

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Jaguar Hockey Club Board Meeting**

### **May 19th, 2025**

The Meeting was called to Order by Secretary Melisa Kochniarczyk @ 7:05 PM

**\* Roll Call** - Lauren Walsh, Griff Schiele (phone) - Eric Scott - Melisa Kochniarczyk - Melissa Reese - John Wirkus - Denise Spreeman - Kristin Dondlinger - Mike Lazarri - Elyce O'Sullivan - Ryan Melling - Jim Siewert

#### **▪ President's Address**

Lauren Walsh

- o Spring 2025
  - Spring Season is wrapping up. While Spring has not gone as we hoped scheduling wise, we have a plan moving forward for next Spring.
- o Summer 2025
  - We are currently working on summer programming. We are hoping to get those details ironed out soon. Keep an eye out on the website & email for details.
- o Girls
  - Girls Spring skates have been a success! More girls are attending each week!
  - CBS news radio will be doing a segment.
- o CSDHL
  - We do not have any further news regarding the prospects division of CS. We are hoping for an update regarding team fees, scheduling & seeding round to come soon.
- o Park District
  - The ice arena was renamed the William Tatro Ice Arena on Saturday morning. An Email went out to the membership inviting them to the name ceremony. Thank you to anyone who attended.
- o Elections are this evening. We will be electing the following:
  - Position up for Election:
    - Manager of Managers
      - o Julia Bisch
      - o Sarah Dean
      - o Kerry Koepp
- o Summer working board meeting at my house on July 27th. If anyone has any items they feel we need to discuss or work on, please let me know.

#### **▪ Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- o April minutes Approved by Mike Lazarri Second by Denise Spreeman

#### **▪ Treasury Report**

Griff Schiele

- **NIHL Tournament**
  - o No invoice has been received from IHOA for the NIHL championship weekend. Unable to login to AHA's website to check on any ref balances.
- **Spring**
  - o Coaches' checks were cut last week; Greg has them and is distributing them.
  - o W-9 information requested via Quickbooks for all spring coaches receiving a check.
  - o April ice bills for Canlan and Inwood have been received and paid.

- **Fall Budget**
  - Lauren and I are planning to schedule a time with Kristin and Greg to start planning and budgeting for summer programs and next year's fall season.
- **Vice President of Hockey Operations** John Wirkus
  - Not a ton to report this month. It seems like I was busy often with hockey stuff, but nothing concrete to report. We were able to get a letter out to families explaining the challenges we faced this spring. I spoke with Elise Stadler about replacing the squad locker on our page. Jim and Lauren have some more ideas on that going forward, so we will be looking to change that. I was able to order coaches jackets from Pure Hockey that I do not believe are in yet. I remain willing and able to assist anyone on the board or membership with any needs or questions they may have. I'm looking forward to solidifying my role more as we move through summer and into the fall. I know there is an AHAI meeting I will be attending on 5/31 with Eric Scott.
- **Vice-President of League Affairs** Eric Scott
  - NIHL (Girls)
    - May 31st is the AHAI annual meeting at The Westin.
    - 9/2/2025 Declarations are due
    - 9/4/2025-9/7/2025 - Scheduling
    - 2/1/2026 Regular Season Play Ends
    - 2/6/2026 - 2/8/2026 - Playoffs
    - Pricing will most likely stay with what they were from last year.
  - NWHL (Melisa Miller)
    - AHAI has officially changed name to TIER III Travel - Passed on 5/5/25
    - Looking for a VP - Treasurer - R&E - they had a few Candidates that in open session offered help. They had to officially take names and will vote next month.
    - Discussed upping game count - will be sending out a new vote for Post Tier - Will let us know next month what the vote was so budgets for fall can be done
    - Voting on Changing the game slots for Peewee & Midget
    - PW from 11 to 12 Mins
    - Midget to 14 or 15 mins
    - Voting on Changing Game counts - Pre-Season will stay the same looking at adding 2-4 games possibly for regular season
    - A club brought up possibly having a higher level of NW - Calling it Select teams and then house - Rebecca and Wendy both explained we just don't have the numbers. It would be great if we could do something like that, but until the team numbers rise there can't really be two different divisions.
    - Will most likely be changing to Game Sheets for the fall
  - CUHL (Eric Scott)
    - Nothing to Report
- **Secretary/Registrar** Melisa Kochniarczyk
  - All tournaments have been paid for and charged to families
  - All Birth Certificates that have been submitted have been approved, these will be sent to AHAI in the Fall for verification. These have to be sent as a team to be approved.
  - AHAI has changed tryout dates for all for TIER II can start 8/15/25
  - June 30 - July 4th USA Hockey National office is closed
  - July 30th Registrar Training Zoom Call

- o Will start to work on a new master spreadsheet for 2025-2026 Coaches / Board spreadsheet - contacting people about safesport / background checks ect.
- o Will be working on Stormy / New Manager of Managers for Tournament Form for Fall. We will be going back to tournaments not being scheduled until Stormy has approved. We will be adding information on there as well so all are on the same page as to what level we are entering teams. This was added last year to the Tournament Spreadsheet shared to Managers, but would like to make sure coaches are on the same page.

