

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019
5:30 p.m. Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Judy Merickel – Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Scott Petersen – Member at Large / SafeSport Coordinator
Randy Boysen – Member at Large / Program Development (Girls and Goalies)
Allison Riddle – 8U Rep (via phone)
Darryl James – Squirt Rep
Jon Flynn – House Rep
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep

Absent Board Members:

None

Guests:

Shawn Schroeder – Coach-in-Chief, HS Parent, Bantam Parent
Amber Zietz – Peewee Parent
Wendy & Kevin Cook – HS Parents
Lee Keller – HS Parent
Kelly Walker – HS and Squirt Parent
Bill Harris – HS Parent and Squirt/House Parent

Meeting Called to Order 5:34 p.m.

Minutes

Sarah moved to approve minutes from August 26th meeting. Scott seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Bill Harris said his HS player isn't playing because they traveled long distances all last year and he didn't get to play. He said the second reason he isn't playing is because the HS coaches made all players do strenuous activity for the actions of 1-2 players. He felt this was unfair.

Wendy Cook asked how the board plans to use HAYHAs surplus money that is sitting in the bank. She wants to see it used to grow programs, incentivize referees, develop kids or other creative ideas. She doesn't like the idea of seeing over and estimated \$140,000 sitting in the bank account. Mekell, Kurt and Sarah all responded stating that HAYHA pays the rink over

\$18,000 per month for six months. And that HAYHA just spent \$12,000 on half-ice boards needed for upcoming changes at the squirt division and to support the mite division players. The Board is also able to front fees for tournaments, so managers aren't stressed collecting money ahead of time from parents, instead HAYHA pays for the registration and then collects online from parents. The Board is also subsidizing the goalie and girls program ice this season. The Board purchased ice time for referee clinic. The board booked an extra hour of ice time last season for the high school team. Sarah invited Wendy and other members to share creative ideas. Kurt reminded everyone that the Board is paying new refs to shadow older refs, in other words, paying for an extra ref for games to support ref development through shadowing experienced refs.

Alison also spoke to project she is working on looking at tracking registrations over the years to create income projections to make sure HAYHA is continuing to grow so the board can make better decisions about spending and investing money. She wants to help the Board be confident in making decisions about spending money.

Ice Rink

No update.

Registrar – Lance

219 players and 31 coaches have registered.

21 Girls program

17 Goalie Development clinic

90 8U players

21 House League players

37 Squirt players who want to tryout

29 Peewee players

19 Bantam players

21 High School players

Registration for 8U, House and Girls will remain open through October 11.

High School Teams Decision

Sarah stated after seeing 21 players register for High School division, she told parents there would be just one team. Ryan stated that the three 2005 players who previously submitted requests to play in the High School division instead of the Bantam division, have withdrawn their request upon hearing there would only be one high school team. Mekell stated that per HAYHAs planning over the past few months and our soft commitment to MAHA regarding Helena having two high school teams, MAHA has said there are five towns who said they were going to have a High School B team – Missoula, Flathead, Great Falls, Salmon and Helena – and that MAHA had created a league and a Montana Cup (HS B state tournament) for these five teams. Mekell has a MAHA phone call tonight where she will have to officially declare whether

HAYHA has one or two high school teams. She warned that if we back out this year, there might not be enough towns to play in a HS B league next year when our numbers keep growing in HAYHA to warrant having two high school teams. Judy asked why the decision was made to have one high school team, when the HAYHA board has been planning since last spring to increase the playing time for young high school players by having either a 16U team, a High School JV team, scheduling extra games/tournaments for young players, or some kind of combination of the above with cross-rostering, and at the July meeting we voted to accept the High School committee (Shawn, Sarah, head HS coaches) recommendation for 2 high school teams with cross-rostering. Mekell stated that she talked to MAHA about our number (21 players) and they stated Helena always rosters large teams and suggested we still look at two teams to increase playing time for all high school players. Shawn stated that we started the push for two teams because we expected six more kids to register, but when they didn't, we were back to one team. Various board members and public who were attending the meeting contributed to the long discussion.

When asked if two teams could still work, Shawn said two teams was still possible with cross-rostering within high school. He said it could work, scheduling would be key, cross-rostering won't work if the varsity and B team are playing on the same weekend in different places. But for example, you could have 6 solid varsity players, 6 solid B team players and 7 that cross-rostered between the two. As discussed over the summer, it would be coach's discretion on where to play kids. Wendy Cook did not like the idea that MAHA suggested all High School B games would be scheduled on black out weekends (Thanksgiving, Martin Luther, President's Day, etc.). Kurt felt there was wiggle room there and it wasn't mandatory to schedule on blackout weekends. When asked why the high school parents seem to be so against having two teams, when the board's intentions are to increase all of their playing time, Sarah said there were many reasons – kids not wanting to split into two teams but rather wanting to all play together in their high school years, parents of cross-rostered kids not wanting to pay for more hotel rooms and more travel, worry that some players might not get enough varsity games in to qualify to play in varsity state, families having to travel holiday weekends to get their games in versus going to optional tournaments. Kelly Walker expressed concerns about having to be present for so many extra games.

Judy motioned to create HS Varsity and HS B Team to increase playing time for high school players. Lance seconded. Much more discussion ensued. In the end a vote was taken, and the motion passed with six voting in favor and four voting against.

Allowing 2005 Freshmen to play on the High School Teams

Mekell moved to not allow 2005 players on the HAYHA High School teams. Sarah seconded. Motion did not pass with three board members in favor and seven against.

Lance and Ryan talked about how letting some freshmen play on the high school teams would create more playing time for bantam kids and there was still plenty of playing time to go around in high school teams because of two high school teams.

