

**Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 2009**

The February meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Board members present were Greg Erickson, Mark Gauer, Mike Goergen, Matt Deterding, Mike Terres, Jon Piazza, Joanna Rooney, Paul Wood, Larry Gonrwski, Jim Siede and Kris Harnett.

Board members absent: Derek Olson, Tom Keller, Todd Pannek, Carolyn Soper, Troy Loken, Laurie Ahrens and Ed Kirchoff.

Tracee deNeui from the Charitable Gambling Committee; Todd Weisjahn, Armstrong High School Boys' Hockey Coach; and Mike Moore, Armstrong High School Girls' Hockey Booster Club President were also in attendance.

To start the meeting, Mike Goergen suggested that we approve the **January meeting minutes** that were provided electronically to the board by Troy Loken who had filled in for Kris Harnett at the January meeting. Greg Erickson made the motion to approve, Mike Terres seconded. Motion passed.

**Mike Terres, Equipment Coordinator**, brought up the subject of "**Goalie Credits**". In the past, both AYHA and CYHA gave credits to families of goalies that had purchased their own equipment. The Board discussed whether or not we wanted to continue with the policy. Mike had created a chart that showed approximate costs of new equipment and his recommendations for credits. The Board agreed that we need to keep hockey affordable for goalies and wanted to continue with some type of credit. However, it was expressed that we may need to develop a new policy that we can use in the coming years. Before deciding how the Board will proceed, Mike will survey the ACYHA goalies at the traveling level to see just how many use their own equipment and uses ACYHA equipment.

Mr. Terres also presented information on purchasing an **electronic scheduling board** for New Hope Ice Arena. The board agreed that it would be an excellent addition to the arena and our hockey program. The board would scroll ice times, teams, locker room assignments, etc. This would eliminate the need for the white board at the North entrance; information could be updated "up to the minute" with a separate computer in the front office. Mike has been working with Reach Technical and has everything worked out. He felt that if we moved quickly we could have the new scheduling board installed before the District Tournaments that are coming up. If that doesn't work out, we'd at least have it before the PeeWee A State Tournament.

The Board agreed that this was a great investment! It will be more accurate, up to date, look more professional, and offer area businesses an extra place to advertise at the rink. Larry Gonrowski made a motion to provide up to \$2500 for the purchase of the new system. Jon Piazza seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Todd Weisjahn and Mike Moore** then spoke to the board about their respective **requests for funds**. Weisjahn is the head coach of Armstrong High School's Boys Hockey team; Mr. Moore was there representing the Armstrong High School Girls Hockey Booster Club. Both organizations are asking for \$2,000 each from our Association. Mike Goergen reiterated that the board would like to wait until our April to decide on this as outlined during the January meeting. He also asked that both parties provide the board with an outline of something tangible that could be "sponsored" by ACYHA instead of us just writing a check that gets thrown into a fund.

Weisjahn explained that since he's been the head coach he has received money from ACYHA and that normally he does put it in the general fund where it is then used for equipment and training tools. He explained that the school district only pays for ice time, officials and the coaching staff; all of their other funds come from fees and fundraising. Varsity players pay a \$200 participation fee and then usually another \$200 more as boosters. The AHS boys hockey team usually runs four (4) fundraisers per year. Mike Moore confirmed that those numbers are very similar for the Girls' program.

Mike Goergen again expressed the board's hesitancy to just write checks for these programs at this time. Our first obligation is to our Association members and we have to make sure we can justify giving this cash out when our Mites are paying about the same in fees as the high school players. Earmarking something to be purchased or provided with our donation would be a great way to help with the justification.

Mike Moore explained that the Girls' Booster Club wanted to use the funds for STP (Summer Training Program). They are very interested in bringing the high school program closer to the Youth program; they want the younger girls skating in the summer. They'd like to buy matching t-shirts and shorts for dry land as well as provide entry fees for age appropriate summer tournaments and scrimmages.

Todd Weisjahn spoke about the difficulties of bringing the high school players closer to the Youth program. He has many players that want to skate with the younger kids and help out at practices. He has encountered two road blocks to this: there are too many hoops to jump through to get a player on the ice with younger skaters—too many rules and regulations in addition to the cost factor of "registering". The other road block would be that coaches do not seem open to the idea. He's asked several times, especially at the Bantam level, and has been told they don't need any help.

Weisjahn said that he would put something together for the board that would better outline what the funds would be used for. The Board agreed that we would look at both proposals again at our April meeting.

**Tracee deNeui** gave a short **Gambling Report**. We have over \$49,000 in the gambling checkbook; our profit for January was \$4875. The Sunshine Factory is interested in participating in Mega Bingo. The start up cost of this is \$500-600 and they have agreed to split that with ACYHA. The Board isn't sure that they want to be involved in Mega Bingo; everything is going really well right now as it is; the bar is full on Thursday nights. Do we need to pay for half of something we aren't really sure we want to do? Tracee will continue to look into it and we'll discuss it again next month.

Tracee did mention that a former pull tab seller, Dennis Johnson, had died. The Board agreed with Tracee that it would be a great idea to get a donation to the family.

At the time of Tracee's report, there were not enough board members present to provide a quorum; we could not vote to approve her monthly report, the March expenses or the other items listed.

[On February 16, 2009, the board voted electronically to approve the following:

1. Monthly report to the board
2. Expenses for March 2009 in the amount of \$39,550
3. Pay December '08 taxes to the City of Maple Grove--\$55.25 (amended from January)
4. Pay January '09 taxes to the City of Maple Grove--\$91.82
5. Pay 2008 Yearly tax of 10% to the City of Crystal--\$1900.00
6. Pay 2008 Yearly tax of 10% to the City of New Hope--\$5000.50
7. Make Donation of \$100 to the family of Dennis Johnson
8. Pay \$191.10 to the Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association (per our Gambling agreement with their city board in regard to pulltabs at Champps)
9. Pay \$900 to the State of Minnesota to renew our Gambling License, Tracee deNeui's Gambling Manager's License, and Premise Permits for all three sites

Kristen Harnett made the e-motion; it was seconded by Jim Siede. Motion passed.]

The Board's monthly reports followed:

**Mike Goergen, Youth Director:** Mike attended a District 3 meeting on Saturday. The focus was recruitment and retention. All Associations are interested in keep their numbers up and having kids continuing skating throughout their school-aged years. One focus was to add a "Rec League". There would be set times for practices and limited games. This would be in addition to the C League that exists now.

Mike reported that we are tracking well with our expected revenue versus costs of the season. We do have lots of ice left to pay for, however. In addition, at the present time, the Concessions income is actually behind. The tournament from last weekend as well as the Mite Jamboree could help us catch up, though. He expects that even with out final ice bills we should finish out the year financially better than expected.

**Troy Loken, Assistant Youth Director:** Troy wasn't present at the meeting but did communicate with the Board electronically after Armstrong Cooper Hockey Day that the day was a great success. Teams really enjoyed their scrimmages and the visiting teams were pleased with the way the day went as well.

**Jon Piazza, District 3 Rep:** Jon reminded the board that we were hosting both the Squirt C and the PeeWee A District playoffs. Everything is place. Jon may need someone to fill in for him on a night or two if he has to be out of town for work.

**Mark Gauer, Treasurer:** Mark handed out a Profit and Loss statement for the Board to peruse. Everything is going fine; he is still entering some things "by hand" but things look good on the financial end.

**Jim Siede, Parent Volunteer Coordinator:** Jim has been working on contacting people that have still not turned in their volunteer deposits. We have 23 families that have not turned in checks and have kids on the ice. Families will be contacted; their kids will not participate in District play or the Jamboree if they do not have checks turned in.

**Paul Wood, Travel Coordinator:** Nothing to report but wanted to mention that he's been kicking around the idea of having an "Outdoor Classic" next year. The main blocking point to this is how we would "zamboni" the ice after a game. It's a great idea, it just might be too hard to implement.

