

West Elk Hockey Association-Board of Directors

Regular Meeting (Zoom) on 8-20-2025 at 0700

**Call to Order-** 0702

**Confirmation of Quorum-** yes with 5 of 7 directors- Bill F (Ex Dir), Rob B., J W., Scott R., Chris M., Tucker B.

**Members/others attending:** Aime Bielak, Andy Eflin (Gunn Rink Mgr)

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Moved for approval by Scott, Rob second, approved.

**Rink Updates:** Joey Carpenter not present Bill provided info on CB rink including that HS and Bantams are using it for dry land practice already.

Andy Eflin provided updates on Gunnison Rink including: Preparing for upcoming season, roof repairs are done and included seams and ridgetop, flooring replacement is done in locker rooms A-E, Still need to get gutters on outdoor rink repaired, are working on starting up the compressor for making ice, this coming weekend (Aug. 23 is the Gunni Triathlon), in ice and dasher board advertisements are needed by 8-29. Bill advised that Alpine Lumber has been bought out by Builders First and will be rebranding their logos. He also said that the big 3 of supports (Alpine, Western Lumber and GVH) have all undergone changes in staff and he is trying to contact and work with the new folks for each.

**Director's Report:** See separate report by Bill. Additional items by Bill: He sent the jamboree, tournament weekends agreed to with the 9 other hockey organizations in the league with WEHA. Chris M. asked how the schedule is developed and Bill explained. The 10 associations get together in the summer and review each locations ice/rink availability, discuss other activities that may limit lodging/food (ski season, special events), referee availability, ice slots available, number of ice sheets, etc. Gunnison and several others are limited by not having year-round ice. Breckenridge, Aspen and Vail/Eagle have advantage with 2 sheets of ice available year-round. Schedule is then developed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rob said WEHA is in a very similar financial situation as last year at this time. With registrations now open and with early bird discounts ending Sept. 1 player registration revenue will begin increasing. Bill added that other rinks/programs he's talked with encourage early sign up with USA Hockey and then offer payment plans for playing fees.

**Old Business:** Rob and Bill went through Old Business and requested a work session on the ref/coach incentives topic. Group agreed to that for more detailed discussion. On other Old Bus. Topics-WEHA tried a local based Spirit Store in cooperation with Off Center Design. Bill stated that using Pure Hockey is a gamble. They require a minimum amount of sales and any

items not meeting the minimum must be purchased by the host association. We are not a big enough assoc. to meet the minimums. Aime B. suggested talking with Amanda Glover as she has purchased quite a bit of clothing/swag for Hockey Moms. A concern is using the same logo/artwork repeatedly does not increase sales. If people already have that style/logo they are not as inclined to purchase another. Another issue is the local vs. remote sponsor.

Bill covered City of Gunn Parks and Rec Master Survey results. 531 responses-90% Gunnison zip code, 10% other. 56% wanted more public skates, 39% wanted more hockey, adding refrigeration to outdoor rink rated higher than renovating indoor rink for year round ice.

Updates on WEHA staffing-seeking youth hockey director and adult league director. Recruitment for coaches and refs ongoing. Possibility of a WEHA credit card for travel, lodging related. GBT no longer offers local based credit card. WEHA bylaws prevent carrying debt.

Chris M. asked what is the disconnect between WEHA and Hockey Moms? Answer-Hockey Moms (HM) is not a non-profit and are not directly connected with WEHA. Thus, HM can direct where they distribute the funds they generate. There has been concern by some larger donors that they donated funds with a specific purpose in mind and it was not spent as expected. Chris suggested a meeting between WEHA and HM. Bill advised that has been requested to get everyone on the same page in terms of purpose, methods and funding and hopefully will occur in the next several meetings.

**New Business**-\$2500 budgeted to repay Reserve. Scott and Rob reviewed the CFGV fund and the \$100,000 needed in reserve before being able to utilize interest generated from the endowment fund. Investigating CD vs. current 3-4% interest growth of fund.

**Member comments**-None received.

**Next Meeting:** September 17, 2025 at 7:00 by video conference.

**Meeting adjourned** at 0748.

**Work Session**- discuss the referee/coach incentive drafts created by J W. and Chris M. Group agreed for the need for a more in-depth financial analysis to include potential costs, benefits, lost revenue to WEHA through the various options. J to draft costs/lost revenue for referees and Chris will do same for coaches.

**Work session ended** at 0809.