



SAGINAW BAY ICE ARENA

Home of the Greater Saginaw Amateur Hockey Association

6129 Bay Rd Saginaw, MI 48604 (989) 799-8950 www.saginawbayicearena.com

GSAHA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: November 11, 2024

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Saginaw Bay Ice Arena

Members Present: Kenny Benson, Elizabeth LaPouttre, Matt Lockwood, Dana Causley, Megan Kuhn, Jamie Furbush

Members Absent: Kyle Smith, Jim Bailey

Members Online: Kim Richter, Layne Neuwirth

Others Present: Erica Jacobson, Gianna Causley, Andy Whitcomb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jamie Furbush at 7:30 p.m.

Secretary's Report (Bailey)

- **Minutes Review:**
 - Jim shared the minutes from the September 2024 meeting.
 - Motion to approve: Dana Causley
 - Seconded by: Elizabeth LaPouttre
 - **Approved unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report (Smith)

- **Financial Report:**
 - No financial report was provided this month.

Arena Manager/Program Report (Benson)

- **Try Hockey for Free Day:**
 - Held on November 2; volunteers from Heritage High School were a big help.

- Over 10 players volunteered.
 - 30 participants attended, with one joining the squirt league on the spot.
 - **HS Prep Team:**
 - Recently started; team is maxed out, and additional players are being turned away.
 - Jim Bailey agreed to coach.
 - **High School Teams:**
 - Tryouts have been completed.
 - **District Participation:**
 - Participation is at 100% for all House teams.
 - **Power Skating Instructor:**
 - New program with three consecutive Fridays.
 - Adds value and increases the number of ice touches.
 - **8U Mite Plus Program:**
 - Second year of the program through MAHA, allowing 8-year-old second-year mites to play full ice.
 - Discussion ensued about local interest and potential for the program.
 - Elizabeth and Kenny will explore forming a tournament team if there is sufficient coach and parent interest.
 - **Team Photos:**
 - Hillier Studio is no longer providing team photos after 30+ years.
 - Kenny is investigating new options for team and individual photos.
 - Motion: Elizabeth LaPoutre moved to proceed with Kenny's research and work with Andy (Pro Look Ink), a GSAHA member, for this season. The board will revisit long-term photo service plans for 2025/2026.
 - Seconded by: Megan Kuhn.
 - **Approved unanimously.**
 - **Learn to Skate:**
 - Program has 90 participants, utilizing nearly all available loaner gear.
 - **House Player Jackets:**
 - Jackets have been ordered but are not yet delivered.
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Referee Report (Smith)

- Rich Vervink has been mentoring youth referees in the scoreboard.
 - The board recommends that Rich introduce himself to coaches during mentoring sessions to clarify his role.
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House Liaison (Bailey)

- **Update:** No update.
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Travel Liaison (Bamberger)

- **Update:** No update provided.
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Coaching Director (Furbush)

- **Report:** No report provided.
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Marketing Director (LaPouttre)

- **Report:**
 - Social media interactions are consistently up.
 - **Spooky Skate (Halloween):**
 - 62 skate rentals and 100+ skaters attended, including a haunted house feature.
 - **Veterans Salute:**
 - 47 paid skate rentals; veterans and their families skated for free.
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Safe Sport Director (Causley)

- **Update:** No update provided.
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Fundraising Report (Kuhn)

- **Recent Events:**
 - Famous Dave's fundraiser raised \$100.
 - **Upcoming Events:**
 - December 9: Harvey's Bar and Grill.
 - February 17: Buffalo Wild Wings (Spirit Away Game).
 - G's Pizza fundraiser being considered for the Friendship Tournament.
 - Exploring Christmas fundraising opportunities for Saginaw Hockey.
 - **2025 Season:**
 - Reviewing team sponsorships and concepts.
 - **Other Fundraising Efforts:**
 - Golf outing recap expected in December.
 - 5K Skate planning underway.
 - Content and interviews for Giving Tuesday are in progress.
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Discipline Report (Lockwood)

- **Report:** No report provided.
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Old Business

- None.
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New Business for Next Meeting

- None.
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Next Meeting

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Saginaw Bay Ice Arena