

West Elk Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting-April 23, 2025 at 0700 by Video Conference

Call to Order at 0703

Confirmation of Quorum with 7 of 7 Directors.

Directors/Staff present for meeting: Bill F. (Ex. Dir), Directors: J Wenum, Josh Townsend, Gary Huresky, Rob Bramwell, Scott Reamer, Sarah Jones Fuld, Jena Green, Ex Officio-Andy Eflin (City of Gunn)

Guests/Members: Hailee Stanley, Aime Bielak, Hilary Gomez, Kara Fraser, Jennifer Willet

Executive Director Report: (see Bill's report for further details) Bill met with CB Rink staff-things went well this past season, Justin is now a part time seasonal employee and he will be doing goalie coaching, coach oversight, skills development, and assisting with team practices for youth, Bill still needs help with adult leagues (very time consuming), Rob added he felt the conversation with Justin went well and there is still a void to fill to help Bill with administration and adult leagues.

Treasurer's Report-Rob advised he felt finances were "strong" and should meet or barely exceed expectations. Bill added some league fees were rebated last year. Unknown if that will happen this year, maybe \$15,000 rebated this year. Registration fees will be a hot topic this year and may need to raise them to close gaps. On the fee topic, Bill advised that WEHA is at 25-50% of other hockey organizations in league for youth hockey. CB Community requested a "practice only registration fee" to help address youth involved in other sports (#s include approx. 7 in 10U, 2 in 12U, 1 in 14U who went to full participation, 3 in 10U girls). Issue includes second year 12U girls decide to go to other sports and see similar in 14U boys. Not seeing attrition due to fees, rather it is competing activities. Bill added hockey season is short and with only 1 rink open October to December scheduling and trying to increase ice use opportunities is difficult.

Old Business: Updates with hockey moms-WEHA used to get funds and applied them to the WEHA general fund. Typically got about \$7500 annually. Past year 2023-24 was \$2500. Hockey Moms have had some changes as players age out or move to other activities. They want to focus money to more specific areas of need along with their desires for fund uses. They are trying to be more focused in support of hockey.

New Business: Need more discussion on registration fees at next meeting and on summer skates. High School is looking for a new coach. Shane McGuinness is willing to help but not as head coach. Bill needs a head coach for the fall HS league.

CAHA working on expansion of smaller communities with outdoor ice and uncertainty of weather and rink conditions/safety. Concerns with other entities-such as Colorado Extreme (Carbondale) wanting into WCHL but are AA select level. Brian Smith is the new president of CAHA, CAHA does not have a director of youth hockey currently. Sarah commented CAHA has been struggling lately, issues include volunteer board and increasing scope of activities.

Membership Input: Hailee asked about youth roller league in CB and possibly Gunnison. Rob will send her contact info for person trying to organize it. Geared to 10U and 12U.

Summer skates-with Junior team coming to Grand Junction, CMU and many other seasonal rink communities competing for ice it will be difficult to get additional ice time. Mountain Select tryouts are scheduled for Aug. 15-17 (GJ?).

Excess jerseys and what will be happening with them? Bill or Rhonda will contact.

Jenn W.-how much did Hockey Moms raise? (unknown exactly) and how was it distributed? PTA distributes by grade/age levels. No point in Hockey Moms having a reserve. Josh believed HMs had a single donor who provided \$15K. Bill Amanda (Glover?) was left as main leader because other moms had kids age out and they moved on.

Danny Younger is attempting to coordinate a youth in line summer league. He has had 30 kids in the 10U and 12U ages express interested in CB at Big Mine.

Meeting adjourned at 0757 with short work session following.

Work session: Sarah WEHA lost a member recently (Matt Cahir), has anyone heard of a fundraiser for family?

Discuss board seats and structure-Currently 3 nominees for 4 seats. Those up for election held by Rob, Josh, Jena and Sarah. Interested candidates include: Tucker Brown, Chris Mochulskey, Mike O'Loughlin, and possibly some of the women guests attending recent board meetings. Rob is happy to stay on Board as a member but cannot devote time needed to being president. Scott willing to step in as president. Need nominations by May meeting for election at June meeting. Sarah suggested Mike Eaton and Hannah Valley?