

West Elk Hockey Association-Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (by Zoom) on 9-17-2025 at 0700 hours

Call to Order at 0700

Confirmation of Quorum- Yes with 7 of 7 within first 2 minutes of start. Directors: Bill Frame (Ex Dir), Gary Huresky, J Wenum, Rob Bramwell, Jen Willett, Andy Eflin (Gunn-Ex Off), Tucker Brown, Chris Mucholsky, Scott Reamer.

Members/Guests: Mike O'Loughlin, Amanda Glover, Aimee Bielak, Margau Helvey

Approval of August Meeting Minutes. Moved by Tucker, Second by Scott, Approved by voice vote.

Rink Updates-Andy E., Gunnison Rink Mgr-doing prep work for rink opening, floors cleaned, rebuilding compressor #1, hiring staff, new flooring project funded for next year, start making ice tomorrow, HS opens rink with practice on first day of being open.

Treasurer's Report-Rob advised August was a good month, registrations opened and increased income flow, also 3 grants came in including: Met Rec \$30,000, CFGV \$7,000 & Town of CB \$5,000. Town of CB has 2 grant cycles per year. Registration numbers-adults on track similar to last fall, HS #s down a bit (fall sports)

Director's Report-Bill F. See separate detailed notes Bill provides. Bill met with Community Foundation of Gunnison Valley (CFGV). They had suggestions on future grant applications. Need to do outreach with broader community, include Hispanic populations, add in-kind donations (City of Gunn reduced ice costs), Bigger is better in non-profit status so show in-kind and other donations. Youth director of hockey-Bill has met with 5 applicants, all are good, he needs to meet with hiring committee (Bill, Rob, Scott). Chris had a question on the hiring process, is there a job description. Bill does have an outline for the job. Challenge is no one person can be available at the times needed to cover all youth practices, help with lesson plans, continuity between age groups, etc. So he may need to part time positions but that gets complicated with communication and coordination. Bill still in need of several coaches: U19, 12U B coach. Oct. 4 is ref clinic for new officials.

Old Business: Amanda G. and Mike O. to do presentations.

Amanda on **Hockey Moms**. Had slide presentation. Envisions transition to more of a Booster Club system, dealing with Supplemental revenue, boosting team spirit, community pride, family engagement, volunteer participation and financial resources. Hockey Moms currently in transition, big change in leadership in fall 2024 (Amanda took over as prior moms retired with kids aging out). Group started about 25 years ago, Margau helping get representation at each age level, team ages. After the annual Lasagna Dinner plan to transition to Booster Club, revisit

purpose and goals of group. Group wants to work with BOD and learn, where funds went in 24-25, how much is in bank, what are needs/wants. BIG EVENT is the annual Lasagna Dinner-planned for Sunday, Nov. 2 at Fred Field Center (Fairgrounds). Going with increased seating capacity, pay bar, bigger value auction items, increase cost from \$15 to \$25, provide better value, increase funds available. Ideas on Auction wish list, RMBL yurt, vacation rental swap (Telluride?, CB?, staycations in nearby areas (Harmels, Salida, Lake City). Beach vacations, front range house/condo, VRBO, Avs/DU/Broncos tickets, restaurants, ATV/Snowmobile rental/tours. How to reach out to adult league participants for prizes and participation. Need for more direct communication between WEHA, Moms/Boosters, quarterly meetings?

By Laws show BOD has a "Development" committee. Moms would like to access that group. BOD can revive.

Mike O'Loughlin and **dropping USA Hockey for adult leagues**. He introduced himself as a participant in WEHA, prior director of hockey for WEHA, local attorney familiar with local (County) Gov't and laws regarding insurance, liability issues/insurance. His big push is the lack of value from USAH as adult participants. USAH comes with fee (adult registration prior to signing up for WEHA leagues) and regulations/restrictions (must have 2 referees to have games). USAH does provide supplemental, secondary insurance for participants but they must exhaust their primary insurance prior to tapping USAH. Telluride, Aspen and Summit have dropped USAH requirement. The USAH cost and regulation provides little added benefit.

Regarding liability insurance-WEHA's general liability insurance should provide coverage for WEHA and additional listed insured (City of Gunnison/Jorgenson Event Center). Question by Bill about item #8 in agreement between WEHA and City of Gunn on it requiring USAH registration. Mike advised when he has looked at the entire clause it does require USAH registration unless there is separate liability insurance. The lease with the City requires \$2 Mil. Liability insurance by WEHA with City listed as Additional Insured.

Question on referee training, coverage and disciplinary follow up action. Mike said continue to use USAH training/registered refs, have a WEHA disciplinary committee to address local adult issues (suspensions). J requests backing referees after incidents. Discussion went from 0755 to 0809.

Chris M. requested more info on the director of youth hockey topic. He has not seen a job description, what does that person do? Bill explained presence at the rink during youth practices, help develop practice lesson plans, continuity of training through age groups, presence at youth tournaments/weekend games. Chris BOD Bylaws requiring Board approval of new hires. Hiring Committee (Bill, Rob, Scott) do interviews and make recommendation. Board approves the hiring of individual.

Coaches/Refs Incentive program. Scott stated Rob had some thoughts on a cost per ref/coach cap or maximum. Rob had to leave the call at 0755.

J explained the basics of his proposal for referees (see sep. document for details). Basically, it provides for reimbursement of expenses to obtain and maintain USA Hockey and other levels of certification including registration costs, background check costs, membership costs in different ref associations (CAHOA, CHOA) after completion of a minimum number of games worked. This can also include costs for some equipment (ref jersey, pants, ½ shield visor, whistle, etc).

Chris drafted information that was added to the ref proposal to cover coaches. Chris recommends different incentives for refs (as they get paid per game) compared to coaches who help with practices, run benches during games as time allows. Within the coach ranks there are also differences in parent coaches (especially at younger ages) and non-parent coaches. Question on how many coaches there are per team. Chris recommends 1 head coach and 2 assistant coaches per team and use other volunteer/parent coaches to assist with practices. The appointed head and assistant coaches then be compensated (paid). He suggests \$500 per month (\$2500/season). Question of how many coaches there are total. Bill advised typically 9 head coaches and 2 assistant coaches per level/team. Includes Fall HS, U 19, 14U x 2, 12U x 2, 10U x 2. Non travel youth (mites, mini-mites) can be handled by parent coaches. Parent coaches can also assist with other levels.

Tucker supported the idea of fee waived adult registration for coaches as an incentive.

Daren G. suggested do not differentiate between parent and non-parent coaches. Limit paid coaches to 1 head coach and 2 assistant coaches at each level.

Aimee Bielak agrees with Daren.

Chris felt there needed to be a bit more involvement with the coaches and refs. He asked to meet with a group (Chris, J, Bill, Scott?) to further discussion and include gathering input from coaches and referees.

Next meeting was scheduled for Oct. 15, Jenn brought up that is in the middle of CB School's fall break. Group decided to move the next meeting to **Oct. 8, 2025 at 0700** hours by zoom. Hopefully incentives group can gather input and get cost estimates for the next meeting.

Daren requested more communication between WEHA and current coaches. He has talked with several and many seem unsure of their role, when things will be occurring, etc. Specifically who will be the head B coach.

Meeting adjourned at 0842.