• **Development Coordinator**

Colleen Krol

- o Development just wrapped up another very successful year where we saw our numbers grow to new heights. We've had so many new faces coming through the lobby, and gliding out onto that ice for the first time. In the past 6 months I've heard more and more "My kids classmate plays for the Jaguars" or "My neighbor said to come see you" or my personal favorite "We were at another club and their development program is lacking. We started asking around and everyone said to come here". So to our current families - please continue to talk about our development program, because it's working. It's such an exciting time for our development program, and we can't wait to see how big we can grow the program next year. After a short break... I'll get back into planning that.
- o I'm in the process of organizing all of our rental equipment. I've been in constant communication with Brian and Kevin with Rink Rat Rentals, and we're looking to schedule a pickup of all of their gear this coming weekend.
- o Jerry and I will be coming back over the next few weeks to go through Jaguar rental equipment to take inventory, clean, and repair anything that needs it. We'll have a better idea of where we sit after that day; and I'll make sure to communicate that with the executive board.
- o Development returns to the ice Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup> running for 6 weeks until August 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes are offered only on Wednesday nights. We return to our normal schedule in September after Labor Day, official start dates are still TBD.
- o Jerry and I will be in contact with Kristin so that we can plan out the 25/26 Development calendar in the coming weeks, preferably before July. We always look forward to trying to decipher Jerry's hieroglyphics in person. Kristin, just let me know of any dates in June that won't work for you.
- o I'd like to straddle the line between board member, manager, and travel parent for a brief second; and formally thank Kristin for an amazing job she's done this season. It wasn't easy, it wasn't always pretty, and it certainly didn't always go as planned. But the club tried something new and there will always be issues with a new venture. But the communication from her to managers and coaches was nothing short of excellent. Anytime I had a question or concern she was quick to help me resolve it. So thank you for all you've done in the short amount of time we had.

▪ **Chairman of Rules & Ethics**

Ryan Melling

- o One player incident to report. None ice infraction that resulted in multiple players suspended for violation to Club & Player Code of Conduct.
- o Major takeaway here is the players are unaware of what they are signing and committing to.

▪ **Director of Fundraising**

Melissa Reese

o **Plant Fundraiser:**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our new plant fundraiser! Despite a few issues on the plant store's end, it was a successful effort. As a club, we sold 120 plants, earning \$866 for families. Rejuvenate also generously donated \$134 to the club. All credits from this fundraiser have been applied to player accounts.

o **Milwaukee Pretzel Company Fundraiser:**

Thank you to everyone who took part in this new fundraiser—it was a great success! Many families have requested that we continue offering this fundraiser in the future. As a club, we sold 399 items, earning a total of \$4,090.00 for families. Delivery is scheduled for tomorrow, May 20th, at Inwood during the day. Families can pick up their orders between 5:30–7:30 PM in the Inwood lobby. A big thank you to John Wirkus for coordinating the delivery with Inwood. Credits for this fundraiser will be finalized and applied to player accounts later this week.

o **Banners:**

We are currently waiting for the sponsor banners to be completed by the printer. Once ready, they will be handed off to Inwood to be displayed in June. Due to last year's construction at Inwood, all current banners will remain up for another year.

o **Fantasy Hockey Winners – Prize Check Update**

A message was recently sent out to the club to confirm whether Fantasy Hockey winners have received their prize checks from BoosterShot. Unfortunately, the envelopes these checks come in are often mistaken for junk mail and discarded before being opened. Several families have already reached out to report that their winners did not receive their prize money. Diane from BoosterShot has been extremely helpful and is working quickly to reissue any missing checks. If your winner has not yet received a check for a Fantasy Hockey win, please notify me by **June 1st**, so we can ensure a replacement is sent out promptly.

o **Concessions**

**John Wirkus**

- Concessions season is on going. We had our first slammers event and everything went smoothly and reports were people enjoyed it. We have sent all venues our new information for the Booster Club. We are awaiting contracts from Legends for the Booster Club, and have signed the contract for Seat Geek. All volunteer lists and bassets have been sent to Legends along with preliminary gate lists. Once an official schedule is sent to us we will release any dates we do not have on our list. We opened up the 5 shows at alpine to see if we could get volunteers, but so far there aren't more than 3 or 4 people signed up per show. We need volunteers for Summer Smash 6/17-6/19 and North Coast 8/29-8/31.

