

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Jaguar Hockey Club Board Meeting**

**April 21st, 2025**

**Meeting Called @ 7:06 by President Lauren Walsh**

- **Roll Call** - Lauren Walsh, Griff Schiele, John Wirkus, Eric Scott, Melisa Kochniarczyk, Colleen Krol, Melissa Reese, Kristin Dondlinger, Elyce O'Sullivan, Ryan Melling
- **President's Address** Lauren Walsh
  - o Installation of new executive member
    - John Wirkus/VP of Hockey Operations
  - o Housekeeping
    - Office - We changed the door handle to the office. The previous handle, the buttons were sticking and was proving to be a problem. If you do not know the code, please ask!
  - o Spring 2025
    - Spring season is in full swing. The spring coop has proven to be more difficult in scheduling than anticipated. Kristin has been working her butt off to find teams/games for all teams. PLEASE be patient and bear with us. Things are being added daily. We are getting there. We advertised 4-6 games for spring. We are working our hardest to fulfill that promise.
  - o Girls Spring Program
    - Girls spring skates have been a success! More girls are attending each week!
    - Girls Fall - NIHL will be the chosen girls league. Keep in mind, this could change. Currently, the girls community is in agreement that NIHL will continue as a girls only league. There will be changes. Once NIHL officially releases those changes we will pass along the information.
  - o NIHL/CSDHL Update
    - CSDHL will be THE home for Tier II boys/coed teams in Illinois, beginning with the 2025-2026 fall season. The major/minor true CS divisions will not be changing. They will be expanding the prospects division and will have a similar declaration process used by NIHL. This process will start sometime after May 1st. We will submit our final declarations shortly after fall tryouts. There will be a seeding round to confirm or adjust placement within playing levels. They will be releasing more information regarding the Prospects division. At the moment, this is all we know. We anticipate that there will be bumps in the road, but this is the only option for tier II boys/coed hockey in Illinois.
  - o AHAI Annual Meeting
    - AHAI Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference - Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca, IL 60143.
      - Board members are encouraged to attend. I will pass along conference info when it becomes available.
  - o Elections

- Elections are this evening. We will be electing the following:
  - Positions up for election:
    - R&E
      - Ryan Melling
    - Marketing
      - Jim Siewert
  - Outcome dependent, we will be announcing nominations for the position of Manager of Managers in the next day or so.
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- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - Colleen Krol Motioned - John Wirkus Second - All in Favor
- **Treasury Report** Griff Schiele
  - Sending out information for coaches to fill out tax and banking information for Quickbooks
  - Starting to work on the fall budget
- **Vice President of Hockey Operations** John Wirkus
  - For my first update. I want to take a quick second to thank everyone on the board for their support. Especially Lauren, Eric and Melisa. I look forward to working with everyone more closely. We have already been very busy since the election results finalized.
  - Team meetings have been completed. Thank you to all the managers for getting them scheduled quickly, and they were knocked out basically in a week.
  - Working on getting squad locker transferred to my name so I can get an updated number
  - The order form for travel socks and inventory process has been updated by Lauren tested and confirmed working. Elyce and myself have taken that process over and ensured accurate timely delivery for player socks. Including switching some socks out based on incorrect orders from Pure.
  - Met with Malcom at Pure Hockey. Below are notes from that meeting
    - Looking to sign on again need to sign contract for 25-26 season
    - Preseason store front
      - 6/2-6/30
      - Last week of august for delivery ◦
      - 6/23-6/29 fittings at downers grove
    - Preseason store build out at Downers Grove
    - Girls patches on shoulders
    - Coach gift cards were sent in 9/24
    - Ala carte or full kit for packages for dev equipment
    - From that call we were able to order socks at a lower cost and saved 11 dollars a pair. We are looking to finalize girls uniforms, pant shells, and coaches jackets in the near future.
- **Vice-President of League Affairs** Eric Scott
  - NIHL
    - Planning on transitioning for Girls only
    - Believe they will have over 60 teams
    - Battle for Bob Link is on the website
    - Saturday May 31 annual AHAI meeting
  - NWHL (Melisa Miller)
    - Meeting only discussed Spring Hockey
  - CUHL (Eric Scott)
    - Nothing to Report

