Comets Special Board Meeting

May 27, 2026 (via Google Meet)

Drew Ballow, Andrea Smith, Aaron Souza, Scott Lauer, Scott Kleekamp, Teddy Efstathiou, Kristian Efstathiou, Lauren Thompson, Bean Clark, Sean Verner, Russ Weber, Bob Michaud, Kate Dukat

I. Slate Board

Drew B. briefly reviewed charter and Robert's rules of order governing Board proceedings.

Discussion of ice scheduler position and possibility of having multiple people contribute to ice scheduling. Some discussion between Kristian E. and Kate D. re: marketing/fundraising roles.

Motion made to approve board slate, passed w/o opposition.

II. Recap Placement Committee Status

Midget/Bantam numbers are on the low side. Additionally, there are teams at the 10U/12U/14U levels that all remain without goalies. Efforts are underway to bring additional goalies in but need remains. Discussion of whether numbers support fielding only 2 bantam teams vs. 3 bantam teams. Scott K. emphasized that rosters of 13 skaters per team may generate forfeits due to conflicts. Placement committee will meet to continue discussion.

III. Ice Discussion

Decisions need to be made on how much ice to buy for coming season. Drew B. stated that it is going to be necessary to be conservative in purchasing ice due to the Comets budget situation. Amount of ice purchased last year was probably more than was needed and should be scaled back. Scott K. recommended looking at which ice times are best attended in determining which sheets to keep—eg, late night practices typically are poorly attended. The Comets financial recovery plan also ends the purchasing of ice at third-party rinks like North Star and Rivers, which is more expensive relative to Chase. There will be a 6/9 meeting with FMC rep for Chase and a rough ice budget will be needed. Scott K. also raised the possibility of recouping some revenue from the Captain's practices, where the Comets have purchased ice and allowed the high school players to run skills sessions with that revenue going to the Redhawk Foundation.

IV. LTP and House Programming Discussion

Lauren T. discussed plans for LTP, including improving parent communication and providing some off ice activities to work on hockey skills. Discussion of player/coach ratio and challenge of getting enough coaches. One solution may be to recruit older kids (bantam) to serve as coaches/mentors. Scott K. discussed possibilities to reinvigorate house league using Dryland Development Project (DDP) experiences, in particular the value in blending different ages/abilities and giving kids a chance to develop without throwing them into travel right away.

V. Discuss Financial Audit Status

Andrea S. discussed the status of the financial audit. The 2024-25 audit is incomplete and no work has occurred on the 2025-26 audit yet. There are IRS penalties due to late filing which could be significant. Comets can request waiver but unclear if that would be successful. Discussed need for a CFO type role to oversee Comets finances.

VI. Capture Near/Mid/Long-Term Tasks

Andrea will be meeting with CPA and will update re: audit next steps

Aaron will be scheduling a player evaluation committee meeting to review outstanding team placement issues

Russ will be scheduling an ice optimization meeting to discuss ice needs

New Board members need access to organizational emails and docs.

Next Board meeting will be Monday, June 15 – agenda items to be submitted no later than Friday, June 12