**Joanna Rooney, Registrar:** Joanna recently attended the end-of-the-year District 3 Registrar's Meeting. The big issue some Associations have is coaches that sign up to coach but then don't show up. This costs Associations a lot of money as they have to pay for background checks and certification for every coach. Luckily, this is not a big issue for ACYHA. D3 is looking at providing on-line registration for coaches; in addition, they may be steering away from having every team carry birth certificate and roster books. We would still need birth certificates for rostering but would not have to carry the books to games and tournaments.

**Greg Erickson, Tournaments:** Greg reported that the New Hope Invitational had been a great success. He had some good help and everything went fairly smoothly. The final tally should be coming in soon but we may net between \$6,000 and \$7,000, which would be above our projections. The Board suggested hosting at least two more tournaments next year. Greg was in favor and knows he has some great committee members to help him out.

**Carolyn Soper, Concessions:** Carolyn was not present but provided a Profit and Loss statement and Balance Sheet to the Board. The P & L showed that we have definitely "caught up" and that the Concession Stand is profitable and more on schedule with our yearly projections.

**Mike Terres, Equipment:** After his presentations early in the meeting, Mike left to attend a New Hope Citizens Advisory Commission meeting.

**Matt Deterding, Mite Coordinator:** The game schedules are set for the Jamboree and everything seems to be in place. The basket raffle/gambling issue has been taken care of as well.

**Larry Gonrowski, ACE Coordinator:** Larry brought up the subject of coaches gifts as well as the end-of-the-year party for same. Gift certificates to the Sunshine Factory for all parent coaches are what he'd like to provide; he'd also like to continue with the tradition of the end-of-the-year party for all coaches from the Mite level up to Bantams. Without a quorum we decided to handle these issues electronically.

[On February 18, 2009, Kristen Harnett made the following electronic motion to the board:

I make the motion to approve Gift Certificates from the Sunshine Factory for all Parent Coaches. Head coaches would receive \$50 certificates and Assistant Coaches would receive \$25 certificates. This would encompass 10 head coaches and 40 Assistant coaches and be in recognition of their coaching services for the 2008-2009 season.

Derek Olson seconded the motion; motion passed.

In a separate email, Kristen sent the following:

As discussed at our last board meeting, Larry Gonrowski has asked for funds to have a coach's party at the end of the hockey season. This party would include ALL coaches from Mites on up through all traveling levels. This a fun way to wind up the season and an additional way to thank all of our coaches for a great hockey season.

I make a motion to approve up to \$450 to be used for this purpose.

Mike Terres seconded the motion, motion passed.]

**Kris Harnett, Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Ed Kirchoff, Marketing and Membership:** Not present; no report.

**Todd Pannek, Past President:** Not present; no report.

**Laurie Ahrens, Fundraising:** Not present, no report.

**Tom Keller, Girls Coordinator:** Not present, no report.

**Derek Olson, Ice Coordinator:** Derek was not at the meeting but approached the board through email earlier in the day.

“District tournament play starts on February 21 for Bantam 1, B1, B2, PeeWee A, B1, B2. Ice is schedule for all teams up until that date. All other teams still in season (Mites, Squirts, U10 and PeeWee C) will get additional ice times later this week for the week of February 21-March 1. Several hours are being held OPEN for teams that advance in districts. All managers have been instructed on post-season ice procedures.

As a reminder we (ACYHA) are hosting PeeWee A and Squirt C Districts, schedules can be found [on the District 3 website].

I have had multiple requests from teams with special requests for ice. Within reason all efforts are made to accommodate these requests. However, not all can be granted. Please note that we are hosting 2 tournaments (above), the Mite Jamboree (March 6, 7, & 8), and we still have 7 teams whose season is not over until the first part of March. We need to be fair to all teams needing practice time, so I asking for your understanding.

I also ask for your patience as I grind through the end of this year, as it is my first as ice scheduler. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me.”

The January ACYHA Board meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

