

Grand Rapids Amature Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes: December 2nd
6pm Yanmar Arena

Board Members:

Present-Ryan Dekich, Jon Toivonen, Dan Mertes, Anna Peters, Andy Haarklau, Shawwna Rude, Mitch Kellin, Grant Clafton, Brad Hyduke Brian Anderson

Quorum- Yes

Members Present: , Molly Casey, Kendra Mitchel, Dale Christy, Cara Scott, see attachment for other members present

Proceedings:

Meeting Call to order 6:02pm by Jon Toivonen

Boys PDC: Grant Clafton- Squirt teams are now picked and everything went well. Squirts had another parent meeting to again explain the new model. Grant would like to discuss junior gold again possibly at the next board meeting. Need to discuss with parents of possible players at the end of this season to decide if the parents and players would like to have a team and gauge their commitment level.

Ryan Dekich-Need to purchase more practice equipment tires, pucks. Need to find a location to store this equipment so that it does not keep disappearing.

Gambling Auditor: Karen, Logan from Blake and Lind GRAHA Total gambling Profit for 2024 \$303,259 largest gross profit ever for GRAHA. Karen suggests continuing to have gambling, give the dollar amount to the community foundation and have them make the payments to the loan for the Pavillion project.

Board statement by Cody Mann- Cody states that he knows Brad as a person and the attacks on the character of Brad Hyduke are not only baseless but also harmful to our community. He himself has had nothing but good experience with Brad as someone that cares about his athletes and wants the best for them. The slander has to stop.

Jon Toivonen- We will not talk about the petition again as it was put out anonymously and has no relation directly to GRAHA.

Parent Concerns: 15uB concerns Jeremy Marsh, Steve Arbour- 15ub Does not have a goalie parents feel like the PDC and Board is leaving these kids behind and has the following questions.

1. Did everyone on the PDC agree that this was the best solution at the 15u level to develop players? Yes the vote was unanimous there were 3+ meetings to discuss the situation of not having 2 goalies. All in agreement that this was not ideal but felt like this was the best option.
2. How did they decide this was the best course of action? This model is not the best, but this model has worked in other associations. PDC did not want to end up having to cut players because there were too many for one team.

3. What happens if the coaches decide they do not want to do this any longer, feels like the PDC kind of left them to fend for themselves. PDC, Board and Parents agree that on all sides there was poor communication. PDC does wish they would have known sooner that things were not going well. And Parents/coaches wish they would have been brought into the discussion sooner.
4. Does the PDC think it is safe for girls to play goalie for the first time at the 15u Level? Not for someone with an injury or recent injury, but with Petey and the new gear yes it should be safe.
5. What to do when the girls do not want to play goalie? We cannot make anyone try goalie. GRAHA Board and PDC does not like that there is a team within GRAHA that does not have a goalie.
 - a. Brad- PDC was not aware that the Date of Dec 31st was flexible with Minnesota hockey otherwise that would have sparked a further conversation about options for 15ub Goalie and splitting more time with the goalie that is available for some games beyond that Dec 31st date.
6. PDC did pose a question when making this decision- Would it have been better to have 1 team with players that did not get any playing time? Or the PDC thought a better option would be: 2 teams with players that are having to skate every other shift and getting more playing time for all the players.

GRAHA needs to change the mindset of parents not wanting kids to play goalie, and are actively working to change that.

Discussion ended with everyone in agreement that hopefully this does not happen again and hopefully there is a better solution on the horizon.

Concession update- Cara Scott Rounding up to donate to the pavilion project may not be a great option since everything is even amounts. Cara was able to get the new freezers for around \$850. The Department of Health was here on the 18th of November and everything went well. Toms Coffee reached out wondering about possibly coming in and selling out by the pavilion and possibly at girls games. Board would be fine with being out at the Pavilion, possibly girls games, but there needs to be a contract in place with what would be donated back to GRAHA. Also need to speak with Dale about if he would be ok with that as it is City property.

Gambling update- Dale Christy need to approve October tax return, November checkbook register, December budget. December budget is up because of 3 paychecks in December and the combined receipt tax is up from last month. Anna makes a motion to approve these items Dan Mertes seconds. Motion carries by board vote.

Unwined- Going to be starting January they are also interested in BINGO.

Dale has someone that is willing to train someone to get them started in going to the sites and doing more games. We just need to find someone to do that.

Potential new gambling site- person redoing scenic pines.

Request for donation for Pavilion project \$75,000 Motion made by Andy Haarklau, seconded by Dan Mertes. Motion carried by board vote.

Donation Request from Blue Line Club \$250 for Ethan's Heart coming from GRAHA general fund Motion made by Anna Peters to make donation seconded by Shawna Rude. Motion carried by board vote.

Secretary's report- Motion made to approve report by Andy Haarklau seconded by Jon Toivonen. Motion carried by board vote.

DIBS- Shawna Rude-Any Varsity games \$750 for outside organization to work. Shawna will work on getting information out soon to school and outside organizations with open dates. For DIBS no shows the rule moving forward will be to add 1 DIB to the person the first time it happens and if it happens a second time we will cash the check for that person. This does not happen very often.

Financial report- Anna Peters motion made to approve financial report by Andy Haarklau seconded by Mitch

Sponsorship update Ryan Dekich- Going good making progress on pavilion ads.

Molly Casey- Auctions going great so far \$1300 donated to GRAHA. Working on getting a local bids for the wall of fame.

Jon Toivonen- Dale working on trying to get a new more user friendly scoreboard.

Rink Tech- Mitch recommending a screen for the bottom of the chiller rink tech says \$12000 members think that maybe we can make something cheaper but in agreement that there need to be something to protect the equipment.

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 833 by Jon Toivonen.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Shawna Rude 12/05/24