Genesee Amateur Hockey Association

Board of Director’s Meeting

1.17.2024

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: *D. Hutchins (Zoom), T. DeMars, C. Hutchins, T. Sprague, M. Benjamin, C. Minuto, M. Jafari (Zoom), J. Hale*

Members absent: A. Valyear, B. McCarthy, D. Dedman, S. Pies, M. Barnes, J. Kujawski, J. Patric

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm.

* Motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, 1/17/2024; Malorie
  + 2nd: Carrie
  + 0 Opposed
* Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, 11/15/2023: Chad
  + 2nd: Jeremy
  + 0 Opposed
* Old Business
  + Starting with the first meeting of 2024, each month, old business and tasks assigned or volunteered for by board members will be reviewed for status.
    - In November, Brian indicated that the Mite goalie equipment was in desperate need of replacement. In Brian’s absence, Tim Sprague said that the goalie equipment had already been replaced.
    - Coaching committee deadline of 12/31 – still need to confirm with Allyson but the understanding was that all coaches had met the necessary requirements by the end of the year.
    - Chad was going to look into a checking clinic – Checking clinic was held at the rink.
  + Merry Mitemas Recap
    - Allyson sent a recap of the Merry Mitemas Tournament – overall, Mites profited $6,679.85
    - Carrie asked if the rink holding the tournament made more of a profit in the past, rather than individual teams?
    - Tim praised Allyson’s efforts in organizing and running the tournament with the parent volunteers. All of the feedback was very positive.
    - Russ Borden is running a tournament at the rink in March.
  + Ice Chiller
    - Theresa had a conversation with Matt Gray regarding the status of the ice chiller. Theresa had tried to get information from the City’s Director of Public Works, but he was unresponsive. According to Matt, project is still slated to begin at the end of our season however, in our best interest, Matt felt it best for GAHA to reserve ice elsewhere for the month of September (2024). In discussion, Dale and Tim had also had conversations with Matt Gray.
    - Theresa sent an email to the Executive Director of Tim Horton’s Ice Complex in Rochester for general information: When to reserve ice, what is the cost, etc.
    - Mike Jafari will contact Scottsville, Tim will contact Lockport and Holiday & Leisure Rinks to ask the same questions. Nothing is being reserved or contracted at this point.
    - Tim did say that 1 rink at Tim Horton’s is chilled with a portable ice chiller.
    - We will reevaluate at February Meeting to determine if we need to reserve for September and October. Theresa will inform GAHA of this evolving situation after February meeting.
  + Coaching Applications
    - Brian asked that we send out Coaching Application requests as soon as possible to hopefully prevent the mix up that occurred this season. Theresa will update app and email and send to Dale and Tim for approval.
    - *Shortly after meeting, Tim found an online application for another organization that he felt we should mimic. Mike Jafari updated application accordingly and Theresa sent it out.*
    - Applications due back 2/15.
  + Elections
    - Annual Meeting and Board Elections will be held Wednesday, March 13th at the rink.
    - Malorie volunteered to run the elections – Theresa will provide ballots.
    - Board members with terms expiring in 2024:
      * Brian McCarthy
      * Chad Minuto
      * Jim Kujawski
      * Dave Dedman
      * Steve Pies
      * James Patric
    - Board officers, Dale, Tim, Carrie and Theresa have 1 year left on their 2-year terms, but officers are elected on an annual basis.
    - Theresa asked that all who have expiring terms and who do not wish to move forward with another 2-year term, should email Dale and copy Theresa. All except 1 were absent, Theresa will send an email.
  + Board Expectations and Communications
    - Theresa had a borderline meltdown and stressed the importance that the board work to achieve a higher level of communication if we want to move forward successfully. The board is a collective, collaborative unit and not one individual has the authority to make any decisions on behalf of the organization. If board members are having conversations outside of meetings and questions come up or ideas are formed, etc.; an email should be sent to the board, at least Dale. A perfect example was that Theresa had been reaching out to Brett Frank and Matt Gray regarding the ice chiller (as she indicated she would in the November minutes), while Dale and Tim were also having conversations.
