

MINUTES

Mesabi East Youth Hockey Board

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 Hoyt Lakes Arena

In Attendance

President | Brad Engstrom: Attended

Vice President | Derek Hirsch: Attended

Treasurer | Hillary Hartleben: Attended

Secretary: OPEN

Ace Coordinator: OPEN

Registrar | Leah Nielsen: Attended

Tournament Coordinator | Stephanie Engstrom: Excused

Hockey Hut Manager | Cali Mirau: Excused

Hockey Hut Co-Manager | Anneissa LeChevalier: Attended

Volunteer Coordinator | Cheyenne Thorne: Attended

Fundraising Coordinator | Dan Mackey: Excused

Apparel Coordinator | Angie Lesar: Excused

Equipment Manager | Katie Dinsmore: Attended

Scheduler | Kathy Undeland: Excused

Website Manager: OPEN

Clinic coordinator: OPEN

Special guest:

Meeting was called to order at 05:12 pm

Approval of Minutes

Approval of November 9th Minutes.

M: Derek S: Brad

Financial (Treasurer)

A. Financial Activity Update

General | Checking: \$39,770.45

General Savings: \$36,294.98

Hockey Hut | Checking: \$8,198.57

Hockey Hut | Savings: \$25.11

M: Brad S: Derek

B. Hockey Hut Financial Activity Update

Discussion from Hockey Hut Co-Manager will start at the next board meeting.

Old Business

A. Squirt Tournament Feedback

- a. Katie reported the tournament went well and noted a few disputed game sheet errors.
- b. Some teams shared positive feedback back to Brad.
- c. Pulled pork nachos were a hit.
- d. Some miscommunication occurred with EMTs scheduling.

B. Remaining Mites Decision on Season.

- a. Aria decided not to continue with the Squirts for Mesabi East and registered with the Rock Ridge girls program. Refunds have been issued.

C. First Aid Kids for Coaches/Teams

- a. Tabled, Leah will reach out to Angie.

D. Chuck a Duck for Jr. Gold Games

- a. Tabled, until someone volunteers to lead the effort.

E. Pin Trading with Rock Ridge

- a. Pins have been ordered and paid for but we still need to pay for shipping.
- b. Katie is exploring options for displaying pints (e.g., felt).

F. Waggle Hat Fundraiser

- a. Must determine desired quantities before ordering.
- b. The idea for a custom cap design contest was discussed.
- c. Tabled for the current season and will revisit prior to registration next year (target for August discussion, September final discussion for ordering).
 - i. Added to the general timeline tracking for August.

G. Association Hats/Coaches Jackets

- a. Jackets are ordered and completed.
- b. Hats are awaiting final artwork approval.

H. Volunteer Hour Requirements Discussion

- a. Considerations at previous meetings were had for switching from hourly requirements to shift based expectations for the current season.
- b. Estimated 12-15 shifts per family; planning for 15 shifts unless the squirt schedule changes.

- c. Start exploring volunteer organizations to help support districts in exchange for donations.
- d. Confirm Hockey Hut shift dates when our teams are not available due to away games, then begin reaching out to volunteers now. Cheyenne will work on determining those dates and work with the Hut managers.
- e. Further discussion needed in March for next season planning.
 - i. Added to the general timeline tracking for March.

I. DSG Cards/Goalie Gear

- a. Katie will return helmets to DSG and will apply for store credit.
- b. We currently have enough neck guards for this season and next season.
- c. Our current spare neck straps will be distributed to each team, Katie will coordinate.
- d. Katie recommended not purchasing the first aid kits through DSG.
- e. Remaining DSG gift cards will stay unused for now as there are no current needs.

J. Community Skate Night/ Open House

- a. Brad will coordinate with Bucky to set up a community night, potentially in February.

K. Socks

- a. The previous vendor is no longer in business, Hillary will work on securing reimbursement from our debit card company, per the business closing procedures.
- b. Katie is working with Power Play to order socks.

