

WHA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Date: Monday, April 8th

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Civic Center

Board Members Present: Travis Michelson, Ashley Thole, Erik Rannetsberger, Darin Strand, Cory Fladeboe, Justin Rucks, Corey Hanson, Justin Jorgenson, Shawn Engstrom

Absent: Brooke Dahl, Shannon Lindquist

Guests Present: Becky Villnow, WHB Update

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from 3.11.24 made by Darin, 2nd by Corey H. Motion carried.

New Business

WHB Update – Becky Villnow was here to discuss.

- Worked with Rambow/Aaron Minter to do neck guard order for our association kids with the upcoming rule change. Give families some options. We would have to get a store out before the rule is in effect on August 1.
- Boosters want to know if WHA wants to take over the parade. They are having more success with Rockin' Robins and will not do the parade going forward.
 - WHA would rather focus on other marketing avenues that have a better ROI. With this, hockey will no longer be in the parade.
- Boosters are willing to aid in getting school field trips to come to the rink and do some skating. Would be willing to assist in busing. City is willing to donate the ice. May want to look at seeing if the busing company will donate some of the busing costs too.
- Working on bringing back 1st year free paid by Boosters. There would be some criteria set as to what 1st year means. Families will need to apply for the scholarship to qualify. Work with the Registrar and the Treasurer to get this on registration.
 - Boosters want to get away from giving the aid directly to the families but rather give directly to WHA for those families.

D5 Update – Thanks Erik for going!

- D5 mentioned that in the years to come, USA will require a HECC approval to be on neck guards. If families are starting to order these, keep this in mind.

Many on the market will probably end up being HECC approved. Neck guards need to be in place for any USA Hockey event by August 1, 2024.

- Associations will need to submit home tournament dates by May 1st to Kevin Mooney.
 - The city of Willmar would like to also have these ASAP.
- PeeWee and Bantam Regional Tournaments are looking for multiple hosts.
 - We are very willing to host again. It would be nice to not have weekends that conflict with WarHawks games, if possible.
- D5 will be creating a live google doc this year for associations to upload intended team levels for 24/24 season.
- Luke H was elected to the 2nd vice president seat on the D5 board. Al Setrum was re-elected to the Secretary position for the D5 board.
- Once our election is over, we need to submit a new board roster to Nate Wold.
- ALEC May 3-4th @ the Marriott MPLS Westin St. Louis Park - Encouraged to have as many as possible attend from each association. Erik has signed up to attend on Saturday. Is anyone else interested in attending? Link to the conference agenda - <https://www.minnesotahockey.org/page/show/2429953-conference-topics-and-schedule>
- D5 board is looking to add new positions (non-board positions)
 - DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) Coordinator
 - Social Media Coordinator
- D5 will be meeting again on Wednesday May 1st. Associations will not be fined if there isn't a representative present. However, it is strongly encouraged that each association has someone present. D5 will then break for the summer and resume meetings in August.
- MN Hockey update - Joe Delich was in attendance. Provided a brief explanation of the proposed rule changes being discussed this month at the quarterly meeting. Girls Pilot Program - Looking to make 13U/16U permanent.

Executive

- No update at this time

Finance

- No Treasurer report this meeting. Will have it on April 22nd once the final bills come in and we have a better picture where we truly are at.
- Darin and Shawn crafted an email to send to the members regarding the “state of the union” to help paint the picture on where fundraising money is going.
 - The board provided a few small tweaks to Darin. Once those are made, Darin will send to Ashley to send to the association.

Fundraising

- Troy Pederson has reached out to Travis about HackFest.
 - Date is set Friday, August 2nd
 - Working with new owners on pricing

- Things are starting to move.
- Troy has some excitement and energy on ideas to put this event together.

Marketing/Recruitment

- Try to get into the school –
 - Field trips
 - WarHawks skate at Garfield
- If the outdoor rink gets built, we can use this as a tool for bringing kids in.
- Darin has an email queued to go to Anita at the REC department to get some data on numbers, ages, etc., skate inventory, and start to plan for next year.
- Working with Boosters on their efforts too.
- Do a mid-summer event with another sport, like baseball.