There was much discussion around whether HAYHA should allow 2005s who are freshmen in high school to play on the HAYHA high school team or keep them playing in the bantam division. MAHA and USA Hockey rules state that players need to be enrolled in high school to play high school hockey. However, the HAYHA Board asked all 2005s to register as bantams at the August board meeting so the board could look at numbers of players in bantam and high school teams after registration. After much discussion, Darryl made a motion.

Darryl moved that the board will accept applications up to 5:00 p.m. on Friday from 2005 birth year players who are enrolled in High School, to play on HAYHAs High School hockey teams. The board will then choose between 0 – 5 of these players to play on the high school teams based on input from High School coaches, Bantam coaches and Coach-in-Chief. Scott seconded the motion. More discussion ensued. The vote took place and motion passed with 6 in favor and 4 against.

Opening Registration for High School Again

Considering the decision to have two High School Teams – a B team and Varsity – Allison made a motion to re-open high school registration until Friday at 5:00 p.m. to allow those kids who may have chosen not to register out of fear of no playing time, to reconsider. Judy seconded. Motion carried. Sarah was going to reach out to her division and notify them of the two team decision and that registration re-opened.

Coach-in-Chief and Tryouts – Shawn Schroeder

Shawn met with the Squirt Head A Rep, Dustin Ryser, and the Squirt Head B Rep, Lance Wilson, to go over tryout plans. He also met with the Peewee Head A Rep, Brandon Vonada, and the Peewee Head B Rep, Chad Hultin, to do the same thing. Both divisions are ready with tryout plan for drills and process. The first session will be drills. The second session will be scrimmages and the third session will be 3 v 3 and battle drills. Goalies will dress for scrimmages. The coaches will decide who they want to return for the 3rd session and the board reps will communicate this to the parents. The squirt coaches said they may decide to bring back all but the top three players to see how other kids step up as leaders when they aren't overshadowed by the top three players.

Shawn also gave the board his list of five evaluators.

1. Wade Juntannen: from Grand Forks, played high school hockey, still plays.
2. Kent Schlosser: has coached with Shawn before.
3. Drew Younker: grew up playing hockey, plays in men's league.
4. Curtis Smith: moved from Virginia, great up playing hockey.

5. Chris Edmunds: Judy indicated that Chris Edmunds coached the 2010 players last year so he would be ineligible to be an evaluator according to the Tryout Policy.

Shawn is going to work on recruiting a fifth evaluator. Judy suggested finding a woman hockey player since there are a growing number of girls trying out each year and Shawn was going to look into that. Other board members suggested some names as well.

Lance moved to approve the first four evaluators. Darryl seconded the motion. Motion passes. Rob Smith is working on jersey numbers. The squirt coaches want #1 - #37, if possible, so it's easier for evaluators than having a bunch of random numbers.

Safesport – Scott

Scott reminded coaches that he has to fill out a monthly report for Kari Riley, MAHA SafeSport Coordinator. The report needs to list any and all discipline incidents with players. The board would like further clarification on what types of discipline incidents must be reported.

Development of Goalies and Girls – Randy

There were 18 goalies who attended the mini-camp. There are 8 who will be attending the morning sessions, every other Monday, starting the 23rd. Those 8 players will get an excellent coach to player ratio for some good one-on-one time.

There are 21 girls signed up for girl's hockey practices on Fridays 4:20 – 5:20 p.m. Judy recruited Billie Hohn to be the head girls' coach.

Equipment – Randy

Half ice boards will be shipped in the next couple of weeks. We rented approximately 30 sets of gear to new and returning players at Community Day. Randy and Judy will schedule a second equipment night the week before 8U practice starts. He expects to rent another 30 sets. There are some families that kept their gear for the summer for camps and things, which is allowed, if they inform Randy.

Warmups – Randy

After receiving bids for warmups, Randy emailed the board. Randy moved the board award the warmup bid to the rink. Mekell seconded. Motion passes. The rink's pro shop will have sizes available for kids to try on. They also will be embroidering numbers on the pants and names on the coats.

Practice Jerseys – Randy

Randy ordered practice jerseys from the lowest bidder – Sleeping Giant Sports. They were done in time for Community Day. 8U and House will sell these to players as sets (blue and white) during the first few weeks of practice.

Division Updates

8U: No update.

House: Jon is scheduling tournaments in Kalispell (12/20), Salmon (1/17-19), Idaho Falls (2/7-9), Helena (3/7-8). He is working with Paula to schedule house games.

Squirts: Darryl is scheduling tournaments in Whitefish, Great Falls, Missoula and Bozeman.

Peewees: Kurt has one tournament scheduled.

Bantams: The board plans to talk in the spring about adding Bantam House League after multiple board members have had to turn away bantam age kids who want to start playing hockey but do not want to play for travel teams.

High School: No further update.

MAHA Summit

Mekell said the Summit Schedule is on the website, www.mthockey.com. The goalie coaching clinic allows one move up in CEP level. There will be two USA Hockey representatives attending. Bond checks and paper version of team commitments are due at the annual meeting. Lance will get a paper version ready for Mekell to bring.

Treasurer – Sarah

There is \$147,853.10 in the bank. We will be paying the rink \$127,400 of this money over the course of the season, per our contract.

Member Handbook – Allison

Tabled for the next meeting.

Other Business

Community Hockey Day and Refing Clinic went well. HAYHA purchased an hour of ice for each of these. Randy would like to recognize Rob Smith, Lisa Prescott and Denny Lester for doing an AWESOME job with the goalie clinic.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2019, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena.

Meeting Adjourned. The Board entered Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. to determine Head Coaches for Termites and Mites. Executive Session ended at 10:00 p.m.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____