▪ **Director of Marketing**

**Jim Siewert**

o **Business Registrations**

- Joliet Jaguar Hockey Club - Paperwork submitted to dissolve old registration in Illinois.
- Jaguar Hockey - Incorporation paperwork submitted, registration completed in Illinois and Federal, 501(c)3 registration in process. Currently allowed to operate as a business, just bending charitable and tax exempt status
- Jaguar Foundation - Incorporation paperwork submitted, registration completed in Illinois and Federal, 501(c)3 registration in process. Currently allowed to operate as a business, just bending charitable and tax exempt status
- Jaguar Booster Club
  - Incorporation paperwork submitted, registration completed in Illinois and Federal
  - 501(c)3 registration completed.
  - Pending Illinois tax exempt status approval

o **Domain Names / Email**

- JaguarHockeyClub.com and JaguarHockey.net have been transferred over. Domain email setup in progress dependent on final non-for-profit registration. Domain email will be free from google for non-for-profit companies.
- **Concessions**
  - Sample Buttons were ordered and arrived with two different sizes for use as Credit One and other venues that require us to wear their shirts when working concessions.
- **Marketing**
  - Sample stickers were ordered and arrived. Upon approval will order full quantity
- **Locker Room Display**
  - The new locker room assignment display is operational. Custom site built for display and management of games.
  - The Computer in the office is no longer needed as the monitor is now running off a single board computer mounted to the back of the monitor.
  - Lauren is checking with the park district to see if we can add the same thing to the TV that is not normally used in the lobby.
- **Girls Hockey**
  - Facebook ads are running for the first test of Girls Hockey. Currently received 12 leads over the last two weeks. Each lead is costing about 8 dollars per lead to obtain with current advertising. Expect this ratio to change as we obtain additional marketing materials to use.
  - CBS news interviewing Lauren, Stormy on 5/19 at 6pm about the Fall girls hockey season.
- **Director of Technology and Communication** Denise Spreeman
  - Thank you to the managers for the great content this spring.
  - Our FB numbers have gone up a ton in the past 28 days:
    - 126,849 views - up 65% from last month
    - 5,375 interactions - up 139.2% from last month
    - 2,453 followers - up 10% from last month
  - Thank you to Jim for adjusting Hockey Hub with all my silly requests. I truly appreciate it.
- **Ice Scheduler** Kristin Dondlinger
  - Spring scheduling is finally complete with only 4 days left! We do have 2 teams in a tournament this weekend & one team with an away game next Thursday. Thank you to the managers for volunteering this season which will go down in the memory books for sure. It did not turn out to be all that we had hoped for & disappointment/frustration was felt through every level of membership in the club. Managers were the front lines of both questions & complaints, so I appreciate each of you for your effort & support. We will definitely be choosing a different path for next spring!!
  - Summer sessions are laid out & pending approval by Lauren & Stormy. We're looking at 4 sessions each level, including goalies & girls, all at Inwood
  - Fall pre-season conditioning & tryout dates should be coming in the next few weeks, pending an ice contract with Canlan
- **Member at Large** Mike Lazzari
  - Will be looking to work with others on trying to make the scholarship application electronic going forward
- **Equipment Manager** Elyce O'Sullivan
  - I have handed off Coaches jackets to Stormy to get embroidery done
  - Wirkus will update again re:preseason Pure Hockey ordering in June

- o want to touch on rolling ordering throughout the season (specifically in the beginning)
- **Manager of Managers** **Ryan Melling**
  - o Wrapping up the final week, Managers all did a great job communicating and reaching out with any questions
  - o Side bar - We should create some how to's , using the Crossbar App.
  - o Adding Games & events
  - o Adding assignments
  - o Where to review parent and club documents
  - o Squirt 1 won the Big Bear Spring tournament.
  - o Thank you to all of the Managers this spring!
- **New Business**
  - o Parents were in the room discussing the upcoming Central States season and how it is going to work and if it would resemble NIHL. Coach Stormy and Coach Targett joined in for this portion of the meeting. Coach Stormy/Lauren Walsh explained how the process will go. We will petition for True Central States teams and then the rest of the teams will be put in the affiliated Central States Division (Red, White, Blue Tier 1 ect. Mocking NIHL), Mites will be placed in the CUHL league, Girls will be in NIHL (Girls only) and any teams deemed fit will be in the NWHL. Discussed Top teams possibly being Major / Minor teams (one birth year only) and then the next teams being a mix of birth years.
  - o We need to create a committee to review the logo usage & grant permission for using the logo.
  - o Need to put out media release onto all members within Crossbar
  - o **Old Business**
  - o **Elections for Manager of Managers**
    - Sarah Dean won the position

**Meeting ended at 8:26 PM by a Motion from Mike Lazarri and Second from Denise Spreeman - all in Favor**