

Minutes of Annual Meeting – May 14th, 2007

Present: P. Valiquette, S. Roy, G. Rogers, R. Sitko, C. Puro, C. Bertrand, M. Charette, B. Holub, J. Barbeau, G. Gilbert, L. Huffman, C. Holub

Regrets: B. Thom

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

Jacques welcomes people in audience to the annual meeting.

Executive Reports

Vice President Rob Sitko:

H.L. successful in the WER: returned cards for refunds, 61 in total, waiting for cheques from NOHA.

Follow up from the Walden Winter Carnival: Rob read verbatim the response sent to Fran Holland and reports no response as yet from the Walden Winter Carnival.

Treasurer Craig Holub:

Numbers not yet finalized from the Rep Teams and passed around a printed report.

Income statement right now indicating \$10,000 loss, but is not alarming as more money will be coming in. Currently projecting break even to possible \$2,000 loss.

There was a \$14,000 drop of revenue from registration and \$2,000 more in hockey related expenses.

One suggestion is to raise registration fees; another thing discussed is the Sports tax credit that people will be eligible for. A 5% increase in registration would be reasonable.

Give credit to a few people, Diane Beneteau for her work with the Friendship Tournament, Gary Rogers for the Rep Team Tournament and the Walden Oldtimers contribution of \$1,000.

Q.1: Any thought of allowing sponsors for House League Teams to counter the cost of jerseys etc.?

A.1: Can be a problem if you look at Sudbury Minor sponsorship, they think they have ownership of the team, but it is something that the new Executive should review. Jacques personally does not support it.

Craig Comment: Some debate over rep player sponsorship interesting to see when cheques come in...in the past this is a lower cost association and traditionally have been in a solid financial position. Can't bank on tournaments carrying us financially through.

Q.2: Any change on the cap of fundraising amount?

A.2: Discussed and did allow the Midget increase due to extra costs. There is room for the cap. Suggest the Rep Teams have one big fund raiser and divide the proceeds. Walden Hockey is not a charity case.

Q.3: How many skaters?

A.3: 315.

Q.4: Why not have at beginning of the year collection of Tournament money up front, fewer receipts extra.

A.4: This would work with our tournament.

Open Discussion: Is 5% enough given that we cannot count on a big profit from Friendship Tournament, not a guarantee every year.

Clay Bertrand Question: What is the gap between Associations?

A.5: Copper Cliff 207, Rayside 157, ice time in Copper Cliff is more expensive.

Comments: Increasing registration fees is a real factor, we are running too lean. Understand 10% more for people seems high but we have not had any major registration increases recently.

Executive needs to formulate a new budget.

Jacques: House League level is the cause of the deficit. Bantam Level we iced two (Rep Teams are revenue neutral) teams, maybe not a great idea. It is an expensive team to run even the number of kids on the team can affect the revenue coming in.

Need to careful allocating ice times.

The City part looking at a new multi-pad facility. This will increase the amount of available ice time.

Q.6: Why such a great difference in revenue between Rep (18 teams) and Friendship (46 teams)?

A.6: Friendship Tournament runs over two weekends.

Comment: The Novice / Atom Rep Tournament: this used to be the most popular tournament and nowadays too many Rep Tournaments out there.

Gary: Found that this tournament is too early in the year as some teams not even formed yet. The tournament should be advertised on the web site to spark early interest.

Q.7: WMHA clothing, what is it?

A.7: Bought a pool of clothing to sell. Really the sales did not pan out. There needs to be a better way to get the clothing out there. We do need some clothing available.

Suggestion: Order form be handed out with price and sizing and people can order from there.

WMHA pins as well. This is a cost as we always have some left. It is something we always buy.

Liisa Huffman Scheduler:

House league teams ice up 60 hours, includes games and practices. Bantam hours higher also.

Rep Team ice bills have been sent out.

These overall things went well with the scheduling. We are 15 hours more of ice time per team that we are charging for.

Rob Sitko thanked Liisa for her hard work as the Scheduler.

Equipment Manager Blair Holub:

House league expenses will come down due to buying shirts, report is sent out.

Registrar Moe Charette:

Likes the idea of registration in person, could solve a lot of problems.

Steve Roy: In regards to on-line registrations, MySudbury.ca does offer that service and we need to check out how that works.

We will never let a kid not play hockey. We do not advertise, but there is a Rick Desjardins fund.

Discussion: What time should hockey season start? No need to start in September and end in March.

NOHA Convenor Gary Rogers:

Gary read through his report.

Q.8: When do tryouts start?

A.8: Sudbury and Copper Cliff start Labour Day Weekend, we are a few days later but are looking at going at the same time as them.

Q.9: Do we have a permission to skate?

A.9: This would save a lot of problems, but we were shot down. This topic was brought up at the NOHA meeting but rejected.

Phil Valiquette: Atom/Pee wee Convenor:

Pee wee teams successful. All teams did fairly well with minimal complaints and things ran smoothly.

Greg Gilbert: Bantam/Midget Convenor:

24 teams participated in the House League.

Steve Roy: Publicity:

Publicity on the web site, look at revamping Walden Minor Hockey Newsletter and try and get it up and running.

Got Rep Tournament on the web site, will send some invitations out to get more teams.

Comments: Clay thinks we need to try and push invites down south to Barrie / Aurora areas to try and get more teams.
It was suggested that registration costs etc. should be on the web site.

Jacques: Made a comment about what a great job Steve Roy and Steve Atkins have done getting the Web Site going.

Technical Clay Bertrand:

There were two goalie clinics that ran with a total of 15 goalies. We need to continue to do this. Coaching clinics did not run, in September this should be done, especially with the new coaches. As well there is a need for a program for Initiation that lays out developmental skills.

End of reports.

Open Business: Open to hear not debate.

Open discussion regarding about fielding outside Walden players. Rob Sitko commented that there was a group put together and decided to keep the Walden player to stay in Walden. Clay commented that if you had a player outside of Walden and a Walden player of equal talent then the Walden player should be picked.

Jacques stated that it is hard to set a policy about fielding outside players.

Question from floor: Is Walden Minor Hockey willing to review the current coaching application and selection process to open more opportunities for local volunteers to get involved with Rep teams?

Answer: Tried that years ago, it was a complete disaster, it is too difficult to try and match people, for specific teams.

Comment from floor: Girls hockey in Walden? Is that possible?

Answer: Absolutely in the Constitution it is indicated. The problem is we do not have the numbers in Walden for a team. Dan Coleman is looking at within the WER to put all the girls together. This has a lot of problems to work out. At Rep level it would be easier to know where they are playing. The girls are almost forced to go to the Sudbury District Level.

Rob Sitko commented that he would be willing to work with Dan Coleman and Robin White to try and get the ball rolling on this subject.

Jacques Barbeau quickly commented on the open positions on the Executive.

Executive Assistant- was Ann Barbeau now it is vacant. Ann has decided to take the Atom/Peewee Convenor.

Atom/Peewee Convenor: Ann Barbeau

Treasurer: Vacant

Technical Director

Referee in Chief: Vacant, this position needs to be filled in a hurry (needs to be put on the website)

Jacques made comment about Rob Sitko going to be much missed. He was the best Vice President and is a very fine person. He went on to thank Nick Prowse, Moe Charette, Helen Walter, Jiggy, and Blair Holub. He wished the new Executive great success.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.