- **Secretary/Registrar** Melisa Kochniarczyk
  - All rosters have been submitted into USA Hockey
  - Have received new medical supplies for restocking in the office
  - Any tournaments known have been registered/paid for
- **Development Coordinator** Colleen Krol
  - The next session has started with 62 Little Jaguars - 23 Pre Hockey Skaters
  - We have a lot of Jr Volunteers
- **Chairman of Rules & Ethics**
- **Director of Fundraising** Melissa Reese
  - Plant Fundraiser: Thank you everyone for your cooperation with this new fundraiser, it did not start out perfectly but seems to be resolved. Ashley from RejuveNate apologizes for all the confusion and miscommunication about flowers offered for the fundraiser. She has not used paper order forms very often but it was the only option for us to keep track of who sold what for credits to be applied correctly. This fundraiser ends this Friday the 25th and all order forms/money are due at that time.
  - Milwaukee Pretzel Company: Pretzel fundraiser is running smoothly and ends on May 5th. All order forms/money are due on or before May 5th to ensure delivery on May 20th. This is another new fundraiser we are offering with 50% profits.
  - Banner Fundraiser: The banner fundraising program has closed. I am working with our banner company to get 3 new sponsor banners created to be hung in June. I will work with the park district about setting up a date to hang them once banners are in my possession.
  - **Concessions** John Wirkus
    - Concessions season is going along with Seat Geek events already underway. We are finalizing insurance and contracts with CU1, HBP, and the Slammers. We had a nice push before the last events were published to Connecteams about 12 new volunteers were added. Most events are posted but there will be more after we get official schedules from the venues. We are also going to consider Alpine Valley again, they will only have 5 shows but are all sold out. We have orientation for CU1 on April 29th and then HBP on May 3rd to review the venue's policies, rules, and procedures.
- **Director of Marketing** John Wirkus
  - Looking forward to bringing a new person on and working with them going forward on existing and new projects.
- **Director of Technology and Communication** Denise Spreeman
  - No report
- **Ice Scheduler** Kristin Dondlinger
  - Game scheduling is still a work in progress & not complete. Still working on confirming with multiple clubs, but they've been trickling in all day today (FINALLY). This has been a daily process for multiple hours over the last month +, so will be glad when everyone's schedules are finally full!
  - Home game slots are not on the calendar as TBD because I've had to move stuff around to make things work. I have been texting coaches & managers as games get confirmed & added to Crossbar
  - Home game slots are not on the calendar as TBD because I've had to move stuff around to make things work. I have been texting coaches & managers as games get confirmed & added to Crossbar

- o Managers, also please check your practice schedules to make sure there are no weeknight game conflicts where you're scheduled for both a game & practice on the same night. I think I caught them all but another set of eyes helps
  - o Will be meeting with Development as well as Lauren & Stormy for the travel side soon to plan out summer
- **Member at Large** Mike Lazzari
  - o Coaches Vs Veterans game was a success raising \$3,600.00 for Project Headspace & Timing. They are beyond appreciative of our club.
- **Equipment Manager** Elyce O'Sullivan
  - o All spring jerseys have been delivered
  - o Reminder that I have game socks for anyone in need of them
  - o Development socks have been ordered
  - o Reminder to managers: any "uniform" accessories/purchases need to be run by the equipment manager/board first
- **Manager of Managers** Ryan Melling
  - o All team mtg's were completed within the first 10 days of the season, most teams by their second practice. Thank you to John, Lauren, Melisa and Eric for jumping in assisting.
  - o Parents and teams would like to know if and when remaining games will be scheduled
  - o If games are not scheduled a few teams have expressed entering a tournament, how would we address this as an option or is it not an option? It was discussed, some teams have been put in local tournaments with no charge to the team. We have had some teams have also decided as a team to play in a tournament at their own cost.
  - o If the Prairie State League is going to be a future option into next spring, how would you like the managers to communicate the pitfalls we've encountered in year one. (lack of games, teams not showing up... etc.,) - At this time Jaguars will be looking at other options for Spring 2026.
- **New Business**
- **Old Business**

**Meeting Ended 7:40 PM by a motion from Colleen Krol and Second from John Wirkus - all in favor**