**Genesee Amateur Hockey Association**

**Board of Directors**

**4/24/2024**

**Meeting Minutes**

Members in attendance: *D. Hutchins, A. Valyear, T. DeMars, C. Hutchins, B. McCarthy, D. Calkins, M. Benjamin, M. Barnes, C. Minuto, M. Jafari, J. Hale, J. Patric*

Members absent: *T. Sprague, S. Pies, J. Kujawski*

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, 4/24/2024: Jeremy

2nd: Marcia

0 Opposed

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, 3/20/2024: Carrie

2nd: Allyson

0 Opposed

* Old Business: None
* Board welcomed newest board member, Dan Calkins.
* Treasurer and Website Updating
  + Malorie Benjamin had agreed to work along Carrie this year and assume the treasurer role next year – thank you, Malorie!
  + Website updating – Dale has been in conversation with League Apps to create and manage a new Ramparts website. There is a scheduled Zoom meeting on Tuesday, April 30th. This new website will allow families to register and pay online. Treasurer can also generate invoices from the website. Jr. Sabres, Jr. Amerks and ROCO all use website. More information to come. Board will need to vote.
* Ice Scheduling is now going to be done through the rink – This will streamline the process and it will be catered to the teams individually. Rink will work with BND to make sure that GAHA is getting fair share of ice time. Matt will help with this and will meet with teams and coaches to assess their needs.
* GAHA/ROCO Partnership
  + Dale addressed all of the skuttle buttle. Dale was contacted by the President of ROCO, to discuss the possibility of partnering together for a tier III tournament bound team. They competed at the tier II level last year and were not successful. They will need to use our tier III charter in order to compete.
  + They will use Batavia for ice times (games and practice). They have also talked about additional opportunities to bring teams here to showcase.
  + This is a positive opportunity and is a new concept to us as an organization.
  + This partnership would be reviewed annually and at this time, would only impact 15U and 18U.
  + ROCO has done this with other organizations, i.e. Rochester Grizzlies. Chad asked if we have had any conversations with them to understand their view of the partnership. Dale will reach out for contact.
  + Brian asked how the Ramparts would gain from this partnership and if the partnership would help our situation this year. Dale said that it would not help this year.
  + The goal of the partnership is to make it harder for parents to want to leave GAHA.
  + Theresa asked that any board member with questions to be brought up at the meeting should send them to her.
  + The board discussed at length about their roles in the future of the organization. Ultimately, we as a board have to do a better job all around but mostly communicating.
  + Ideas and thoughts were tossed out:
    - More clinics and make them mandatory – would need coaches buy in and need to find a facilitator.
    - Fostering development.
    - Matt mentioned that Empire and WNY Teams have different costs associated and the ice fees can show that.
    - More meetings with coaches and parents – 1 at the beginning of the year and 1 after the holidays. Coaching committee has to communicate more with parents.
      * What do the kids want to get out of hockey?
      * What is working and what isn’t?
    - Carrie mentioned that everything comes with a cost. GAHA has always been the cheapest.
* Other New Business:
  + The meeting was attended by 2 parents and 1 parent-coach. They all shared their feelings which were all in alignment – that they are worried for the future of the players.
    - GAHA should provide the opportunity for players to play hockey for as long as they want to play hockey.
    - With the Batavia Notre Dame Merger and the stipulations that came along with that, it is taking opportunity away from many players. With that, they are leaving GAHA for more opportunity.
    - We have to start working now, to make sure that the younger players stay, because there is a place for them – a good place.
    - This conversation moved into the idea of discovering what would be needed, the steps, to go to Batavia and ND Boards with the idea of opening up the United Team to include outside districts. Theresa and James volunteered to have initial conversations with Jason Smith and the new Athletic Director, respectively.
* Committee Reports
  + Treasurer
    - PL Statement and Income Statement were passed out.
    - We spent more than last year. We will be looking at increase skater fees this year and possibly more scholarships.
    - There was an increase in ice fees and referee fees – we will see that continue.
    - We did make $1,500 in the apparel sales.
    - We need to start planning the upcoming season – additional ice, increased fees, bringing in clinics, etc.
  + Registrar
    - New website will bring online payment and online registration.
    - Managers will be responsible to place orders for jerseys – that is not going to fall on 1 person again.
    - $200 deposit will be required.
    - MOHL is ready to register, they will wait for new website.
  + Ice Scheduler
    - We will need a board liaison to work with Matt on the ice scheduling; Dale volunteered.
  + Coaching Committee
    - 16U has no coach.
  + VP of WNY Absent
  + VP of Empire
    - There is a meeting upcoming. Chad asked about preliminary team counts. Allyson provided: 4 Mite, 2 Squirt, 1 PW and 1 Bantam.
  + President – this was a positive conversation!
  + Rink
    - Matt promoted Picker’s Paradise – Antique/Garage Sale Event happening each month.
    - He is looking into a new sound system and will send the quote to the board for monetary support.
    - The girls locker room is hopefully going to be completed next summer.
    - Matt is filing for a ball park liquor license (beer/cider).
  + Other Items:
    - Marrick will forward contacts for clinics.
    - Malorie and Allyson are going to work with Mugs N More to have CCM tracksuits available on the website for individual ordering.
* Meeting adjourned: 8:23pm.