills nominates Joel Loveland as VP, Amber Blakesley makes second. Motion carried.
 - Matt VanBruggen nominates Brittney Thoreson, Josh Waldorf seconds. Motion carried.
 - New Board Member Positions Available and reviewed roles job responsibilities and details:
 - Sponsorship/Fundraising: Getty Johnson expressed interest in the sponsorship role. Hills/Blakesley – motion carried.
 - Equipment/Rink Rookie: Melanie Belsheim, Blakesley/Loveland – motion carried.
 - Retention and Recruitment: Taylor Hayes nomination made by Rebekah Summer/Amber Blakesley – motion carried.
- **Financial Reports:**
 - **Gambling (Rebekah)**
 - Additional details for Gambling reports are reported to the board members from financials submitted to the Gambling Control Board. These reports are available upon request to the membership.
 - Gambling sites update
 - MN Revenue Audit is currently in process
 - MN Gambling Control Audit is currently in process
 - Still seeking another Asst Gambling Manager
 - Andrea will post back to social media platforms
 - Motion to approve Financials Hills/Loveland – motion carried
 - Motion to approve Budget Request: \$38,200: Hills/Loveland – motion carried

- **AAHA Financials (Kelli)**
 - No financials were available due to technical difficulties so April and May will be reviewed at June's board meeting
 - Higher expenses than revenue right now due to tournament sign up happening for all levels
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Tournament/Team Manager (Amber)**
 - Region Tournament Hotel Blocks have been secured (15A and 15B)
 - Big Ole Tournament Gifts
 - Considering doing a voucher for a concession stand
 - Photo backdrop with Big Ole and Explore Alexandria logo
 - Registration set for June 1st
 - 10UB2 home tournament will happen the same weekend as Squirt B
 - **Volunteers/DIBS Coordinator (Apyrl)**
 - Working to coordinate golf cart drivers for VFW Vietnam ceremony on Father's Day
 - **Concessions (Josh H)**
 - Need to get moved out before the end of May due to construction
 - Board scheduled evening to move out all of the remaining
 - Concession stand got things moved out of before tonight's meeting
 - Met with Zorbaz to consider taco in a bag
 - Casey's general store may donate a refrigerator prep table
 - Working through temporary concession stands while construction is going on
 - **Sponsorship (Josh W) –**
 - Hen House has shown interest in becoming a sponsor of AAHA
 - **Equipment**
 - **Vice President (Joel)**
 - Met with the 4 schedulers
 - Overall good feeling about the year
 - Would like to see a uniform, easy-to-use, format for schedule/calendar
 - Met with Alicia Hanrahan and Mike Debold, Ref Director
 - They would like to do instructional training in-person
 - On ice training and classroom
 - Mentoring program
 - Arbitor training
 - Be aware of scheduling upper level games – when high school teams are out of town and/or upper level tournaments: these games deplete the ref pool quickly
 - 72 hour notice of adding games and ASAP if cancelling games
 - **Director of Hockey/Hockey Committee**
 - Introduced Cory Oberg New Hockey Director & Joel as Hockey Committee Coordinator
 - Discussion on Fall Development Camp Scheduling
 - 2 Sheets of Ice
 - Landon will request proposed payment by next HC meeting & this will guide what we will charge for Camp / skater

- Jason L will work all dates backwards from 1st Day of Tryouts and Tryout Clinic
- Proposed to get early registration and dates out ASAP
- Discussion on Tiered Mite Program
 - HC Full agreement to Tier the program
 - Potential plans discussed
 - Most Popular plan is a 6-12-6 Box plan with middle mix-up overlap with Top and Bottom
 - Committee Formed To discuss & present plan at Next HC meeting June 19th. Cory O, Matt A, Andrew Olson, Landon Olson
 - Mite House League and Jamborees to follow same format
 - Tournaments are being booked
 - Follow same as previous years 2 away for Boys and 3 away for girls *(Not including Playoffs or VFW)
 - Discussion and Agreed to move Bantams and PeeWee to A vs. AA
 - Coordinator Movement
 - Matt Anderson from Squirt to PeeWee
 - Adam Olson To Stay At Bantam
 - Jon Cullen to move to AT LARGE
 - Discussed Potential Candidates for the Squirt Coordinator
 - Agreed to Continue with the MN Hockey Checking Clinic - Cory O will Follow-up to get it scheduled
 - Adam Olson - Bantam Status:
 - Approached by Bantam B2 parents - IF we stay with B2 and not 2 Equal B teams - High Probability kids will quit and not go out for AAHA
 - Big concern for lack of coaching at the B2 levels
 - Proposed Teams for this coming Season:
 - Bantams: 47 A B B2 3 Teams
 - PeeWee: 38 A B B2 3 Teams
 - Squirt : 48 5 Goalies A B B B2 (2 equal B's) * projected good skilled depth to warrant 2 equal B
 - 15U: 38 A B Potential 13 ELIGIBLE to stay or Go to HS. Molly met with 9th Graders and STRONGLY encouraged to TRYOUT for AAHA TO ensure they have a "home" if they do not make the HS team
 - 12U: 29 A B POTENTIAL GOALIE ISSUE - Currently 1 Goalie - BUT 10U has multiple goalies - possible acceleration
 - 10U: 28 with +1 Move in and +1 Peer Waiver so 30 A B1 B2

Motion to approve the hockey committee report: Summer/Blakesly – motion carried

- **Communications (Andrea)**
 - Survey information to go out to the association
 - Continuing to share "non-parent" coach post
 - Any other communication needed for the summer? Updates on the RCC expansion and what to expect?

- Brittney and Andrea will work to update the website with new hockey director and new board members
- **Old Business:**
 - RCC expansion
 - Explore Alex
 - Submitted on 3/29/24 have we received?
 - Charitable Gambling Committee Application is waiting on Matt's response
- **New Business**
 - New Board Member Positions
 - Fundraising/Sponsorship
 - Equipment/Rink Rookie
 - Retention and Recruitment
 - New Summer Board Meeting Schedule
 - Moving to morning meetings on Wednesdays in the summer months
 - Crossbar vs. Sports Engine
 - Cory suggested to create a parent feedback coaching survey to be distributed. Cory will bring this back to the hockey committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20pm

Next Board Meeting: June 26th at 6am

Location – RCC

Mission Statement

The Alexandria Area Hockey Association (AAHA) is committed to providing a quality environment for youth hockey players to learn and enjoy the sport of hockey.