

WHA Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 11th, 2023

Location: Fieldhouse Conference Room

Time: 7:00pm Board Meeting



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeremy Johnson, Allison Mathews, Todd Randall, Amber Dahl, Adam Sullivan, Eric Skott, Matt Engen, Kris Dorneman, Nate Suller

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Adam Lalim & Travis Young

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Tori Simon, Brittoney Serie, Jeremy Espelund, Lucas Deutsch, Tonya Holien, Jenni Wirkus, Molly Randall, Aaron Roberts, Casey Shuller

Call to order 7:06pm

AGENDA for September 2023: Requested additions made to the September Agenda: SDAHA Fall Meeting and BIN Update. Nate Shuller moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Jeremy Johnson. Motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES for August 2023: Eric Skott moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Nate Shuller. Motion carried. Motion carried.

1. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Finance Committee & Treasurer Allison Mathews met with VRS. Next month we will have a full Treasurer's report and financial review. Approved signers for the WHA bank accounts are Business Manager Karen Gromis, President Todd Randall, Vice President Adam Sullivan, Treasurer Allison Mathews and Secretary Amber Dahl.
2. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Team Coordinator Meeting:** Meeting was held with Team Coordinators, providing them with binders with materials and expectations. There will be another meeting closer to the kick-off of the season. TeamSnap group was setup for communication. Group requested the following topics to be discussed at the League Level Parent/Player Meetings: DIBS, raffle, hazing, TeamSnap etiquette, possibly Parent/Player Conduct forms.
 - b. **Skate Sharpener Update:** Approval gained last meeting. Lucas has sharpener. Treasurer will cut check to Steve Sheehan.
 - c. **Cell Phone Equipment Update:** No update from last meeting.
 - d. **SafeSport & Background Screens Outstanding:** All board members are current and compliant. There are some stragglers for volunteers who will be reminded to have complete by 9/15/23.
 - e. **Job Descriptions:** Drafts of key positions were distributed for review.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Rink Clean Up:** Rink Clean Up is slated for Sunday, September 24th from 4-7pm. Details of what will be cleaned will be laid out at the event. There may be DIBS available for those that volunteer their time to clean.
 - b. **All Association Meeting & Agenda:** October 12th at 7pm is the proposed date. Location TBD. Backup date October 5th at 7pm.
 - c. **Meeting with City of Watertown Update:** Todd & Molly Randall, Jenni Wirkus and Tonya Holien met with the City on marketing opportunities at the new rink. Although the City can't control or make guarantees on marketing with a Jr. Team, they are open to providing WHA opportunity to benefit financially. We can sell dashers for Rink 2 at any time, regardless of when the rink opens. We will know more about a finalized plan for a Jr. Team in November.
 - d. **BIN Update:** Radio a thon will be on every Watertown Radio Station October 11th. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$500,000 with a stretch goal of hitting \$900,000. There will be pledge cards and several places/ways to donate funds.

4. **OFFICIAL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS**- reports if any information

Scheduler, Jenni Wirkus: Jenni shared the fall practice schedule through December 2023. Lucas stated last year was the least amount of complaints for every level. This schedule will be for the remainder of the year (2023) and then will be reassessed in December to determine new rink situation. Amber Dahl made a motion to approve the schedule, seconded by Nate Shuller. Motion carried.

Coaching Committee, Adam Sullivan, Vice President, Lucas Deutsch, Staff – Jeremy Espland said there were most of the coaches available. Discussion was held on recording the Coaching Committee meeting minutes for transparency for the board. Meeting to be scheduled next month to review expectations. Adam prepared a recruiting letter and refreshed it. Tonya will post it on the website this week. Level 1 Seminar is September 12th. Coaches requested to meet monthly in person.

Dibs/Volunteer Committee, Tonya Holien, Staff & Sabrina Welder, Chair – Tonya updated that the module has been purchased for DIBS. Tonya will be training new DIBS Coordinator, Sabrina Welder.

Registrar Update, Jessi Eidson, Chair – Lucas Deutsch provided input from Jessi in her absence. Lucas provided updates on registrants and who needs to complete the Safesport Training to be compliant.

5. **GENERAL COMMITTEES**

Marketing & Fundraising Committee, Molly Randall, Chair – Molly said we will be selling what is available shortly. There will be a winter raffle this year.

Nominations Committee, Kristina Suttan, Chair – Kristina is heading up a float for Homecoming. More to come in TeamSnap.

Grow the Game Committee, Aaron Roberts, Chair

- **Food Drive Recap** – Aaron thanked everyone for the food drive. WHA hockey brought in \$1,000 cash and 395 food items. WHA was the largest non-profit and the largest group response for PACH. Todd Randall was highlighted for the KXLG “Good News” story regarding the food drive. Event was a nice, repeatable event. WHA will be presented an award at some point.
- **Grow the Game Opportunities:** Aaron would like a flier for K-4 grade to target to those kids to draw new players. Jenni and Kristie Evans will coordinate marketing collateral to get out to the elementary schools and Homecoming parade. Jefferson Elementary
- Aaron talked with the superintendent to move Sadie Hawkins dance to another weekend in October. Superintendent is willing to work with us for 2024.

Equipment Committee, Lindsey Stricherz, Chair – Preseason kids have been given equipment. The equipment checkout will be October Week 2. Tonya will be sending out requests for help with checkout.

Technology Committee, Jeremy Johnson, Chair – There are four different options that Karen Gromis put together. Projected costs were discussed (ranging from \$2,180 to \$3,300). Eric Skott made a motion to spend up to \$4,000 to make purchases for camera equipment, Kris Dorneman seconded. Motion carried.

6. **STAFF UPDATES**

Operations Manager, Lucas Deutsch-

- Girls Weekend Sioux Falls: Lucas needs to select 1-2 people for the girl’s weekend to sponsor. Girls weekend in Sioux Falls is a FREE weekend for players but costs the state \$12,000. Each association needs a volunteer coordinating and would be nice to have the coordinator on site. Jenni committed to finding a volunteer.
- Equipment Requests: Lucas has practice equipment requests from coaches. Lucas will work through Treasurer, Allison Mathews, and Todd Randall, President, to oversee purchases for equipment needs.
- Registration was around 70 players for the Dust the Rust Off Camp in Brookings. Kris Dorneman made a motion to renew Ice Hockey Systems software, seconded by Nate Shuller renew Ice Hockey Systems software. Motion carried.
- Lucas and Todd purchased materials for a nice sized shooting lane. Half priced for like-new tiles for \$600. Travis Bramer donated a shooting target.

- Curt Gable called Lucas last week and wants to have a Watertown Coaches vs. Brookings Coaches game in Brookings as a charity game to raise funds to the Dave Stahl fund. Caveat is we would host in 2024 in Watertown.
- SDAHA Fall Meeting will be held Saturday, September 16th, 2023. Todd Randall will attend on behalf of WHA in Lucas Deutsch's absence. Todd and Jenni Wirkus will provide updates at October board meeting.
 - Agenda for the meeting attached as Addendum A
 - WHA Board discussed viewpoints on SCHA Playdown Request, MSHA Bantam Playdown Request, Team Splits (bylaw revision proposal and playing rules amendments). Board agreed that the Full State Board (not solely the SDAHA President) should have the authority to make decisions for the Bylaw Change proposal. WHA believed full board authority on SDAHA for voting for player transfers to other states. On subject of All-State Player selections, WHA board believed coached should vote, not captains. WHA board was in agreement to move BV and GV tournaments to Thurs/Fri/Sat vs. Fri/Sat/Sun.

Business Manager, Tonya Holien (Interim) – All nominees for committees have been doing well. Interviews held for Business Manager position. The Interviewing Committee for the Business Manager has offered Karen Gromis the paid position of Business Manager.

No Ninja tournament for Varsity due to Sadie's dance. U14 Girls will be attending Ninja tournament (November 3-5, 2023). There is also a Mitchell tournament considering for U14 (November 17-19, 2023). Girls Varsity would be in Cedar Rapids, IA February 2-4, 2024. Girls Varsity January 12-14, 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri.

PeeWees are following Bantams for Cedar Rapids and Kansas City tournaments.

7. **FACILITIES** – no update
8. **ASSOCIATION WIDE INFORMATION**
9. **ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)**

ADJOURN – motion made to adjourn by Eric Skott, seconded by Nate Shuller. Adjourned at 10:15pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, October 9th, 2023, 7:00 pm, Fieldhouse Conference Room