

New Prague Hockey Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Location: NP Fire Department Meeting Room
Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

This meeting was held on the second Tuesday of the month, rather than the usual second Wednesday of the month due to schedule conflicts at the NP Fire Department. The NPHA website was updated to reflect this change back in November and emailed to Coordinators in December and January.

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

NPHA Board

President	Aaron Lindholm	Present
Vice President	Jason Olson	Absent
Secretary	Miranda Vertnik	Present
Treasurer	Ben Jones	Present
Director of Operations	Mike Westing	Present
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	Present
Board Member at Large	Kirk Crabb	Absent
Past Board Member	Tony Robles	Absent
Interim Manager Director	Amanda Will	Present

Tony notified the Board that he would be unable to attend due to work commitments, Jason notified the Board that he would be unable to attend due to coaching duties, and Kirk notified the Board that he would be unable to attend due to illness. Miranda made a motion to excuse their absences, which was seconded by Jess. Motion carried 6-0 (with three Board members absent).

Coordinator Positions

Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Amanda Will	Present
Concession Stand Coordinator	Ashley Lindholm	Absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	Absent
Equipment Coordinator Trainee	Kristi Nelson	Present
Fundraising Coordinator	Kristina Dillon	Absent
Gambling Manager	Nate Borwege	Absent
Gambling Manager Trainee	Jason Schlekewy	Present
HDC Coordinator	Tim Applen	Absent
Ice Time Coordinator	Tyler Kienow	Absent
Mite/8U Coordinators	Anthony Anderson	Absent
	Brad Breeggemann	Absent
	Bryan Frank	Absent
NPACC Manager	Justin Hauge	Absent
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	Absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	Brandy Rife	Absent
Registrar	Miranda Vertnik	Present
Safe Sport Coordinator	Chelsea Casey	Absent
Sponsorship Coordinator	Kristi Nelson	Present
Tournament Coordinator	Kelly Chadwick	Absent
Volunteer Coordinator	Aimee Bombardo	Absent
Website/Technology Coordinator	Dallas Akre	Absent

Others present: Dan Iverson (parent)

2. REPORTS

1. **Secretary's Report (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda shared the Meeting Minutes for December 2023 with the Board on December 23rd. There were no suggested revisions or changes to the minutes. A motion was made by Jess to approve the Dec 2023 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Amanda. Motion carried 6-0 (with three Board members absent). Miranda will post the Dec 2023 Meeting Minutes to the NPHA website.
2. **Treasurer's Report (Ben Jones):** Ben shared the monthly financials with the Board prior to the meeting. He reported that we have some large expenses coming up including coach stipends, MEGA fees, JG jersey invoice, payment to the gambling program for Raffle Calendar sales, NPACC Usage Fees, over-fundraising incentive payments, Mite differential refunds, and March ice bill. He noted that we need to reserve a significant amount of money in the account (roughly \$55k) to pay for 2024-25 season tournaments. The association is still due approximately \$24k in registration fees on SportsEngine (final payment plan withdrawals is scheduled for Jan 15th) and JG families will be charged for their NPC Assistant Coaches soon. He reported that no monies from the Concession Stand account have been transferred to the general account this season as of yet, and the stand is up \$5k as compared to this same time last season. Despite multiple attempts to communicate via phone and email with our accounting service provider, they have not returned Ben's calls or messages. We will move our business elsewhere so that the taxes can be filed ASAP. Miranda made a motion to approve the Dec 2023 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Jess. Motion carried 6-0 (with three Board members absent).
3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege/Jason Schlekewy):** Nate provided the Nov 2023 Gambling Report prior to the meeting. Nate was unable to attend the meeting, but Jason was present and reviewed the report that Nate had submitted. Of note, the monthly profit was just shy of \$3k for pull tabs in November. Expenses anticipated are the usual expenses, including rent at Fishtale and Fire & Smoke, accounting services, taxes, and payroll. Jason and Nate will be meeting soon to go over the details of the position to begin his training. Raffle Calendars are due later this month and members have been asking for extra calendars to sell. No new updates on progress at the Rusty Spoke. Miranda made a motion to approve the Nov 2023 Gambling Report as well as the Pre-Approvals for Allowable Expenses and Lawful Purpose Expenditures, which was seconded by Amanda. Motion carried 6-0 (with three Board members absent).

3. OLD BUSINESS

1. Final Registration Updates

1. **Players:** Our final active player count is 315 for this season. This includes players across all levels (we have 12 upper-level teams and 10 Mite/8U teams) this season. Our numbers are lower than would have been expected since we were unable to host a 12U team this season. However, considering we were missing an entire upper-level team, our numbers are still consistent with last season. Miranda has drafted up our projections for the 2024-25 season and will share this info with the HDC and the Board.

The Recruitment Data table below shows our numbers by level along with some other data and a look at our registrations over the past ten years. A couple things to note: 1) the 2020-21 season was our COVID season and players had to wear masks and the season was shut down for one month due to the state mandate. This likely may have impacted our returning player numbers the following year; 2) the 2022-23 season is when we were able to host a JG team again, which brought us 19 more upper-level players. Overall, player numbers are steadily climbing a little more each year.

