

West Elk Hockey Association (WEHA)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Wednesday March 26, 2025

Call to Order at 0704

Confirmation of Quorum with 6 of 7 at start of meeting

Directors and Staff Present: Bill Frame, Josh Townsend, J Wenum, Rob Bramwell, Gary Huresky, Sarah Jones, Scott Reamer.

Rink Manager Andy Eflin, City of Gunnison

Members, Guests Present: Hailee Stanley, Jennifer Willet, Kara Fraser (as identified by Zoom name plate).

Previous Meeting Minutes-Due to Wenum's absence at start of Feb. meeting no formal minutes were taken. Bill will provide a set based on his presence in meeting, agenda and his recollection.

Rink Updates: Andy E. Gunnison rink is closed, indoor ice has been removed, now doing general cleanup, outdoor ice is melting down, city will be updating their master plan for Parks and Recreation and will include Jorgenson facility, March invoice for ice has been sent to WEHA, new Zamboni has been ordered with delivery anticipated in October or November, need to schedule annual post hockey season meeting between WEHA and city. Requests by several WEHA board members to be involved.

Executive Director Updates: Season generally went well with 14U (Bantams) having a great season. Came in 2nd in league play, end of season tournament. Had really good coaches this year but lack of longer ice availability limits WEHA teams. Season in Gunnison runs Oct. 1 through March 15 while other teams have year round ice or 8-9 month ice availability.

Summer skates-challenges with scheduling, other summer activities and commitment to attend. This past year had 1 summer skate, poorly attended and lost \$1500 on it, cancelled the other 2 ice sessions scheduled for Grand Junction. Discussion on this topic. Need to set weekends for summer skates and ice time slots soon to secure. There will be others seeking ice during same time frames. Justin said that Grand Junction is getting a Junior team and will need 20+ hours of ice each week. Vail is losing 1 sheet of ice so will be looking for additional ice. Possibility of getting ice in Breckenridge. If scheduled 1-2 practices midday could reduce the need for overnight stay and help with cost savings for participants. GJ requires 1 week cancellation notice for refund. Breck request 2 or 3 days.

Other discussion-Justin will be attending a coaches clinic in Michigan in July. Katie will be as well and likely both will come back more energized and ready for the season start.

Jerseys-Bill advised WEHA is in need of more smaller size jerseys for 8U and 10U. Will be requesting \$3500 for those jerseys and socks. Socks are sold but need up front funds to purchase.

Adult jersey discussion-concern with cost to get, maintain and store adult jerseys. Many outdated jersey sponsors (business closed) and bill has been using old (non-existent supporters) jerseys. Possibility of getting non-logo/sponsor jerseys? Just get/use generic color with numbers.

Sarah-comment on CB's B/C league has been a really good addition to WEHA's hockey offerings. Players are happy, supportive and registrations have been up in adult leagues.

Danny Unger (new to CB) has requested help/support from WEHA for summer in line hockey in CB.

Treasurer's Report: Rob advised satisfactory budget performance this year and the past 2 with Bill as ED. Bill, Rob, and Scott to develop draft budget for next fiscal year. They have heard positive comments on budget. Question on ice costs and increases. Andy E. city has not set ice costs for next year. Rob-WEHA budgets an annual 10% increase for costs to ensure adequate ice availability.

Hockey Mom's has new leadership. In past H Moms wrote 1 check to WEHA and WEHA determined how the funds were used. This year H Moms wrote 5 separate checks with each dedicated to specific age groups for youth players (2 for 8U, 1 for 10U, 1 for 14U and 1 for 19U). Need to meet with new H Moms leaders and discuss future funding and how it will be done. Justin B. to coordinate this meeting.

Fund raising committee to piggy back off meeting with Hockey Moms.

Sponsorships-have limited dasher board and banner space, as well as scoreboard sponsor space. Bill explained WEHA has and continues to use a flexible sponsorship format due to the size of communities involved and need for more personal approach to support. Also per the contract with the city of Gunnison WEHA pays a set rate of \$16,000 to city for sponsor space. Possibility of using exterior of building for sponsor space? Team names (WEHA Wolverines and CB Titans are on exterior. Per Andy E. it would need to go through city council. CB dropped use of dashers for sponsors.

Sarah brought up WCU plans given they dropped the last ½ of their season due to low player numbers. Also possibility of CB Titans having their own locker room in future. Andy E. explained the city has a specific process for new construction and new facilities would need to

be run through that process. Josh advised he has talked with a variety of builders who have offered to provide materials and construction for new coaches room and other facilities. This emphasizes the need for the annual post season debrief meeting and planning for future.

Member comments: 3 members still on zoom but no one provided input.

Next regular meeting: April 23, 2025 at 7:00 AM by zoom. Moved from April 16 as CB has their spring break that week.

Meeting adjourned at 0758.

Gary H. mentioned CB lacrosse is going strong and many of the CB titan players are playing lacrosse this spring. Team is doing quite well and this is creating stronger team bonds throughout the year.