New Business

- A. Upper Lakes Foods
 - a. Must meet the \$500 minimum order requirement.
 - b. Anninessa and Cali will coordinate to meet the order requirement.
 - c. Consider inventory needs for the Mini Mite Tournament.
 - d. Explore requesting a line of credit; if not approved, proceed with ACH payment.
 - e. Purchase self-laminating sheets and possibly a label maker.
- B. Poms Poms to sell in the hut for the Mini Mite Tournament
 - a. Approved to purchase poms-poms for sale in the Hockey Hut using Hockey Hut funds.
- C. Hockey Hut Contract Signed/Approved
 - a. The contract has been signed and approved.
 - b. Copy is available on TeamReach and the drive.
- D. Board approval of additional Mini Mite Team for Home Tournament
 - a. The tournament will be capped at 10 teams.
 - b. Silver Bay will be participating in the tournament and was offered a free entry to be able to host ten teams.

M: Brad S: Derek

- E. Locker Room Policy and Signs on Locker Room Updated (Copy on Team Reach)
 - a. Updated policy and signage completed.
 - b. Copy is available on TeamReach, the drive, and the website.
- F. Refund Hunter Thorne's equipment rental due to being transferred to Mini Mites
 - a. M: Derek S:Brad
- G. Volunteer pay out rates for Hockey Hut
 - a. Volunteer payout rates will remain the same as last season.
 - b. If volunteer shifts remain unfilled within two days of the shift, and:
 - No outside community volunteers are available, and
 - Association parents have already completed their required shifts,
 - The open shifts can be offered to association members for payment from the/set up by the volunteer coordinator.
- H. Open Positions
 - a. Postings will be made via the Hockey Association Team Reach regarding open voting positions.
 - b. The Secretary, Ace Coordinator, and Website are currently open.
 - c. Non-voting positions will not be filled until the annual board meeting and positions are reviewed.
 - d. Interest expressed:
 - e. Cheyenne for Secretary.
 - f. Leah for Ace Coordinator.
- I. Revoke or make adjustments to the goalie equipment purchase for \$1K in prior board meeting
 - a. The previously approved \$1,000 goalie equipment purchased is revoked.
M: Brad S: Derek
- J. Tax exempt account was approved with WalMart and Sams Club
 - a. Tax exempt accounts have been set up with Walmart and Sam's Club.
 - b. An Amazon tax exempt account will be looked into.
- K. Rink Rats
 - a. Cheynee will sponsor this year's program.
 - b. Indoor open hockey and open skating have been added as an approved hour tracking.
- L. Board Sponsorship/Website Spotlight
 - a. Sponsorship structure:
 - Returning Sponsors (Second year and going forward): \$350.
 - Sponsors who commit during this season (2025-2026) will get their second year waived.
 - Initial year sponsor payments are \$750.
 - Hillary will look into adding a sponsor bonus onto the website.
 - i. M: Derek S: Brad
- M. Wild Grant
 - a. An application was submitted for Period 2.
 - b. Will apply for Period 3 if Period 2 funding is not awarded.

N. Game Sheet

- a. Brad will explore options and contacts to see if someone can come on site to provide training.

O. Skate Sharpening

- a. Derek will coordinate with Bucky to see if coaches are able to be trained and learn the procedures for accepting skate sharpening payments on behalf of the City.

P. Locker Room Monitors

- a. USA Hockey numbers for Cassidy Cook and Eric Dinsmore need to be forwarded to Leah.
- b. USA Hockey numbers for Learn to Skate Coaches should also be provided to Leah to verify background checks.
 - i. Leah will talk with the District to determine the proper ways.

Q. Ipad charging needs

- a. The Association should consider purchasing a new iPad if required, or inquiry with the City ownership needs of the iPads.
 - i. Brad will discuss options with Bucky.
- b. Purchasing approved for new charging cords (Lightening to USB-C) and blocks.
 - i. Hillary will purchase.

R. Sign for Hockey Hut Ages allowed in back

- a. Anninesa will create a laminated sign indicating age restrictions for the Hut.

Action Items

A. Bylaw updates to reflect policies via affiliate agreement.

- a. Approved to update for the affiliate agreement and revised locker room policy

B. Adding our external Hockey Hut volunteers to a TeamReach

- a. Approved to have a TeamReach for our volunteers.
- b. Add volunteer coordinator, board president, hockey hut managers
- c. Hillary to update the QR code on flyer for Team Reach.

C. Reaching out to volunteers

- a. Discussion was held under H in Old Business.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 13th at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.