Off-Ice

- Jerseys all turned in? Missing two at this time. Cory is working to collect.
 - A few returned to parents to clean up better as well. They came in tough.
- 1st and 2nd Place medals
 - Quote is being redone as the vendor misunderstood our request. Should be getting an updated quote soon.
 - Should be around \$1250 for a year supply
- Waggle hats
 - Brooke has been working with Waggle for WHA hats. We could purchase a few and use them as give a way or winnings for certain events. Wouldn't cost anything out of WHA pocket to run a store for them to the association.
 - We could earn about \$2-\$5 a hat sold.
 - Offer a black and a white version
- Doing a summer clothing order and add the neck guards to it that Rambow has found. Cory will connect with Rambow soon and open it for May-June timeframe.
- Puck bags and first aid kits are all back but couple but Cory is in contact with coaches on these. We have the best return of puck stock in a few years, which puts us in a better place for next season!
- Goalie equipment is still out with a few families. As long as we know who has them, we are good with them keeping it, since they are actively using them this spring/summer. Cory will touch base to remind them that they need to return when done.

Grievance

- No grievances this season!! Way to go kids and parents!

Gambling

- Still waiting to hear from Westberg Eischens about when/if they can help us with our audit. Is there someone else that might be able to help us?
 - Erik might have a connection that could help with this is Westberg falls through.

- We need to complete the following things before we can pay our annual fee...
 - LG212 Gambling Manager Application
 - \$100 application fee
 - Copy of new gambling manager applicant's dishonesty bond
- Justin Rucks is working on getting his gambling manager training done. Justin will look further into the training seminar offered. Justin is still willing to do this but still wants to have a vice or buddy to lean on for the process.

Tournament/Hockey Operations

- Need to set home tournament weekends and submit to D5 by May 1.
 - Bantams Nov 22-24, 2024
 - 10u/12u Dec 13-15, 2024
 - PeeWee Jan 10-12, 2025
 - Squirts Jan 24-26, 2025
 - Shouldn't need to know our team level designation to do this.
 - Corey H will send date to the City of Willmar to get their blessing on these dates and get them on the calendar.
- Need to look to register for away tournaments too. Possibly over register and back out/get refunds for those we don't need once we have our teams. This should hopefully help mitigate the issues we've had in past years.
- Coaches Appreciation Supper this Thursday, April 11 at the Foxhole, 6-8pm.

Registration

- Need to start setting up Tournament registration
 - Open registration as soon as possible, after city and D5 approve
- Get going on season registration
 - Open registration on July 1st
 - \$100 Early bird discount offered through July 15

Feedback results - anything new to discuss since last meeting?

- A new submission came in from a past member regarding his son's experience. This feedback was well thought out and we appreciate his feedback. Cory F reached out to this past member to thank him and talk through his points.
 - The past member wants to see change. He doesn't want to see another kid sat and not play in games. He wants us to be better and sees we are making changes and that it takes time. Just wanted to offer his insight. Cory suggested he gets involved as he has some great ideas.
- Brooke has the end of year survey ready to go. When do we send it out.
 - Sometime after elections in May. No official kick off date set at this time.

Additional Business

Spring Elections –

- How many applicants do we have? Will we need to vote?
 - Zero official at this time. We verbally have heard from 3.
- Is Election Buddy ready to go?
 - Ready to go and tested
 - Only will be needed if we have 6 or more nominees
- We have 3 families that are not in good standing that cannot vote in the election. Ashley has these names to remove from the list.

Ice Scheduling

- Corey has met with Scheffler and is familiarizing himself with the scheduling platform. Corey has the log-in information for the system. He's plugged Ryan about a possible regional tournament.
 - Figure skating and Curling have set schedules so we can fill in elsewhere.
 - Can start tentatively planning and entering practice times, tournaments, or other events we know of.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Justin R 2nd by Justin J Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

Next Meeting

6PM, Monday, April 22nd at the Civic Center.