    - Expectations of a board member were also discussed. The meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. After 4 missed meetings in 1 calendar year, the board of directors can remove a member. Please consider your commitment when volunteering for a board position.
  + Other New Business
    - Apparel – Malorie advised the apparel link is still open however, there is no more free shipping. GAHA made roughly $1400 from online store.
  + Committee Reports
    - Treasurer – Need to look into options as we will exceed the $250,000 income threshold this year.
    - Carrie will send out a year end P/L and income statement.
    - Carrie asked if there was ever a number/value agreed on to give to the PW B team for a tournament. Board indicated it was 50% of the cost however, board was told by manager of that team that funding was being secured by a sponsor.
  + Registrar
    - 61 beginners registered for session 2.
  + Ice Scheduler
    - Jim sent the following items/questions to Tim Sprague:
      * Try Hockey on 2/24. Scheduled 10:40-12:00 just like in October.
      * High School has blocked Mon. 2/12, Tues 2/13 and Thurs 2/15 for a possible high school game and will not know if they need the ice until 2/11. How do we proceed with scheduling for that week? Try to schedule everyone during the few ice slots that are open?
      * Empire and WNY playoffs 2/22 - 2/25. I did not schedule any teams from those leagues on Fri or Sat. That leaves beginners, Mites, MOHL.
      * States for PWIII on 3/1-3/3
      * The Rink (Russ) mentioned that the rink may or may not host tournaments every weekend in March. Do we have ice availability or not?
      * How long into March will we schedule practices?
      * What date are tryouts?
      * Beginner Jamboree is tentatively scheduled for 3/23 9-12am per Sharon. (she says that Matt says GAHA trumps any rink tournament)???
      * Will the 18U split season team need additional ice for practices? What day will that start?
    - Jim will be able to complete scheduling for the year once he has the answers to this information.
  + Coaching Committee
    - Tim wants to get coaches in place, he feels that they are in a good spot for a coaching lineup for next year.
    - After tryouts, Tim wants to post all of the teams to the website, indicating that coaches are to be determined and that rosters are subject to change.
    - Theresa did stress the importance of making sure all teams were announced at the same time.
    - Tim wants tryouts advertised.
    - Coaches are vetted for ability after a certain level.
    - Theresa mentioned a situation she heard about with a PW coach. Tim explained the situation and everything was set. A conversation was had with the coach. The coach has since left and her kids are no longer playing either.
  + VP of WNY
    - WNY is hammering down on parents referencing the Code of Conduct.
    - 2 WNY teams are going to states.
  + VP of Empire
    - Playoffs are in February. GAHA needs to provide volunteers for Sunday, 2/24 at Tim Horton’s Ice Complex.
    - Chad reviewed divisions and number of teams in each.
    - Chad asked if Mites played 4 on 4 or 5 on 5 as Empire was waffling back and forth. Tim didn’t feel that mites were ever played 4 on 4; Empire decided all Mite games will be 5 on 5.
    - Penalty minutes are up, specifically on Batavia’s Bantam team. If the player in question receives 9 more penalty minutes, there will be a board hearing.
    - Large fight between 2 18U teams. Players were ejected and are out 10 games.
    - Next Empire meeting is February 5th.
  + President’s Report
    - Encourage coaching volunteers
    - Get coaches together for tryouts
    - After tryouts, players register with $150 deposit to secure spot and order jersey. This happens right away with WNY teams but organization will be doing it June 1st for Empire teams as well.
    - Tim will draft an email explaining the difference between WNY and Empire for Theresa to send out.
    - Evaluations will be done and then tryouts.
  + Rink Update
    - Kati and staff will need more help with Mite boards during tournaments.
    - Rink staff meets weekly.
  + Next Meeting: February 21st.

Meeting adjourned 7:44pm