Recruitment Data	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*	2022-23*	2023-24
GRAND TOTAL Players	251	275	280	289	311	310	302	303	318	315
Total Upper Level	141	143	149	157	292	202	199	184	192	194
Junior Gold	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	21
Bantam	40	32	33	29	35	47	49	51	47	49
Pee wee	32	33	35	45	57	61	48	52	53	51
Girls 12U	13	18	9	15	14	13	16	15	14	0
Squirt	42	45	56	56	61	65	54	49	42	44
Girls 10U	14	15	14	12	16	16	21	17	17	28
Total Mites/8U	110	132	131	132	129	108	103	119	126	122
Total Returning	199	206	221	237	251	269	261	239	264	261
Total NEW Players	52	69	59	52	60	41	41	64	54	54
Total NEW Mites/8U	48	64	48	45	49	31	37	53	48	48
Girls	6	13	13	12	16	12	11	16	8	12
Boys	42	51	35	33	33	19	26	37	40	36
Total NEW Upper Level	4	5	11	7	11	10	4	11	6	7
12U	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
10U	0	0	2	0	4	3	2	4	0	2
Junior Gold	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	2
Bantams	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pee wee	0	2	1	3	3	5	0	2	1	0
Squirts	3	5	7	2	3	2	1	4	3	1

Retention Data	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total Players who did NOT return to NPHA	32	31	34
Boys	24	19	18
Girls	8	12	16
12U	4	6	11**
10U	2	2	2
8U	2	4	3
Junior Gold	NA	NA	21
Bantams	6	5	5
Pee wees	6	6	0
Squirts	7	5	4
Mites	5	3	9

The Retention Data table above looks at the number of players who played with NPHA the season before but did not return to play in the subsequent season. Of note, this year we did not have the numbers to host a 12U team. Also of note, the overall total of 34 players who did not return does not include the JG players in the lower half of the table. They were not included in the count since JG numbers depend greatly on whether a player makes the high school team. The 21 players who were eligible for JG are a mix of

players who either made the high school team or quit hockey – Miranda did not have the data to discern who fell into which group. Also, the retention numbers only reflect data from Miranda’s time as Registrar.

2. **Coaches:** All coaches that were assigned/selected to coach this season have been added to their respective team rosters (apart from one non-parent coach who was assigned to the Bantam C team but he does not have the time to coach after all). We had one coach that couldn’t be added until late December since he did not get his training requirements done until a couple days before the deadline. Miranda suggested that we consider implementing a deadline for training items required so that coaches can join players on the ice – this particular coach couldn’t be on the ice until late December, despite applying to coach before the season started. Other coaches on the team had already put in two months of coaching and this coach will still get his DIBS hours fulfilled despite the late start. Everyone completed their required CEP course before the 31st of December, so no coaches needed to be red lined from their roster this season.
2. **ATM Status:** We will remove this from the agenda. Ben has not had a chance to work on this, he will plan to prioritize this in the off-season.
3. **Board & Coordinator Position Filling for 2024-25**
 1. **Board Seats**
 1. **Even-Year positions to be included on ballot.**
 1. **President** – Aaron indicated that he does not intend to run for the President seat again.
 2. **Secretary** – Miranda indicated that she will not be running for the Secretary seat again. She will stay on in a Coordinator role as the association Registrar but will no longer be a Board member at the end of this term.
 3. **Director of Operations** – Mike indicated that he is currently undecided about whether he will run again for his Board seat.
 4. **Communications Director** – Jess indicated that she will not be running for her Board seat again.
 5. **Past Board Member** – Tony was absent from the meeting; we will check with him to see his intentions.
 2. **Temporary Positions to be included on ballot.**
 1. **Manager Director** – Amanda indicated that she is currently undecided if she will run for Manager Director again.
 2. **Election Timeline/Process:** Aaron asked that we post the Board seats as soon as possible so that the election can start in February rather than March. Miranda noted that she has the Board seat application ready to go on SportsEngine – we just need to know for sure who will be running again so that we can include whether an incumbent plans on running when communicating about the available Board seats.
 3. **Coordinator Positions**
 1. **Who will NOT be staying with us in 2024-25?** Miranda and Jess will send out a communication to all current Coordinators to see who intends to continue on in their position next season.
 2. **HDC Coordinator Position & Possible separate Girls HDC:** It was suggested that we consider creating a separate HDC for the girls’ program – this will allow for decisions made about the girls’ program to be made by members especially focused on the girls’ program. It was noted that the HDC used to have separate boys and girls HDC structures. Further discussion is needed on what this structure might look like, when it would be implemented as it will require Handbook revisions, etc. We will attempt to schedule a meeting of the Board and the HDC to talk about this prospect. Another suggestion was made to open the HDC Coordinator position to all

members of the association – the position as written in the Handbook must be filled by a current or former member of the HDC. Some members of the association feel that this position should be opened to other members of the program. This type of change would also require a Handbook amendment – is it fair to make these changes before a newly elected Board begins their positions? Major Handbook changes have historically been left to the incoming Board to decide during the Handbook revision process.

4. COORDINATOR UPDATES

1. President

1. **NPACC Manager (Justin Hauge):** Aaron noted that this month's meeting had been postponed to next week, so no updates at this time from the arena.
2. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege & Jason Schlekewy):** No further updates.
3. **Safe Sport Coordinator (Chelsea Casey):** No updates at this time.

2. Vice President

1. **HDC Coordinator (Tim Applen):** No updates at this time.
2. **Mite/8U Coordinator (Anthony Anderson, Brad Breeggemann, & Bryan Frank):** No updates at this time.
3. **Ice Time Coordinator (Tyler Kienow):** No updates at this time.

3. Treasurer

1. **Concession Stand Coordinator (Ashley Lindholm):** The concession stand is performing well – we are \$5k above what we were this time last year. Ashley is hopeful the concession stand will raise \$8-10k more than last season by the end of this season.
2. **Fundraising Coordinator (Kristina Dillon):** No updates at this time.

4. Secretary

1. **Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** See Old Business for registrar updates.
2. **Volunteer Coordinator (Aimee Bombardo):** Miranda shared Aimee's updates, which included that reminder emails have been sent out to all families with incomplete DIBS hours – discussion was given to one family that has complete all of their hours but did not complete 11 of those hours in the concession stand as required. They will be given a reminder for next season that they need to ensure they complete half of their hours in the stand if they do not select the buyout. This family completed all 22 hours in the concession stand last season, so this was a factor. Aimee's updates also noted that DIBS shifts have been posted through February 11th and almost every shift is claimed. We will need to sort out how many hours are available for the end of the season district tournament and for the end of the season Beer Bash. Finally, it was noted that we have started selling the leftover trading pins in the concession stand to see if we can recover some of that expense.

5. Director of Operations

1. **Equipment Coordinator (Troy Gilbertson/Kristi Nelson):** Kristi reported that 16 families rented out new Mite/8U equipment and five families were provided equipment through the grant. We have 8 helmets that we could not use this season, they were too big for our new Mite/8U players. We decided rather than return those helmets and pay the shipping costs, we will keep them and open the equipment rental program to all new players in the association if we have sizes that might fit such players. We could also sell those helmets instead too. Kristi asked if we would be holding a consignment sale again before the start of next season and indicated she would be willing to head that up.
2. **Outdoor Ice Coordinator (Jeremy Denzer):** No updates.
3. **Tournament Coordinator (Kelly Chadwick):** Mike and Kelly had asked earlier this month if Kelly would be required to complete the background screening and safe sport training. Since the TC role is more of an administrative role to coordinate the operations of the tournament, Miranda did not think it would be necessary. The

TC position has no authority over players and any contact with players is limited and in a very public setting. Kelly is still waiting to hear from D6 on when the information meeting will be scheduled. We will need to share the tournament schedule (game times) with the DIBS coordinator so that she can offer shifts in the concession stand for those game times. We will also ask Aimee for a list of families that need to fill their DIBS hours to see if anyone is interested in serving on the tournament committee in exchange for 11 DIBS hours. Kristi shared that she knows of some EMTs who might be willing to work the tournament.

6. **Communications Director**

1. **Sponsorship Coordinator (Kristi Nelson):** Kristi shared that the association is still waiting on some sponsorship funds from donors. She reported that we need to change out some dasher boards – some sponsors need to be added and some need to be taken out.

2. **Website & Technology Coordinator (Dallas Akre):** No updates.

7. **Board Member at Large**

1. **Recruitment & Retention Coordinator (Brandy Rife):** No updates.

8. **Past Board Member:**

1. **Clothing & Apparel Coordinator (Amanda Will):** Amanda reported that General Sports still hasn't shipped orders from the first wave of team apparel sales. The representative from General Sports has not been responsive to Amanda's messages. Coaches' jackets were distributed just in time for team pictures.

9. **Manager Director:** N/A

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Dan Iverson – DIBS Proposal:** Dan asked the Board to consider approving 12 DIBS hours in exchange for his photography services since we have new jerseys for our upper-level teams this season. He offered to photograph and edit photos of 4-5 team events, trying to hit one of each level of upper-level teams in their new jerseys. He said he would try his best to complete the work as soon as possible and get the new photos to the Board before the end of the season so that they can be used to update the website, etc. The Board will consider this proposal and vote offline.

2. **HDC Disciplinary Procedures:** Aaron shared that he would like the Board and the HDC to revise the process for approving teams (players and coaches) in the future. He noted that the timeline for approving teams is short/quick and does not allow for adequate time to consider all of the decisions – particularly surrounding coaching assignments. He noted that player assignments are based on tryout scores, but coaching assignments are open to more discretion from the HDC and the Board. He noted that when coaches are not selected to coach, that is an act of disciplinary action and feels more time is needed to make those approvals. He would like to see the Board have more time to consider cases where coaches are not invited to coach for the season and would like those coaches to be communicated with prior to team lists being published. This would likely require an additional day or two between the conclusion of tryouts and teams hitting the ice for their first practices. We will make note of this for the incoming Board to review when revising the Handbook this season.

6. **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES**

1. **Interim Manager Director (Amanda Will):** