

**HINSDALE CENTRAL HOCKEY CLUB
BOARD MEETING
Willowbrook Ice Arena
October 23, 2024**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

James Brooks, Louise Crabb, Kenny Carlin, Don Draudt, Brad Durkin, Jim Hamman, Julie Rzeppa, Jay Scharkey and Tina Weller

President's Update:

Preliminary discussion around parent concerns over division of ice time during game play. Several parents voiced concerns and dissatisfaction with playing time and management of varsity bench and relayed those concerns to Jen Baskel (who relayed them to Don Draudt). Discussion ensued around playing time, rolling of lines, and dual concern of earning ice time versus player development and pros/cons of both.

Don provided update from Illinois West regarding penalty issues. Broadly speaking, misconducts, penalties, and suspensions are on the rise within the league. Club to remind players and parents of consequences of Illinois West rule violations and existing club policies above and beyond Illinois West's decisions/suspensions.

Discussion around Madison tournament. Schedule has changed several times, so players and parents reminded to continue checking for updates. Club has opted out of securing block of rooms for players.

Registration and Rostering:

All rosters are current; all players are registered and paid. No issues to report.

Social Media:

New videos posted on website, including video of Hockey Director welcome/introduction. Audio is not great, but a professional grade video is not worth the cost/expense to produce.

Recruitment skate dates of December 16, 2024 and January 6, 2025 for middle school students/incoming freshmen posted on site. Images from Homecoming parade also posted/updated.

Louise currently working player profiles/spotlights for social media. Reminder of new Instagram account.

Secretary Update:

Jay reported on continued investigation into migrating club website from SportsEngine to Crossbar. Provided update on discussions with Crossbar representative regarding various gating issues, including migration of data, costs/expenses, and overall pain associated with transition. Overall, intro call with Crossbar was positive. Demo scheduled for Friday, October 25. Jim Hamman will join call to ventilate/evaluate backend roster/registration concerns.

Jay also raised the issue of streamlining monthly board meetings by providing updates in advance of meetings (e.g., circulation of P&L, routine updates) so that meeting times can be used to focus on, evaluate and decide significant issues.

No progress to report of R&E procedures for R&E policy enforcement; aiming to have further update at next board meeting.

Fundraising:

Brad provided update on DoubleGood Popcorn sales/results and individual sponsor contributions.

Events:

Blackhawks game January 18 (Golden Knights) if sufficient interest among Club. Christmas party scheduled for December 12 at Neat Kitchen in Westmont.

Alumni:

Kenny continuing to evaluate dates for alumni skate, hoping to get a good turnout; 25 alumni skaters participated last year.

Apparel:

Julie floated potential cross-marketing ideas with Hinsdale Central Water Polo Club. Idea would be to get teams to support one another in terms of attending games and generating more awareness of both clubs at the school.

Treasurer Update:

Review P&L and discussion of budget overrun to due purchasing more ice time than needed. Willowbrook will open up December 21 slots (12:50 – 2:20 and 2:30 to 4:00) and January 25 slots (11:00 – 12:30 and 12:40 – 2:10) for sale. Club will recover whatever amounts recovered if ice sells. Board discussed hosting fall and spring tournaments as a way to generate additional revenue, depending on interest from other clubs. Also discussed officiating costs/expenses and whether to continue with current officiating format (3) or increase coverage to two referees and two linesmen for all remaining conference games and how to cover the increase cost.

Hockey Director Update:

Addressed Varsity player/parent concerns over ice time and the tension between motivating and developing players (rolling lines versus players earning ice time). Goal is not to punish players but to encourage and motivate players to buy into systems and play those systems. Director emphasized that playing time is not skills or points-based but rather based on players demonstrating an ability to exit the defensive zone, execute the forecheck, and play a clean physical game, including finishing checks and fighting for puck possession. Board members questioned whether players who are getting fewer minutes of ice time should be afforded opportunities in games where team is leading or where team is trailing significantly. Director open to further discussion of how to achieve more ice time for players while remaining competitive.

Looking ahead to spring season. Based on feedback, Club looking at 1 practice, 1 game per week format for spring season. Interested in joining Neuqua Valley league and hosting a spring showcase tournament at Willowbrook.

Thanksgiving tournament update. Did not make it off the wait list for Loyola Thanksgiving Hockey Tournament and will participate in Prep Tournament in Mount Prospect.

Discussion of meal times and game times at up-coming Madison tournament; trying to structure so that players have nutrition/energy for games but that they eat sufficiently in advance of games.

Overall report on both teams. JV seems to be playing consistently good hockey. V struggling to play consistently disciplined and structured game, despite working hard at practice on systems, including the forecheck.

Next Board Meeting:

November 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Ice Arena.