

West Madison Polar Caps Board Meeting, 2.17.21

Attendees: Matt Goetze, Mike Wenkman, Steve Reuhl, Jake Moskol, Andy Boucher, Andy Osmond, Dan Urben, Ryan Richards, Scott Meskin, Andy Mendyk, Jamie Beyler, Joey Frayne, Drew Justman, Jen Baer, Jon Koch, Tricia Wheeler, Laura Mendyk, Steve Corsi

The president called the meeting to order.

COVID Update: The new order from PHMDC now allows more ice to be used for practices and games at MIA. An indoor space is defined as a half-sheet for practices and a full sheet for games. Scheduling at MIA will begin to reflect this change, especially for RWB and Cross Ice teams.

Board members should let Matt know of their intention to remain on the board or roll off for the coming year.

Treasurer Update (Jen)

Now doing team reconciliation and no major outliers. Some teams are ramping up more so keeping an eye on that. Cash on hand should come out to \$45K-\$50K by end of year.

In-House (Steve C.)

Skater total is 32 currently (and increasing). We have teams of 10, 11, and 12 skaters (average of 11 per team) for 10U through 14U. Some with very little experience. One team is mostly kids who transferred from travel teams. Limited practices generally this year - maybe half of what we have seen in previous years. Some coaches, managers, parents remain concerned about that. How might we reconcile by the end of the year? Plan to go through March and end prior to spring break. Possibly some weekday times opening up at MIA and Hartmeyer (once per week, at least). Lack of early ice, no studio ice, and no outdoor ice has been a factor all year.

Cross Ice (Drew)

Small program this year - 14 kids. End date will be at the end of March (prior to spring break). Challenge: How to replenish this level looking ahead (Waunkee has 7 cross ice teams!). How can we grow this age group - very small right now. A recruitment committee is coming together and moving Little Blackhawks to fall could help. Andy and others are working on this and it's a high priority.

RWB (Joey)

Challenge with studio down and supplementing with outdoor times as well. Looking forward to getting some games over the next few weeks. Some parents are concerned - higher ice fees with fewer skaters but that will change going into next year.

Squirts (Chad)

Each team has had 2-4 games most weekends. Teams are extending the season through the first few weeks of March, if possible. The new rules will allow this if limited to 25 people, not including coaches (employees). Coaches and refs do not count in the total. LiveBarn now coming online. No PW or Bantam games but in-house and SQ will be OK. Scheduling will go through Jay for game ice.

Pee Wee (Andy B.)

Congrats to PW A and C Blue for State bids! Lots of tourney activity now. New COVID commemorative shirts available.

Bantams (Steve R.)

Bantam As going to state (38 games). Bs will get 34 games. For next year, we have 16 7th graders eligible, 5 eighth graders, and 11 9th graders - but could also play highschool. Looking at 32 Bantams - tight for two teams since several will likely play highschool.

Recruiting (Andy M.)

Looking to get some off season programming going and re-branding initiation program. Maybe offer shorter chunks and earlier in the year, synced with Little Blackhawks and Learn to Skate programs. Aiming to offer intro programming with a session starting after July 4th holiday and then Little Blackhawks after Labor Day. More opportunities leading into the fall as well.

Looking to build a recruitment committee to assess marketing, strategy and bring in more families. Need to get another group for planning of off-ice programs and intro sessions. Middle summer/early fall for skills academy options as well. These would be two distinct groups: Recruiting and Program Planning - all to build up Initiation and Cross Ice programs.

Looking for organizations for synergy in recruiting (one way to reach more folks). Recruiting group has met once already.

Studio Ice

Insurance covers the new compressors (was 4, now will be 6). Ice out by May 2 and then back online mid June (both main sheet and studio).