

SYHI Board Minutes

August 1, 2024 at 7pm

Location: Saratoga Rec Center, 15 Vanderbilt Ave

Attendees: Bradford, Chatham, Comora, Eddy, Ely, Ellis, Garrett, Hanson, Kernan, Kauth, Kelly, Mulledy

Online: Guyette

Absent: Hunt, MacNaughton

Overview

1. Meeting was called to order.
2. Review + Approve June Meeting Minutes. Kelly motioned to approve, Garrett seconded, all were in favor.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Governance:
 - i. Hanson shared the [committee's 2024-25 goals](#).
 - ii. Hanson stated the only expense the committee flagged for the upcoming year is to budget for attorney fees, in alignment with last season.
 - iii. Eddy raised that Hunt had submitted to the Committee his resignation from the position of Treasurer. MacNaughton, member of the Finance committee, had previously offered to assume the position. Eddy asked for other nominations from the floor. With none, Eddy called a vote for MacNaughton to serve as Treasurer. All were in favor.
 - iv. Eddy raised the vacancy for Registrar, with MacNaughton now as Treasurer. Kernan had offered to serve as Registrar. Eddy asked for other nominations from the floor. With none, Eddy called for a vote for Kernan to serve as Registrar. All were in favor.
 - b. Executive:
 - i. Eddy reported that EC met to address officer vacancies, given the anticipated Treasurer opening. No other actions to report.
 - c. Finance:
 - i. 8U registrations have increased (45 to date).
 - ii. Finances have largely remained the same, will review committee budgets at the next meeting.
 - iii. Discussion around implementing a POS system for the snackbar. Decision point to implement Square - Eddy and Mulledy to lead.

- iv. Discussion around purchasing some items for the snackbar (mouth guards, neck guards, tape etc.) as well as rings for the skate sharpening machine.

d. Marketing + Communications:

- i. Kernan outlined the [committee's 2024-25 goals](#).
- ii. Next newsletter will go out in August, and monthly following, through March.
- iii. Planning for the 24-25 Season kick-off event is underway. Will utilize both rinks this year, and work from the budget that was approved at the June meeting.
- iv. Finalizing a manager handbook that will be available on the website before the start of the season.
- v. The Committee has small budget items in addition to the Kick Off, that will be sent to Finance.
- vi. A gear swap will be held on September 22nd. Will post on social and in the newsletter.
- vii. Kelly raised a question about sponsorships. A few parents have asked about board sponsorships for local businesses. Eddy noted that a few of the current dashers need to come down, and the organization would need to reconsider the pricing if we were to offer that sponsorship opportunity. Mulledy offered to reshare the prior sponsorship flyer. A few options were discussed:
 - 1. Option 1: Update pricing and offer dashers in alignment with past years. Eddy noted that the board would need to identify who would be putting them up and removing them, and that removal is very challenging.
 - 2. Option2: Consider using the snackbar as a way to highlight sponsors of the organization, with a banner or vinyl.

Decision was made that marketing should discuss the options at the next meeting and come to the Board with a recommended approach. Garrett mentioned that Roohan Realty was also interested in sponsorship. Guyette raised the need to identify what the board is dedicating sponsorship money towards, for example, scholarships. Hanson also recommended a gear fund for families.

e. Scheduling + Facilities

- i. Scheduling:
 - 1. Eddy reported that all teams have their games, and there is some Friday night ice available if needed, outside of Fridays, ice is very limited.

2. Eddy noted that team managers do need to flag for the scheduler@saratogahockey.org email when they swap ice.
3. Kelly asked if level directors for mites could be added to enable them to begin scheduling.

ii. Facilities:

1. Eddy met with the Commissioner of Finance to talk about a third rink. While supportive, the City's capital budget is limited, and unlikely to be able to absorb the whole project. Will continue to explore alternative options, including securing through private resources funding for the project. There is general consensus that the organization should not look to own a rink.
2. Eddy will be meeting with the city to discuss the planned modifications, including mounting TVs in the rink to post locker room assignments and upcoming events.
3. Exploring renovation of the Sackabar. Tad Romer has completed some renderings. We will update the flooring, put in better storage, and new windows. Working on the budget, which will get added to the Scheduling + Facilities committee for the year.

f. Player + Coaching Development

- i. All set for Learn to Play in November with Dave Randall. An off-ice has been identified.
- ii. Summer programs are going well, have strong attendance.
- iii. Kelly met with the coach of 10UA to discuss game and tournament scheduling, and staffing for the season.
- iv. Looking to next season, the committee would like to place stronger language in policy and coaching evaluation around review of staffing selection.
- v. Agreement that there needs to be clear criteria and expectations outlined related to staffing, and documentation of any concerns that are raised during the season by members.
- vi. Budget will be submitted to finance and reviewed with other committee budgets in September.
- vii. A document was developed to address questions that are often raised, especially when families are starting hockey. Kernan is working on the layout and when finalized, it will be posted on the website.
- viii. This year coaches will be required to submit their skills funding request to the PCDC in advance. There will be a list of pre-approved vendors. Teams will not be limited to those, but will help guide their selections.
- ix. Ellis noted that the committee is still collecting information from coaches on staffing for the season.

- x. Mite programming is moving forward. Lauren Kelly will be RWB level director. PCDC is still looking for a house director. Tim CLeary will be working as LTP level director with Amanda Gardner who will be off-ice LTP director.
- xi. Ellis outlined [committee goals](#) for the year.
- xii. Kelly indicated the committee will begin the mite coaching selection process with a decision by mid-October so that once placements are completed, the coaches for those teams can be named. Kelly raised the need to get the administrative side of 8U done early given the status of other 8U teams scheduling.
- xiii. Question was raised on skills funding for mites. The committee responded that it will be the same as the other teams.
- xiv. Coaches for 8U house are attending a training session with Randall, so they can implement some of his lessons.

g. Girls Hockey

- i. Summer skill session had strong participation. 32 girls registered.
- ii. Hanson outlined [committee goals](#) for the year.
- iii. The committee will launch the girls wrap program in early August. Given local availability for games, the plan is to expand to 12U.
- iv. Hanson shared that in October, there is an international girls hockey weekend, and the committee plans to do some events around that weekend.
- v. Kelly asked if USA hockey permits 10/12U girls to play on the same team. Agreement we need to ensure the level of play is equitable.
- vi. Kernan added that if there is ice, the committee will try to schedule a game for the girls.

h. Tournaments

- i. Committee needs to meet in September.
- ii. Mites and 10U are in a good position. 14U and 12U need more teams.
- iii. Use social media to boost 12U + 14U tournaments.
- iv. Confirmed vendors are predominantly set.

4. New/Old Business

- a. 18U team needs to ensure all skaters have safesport.
- b. NYSAHA Update: will be adopting GameSheet for Tournament Bound teams, and SYHI will adopt for all of our teams. Training opportunities for coaches and team managers thru November. SYHI will purchase a few additional ipads to support use.
- c. League Update: Formal invite will be sent out. Still finalizing interested teams. Teams can make their own determination on joining, then scheduling with teams.

- d. Kelly will be cataloging what gear we have, and what can go to the swap or donated to Corinth.
 - e. Request to reschedule September meeting for second or third week of September given the start of school
 - f. Reminder to get safesport completed.
5. With no further business, Kelly motioned to adjourn, and Garrett seconded. All were in favor.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

- October 2nd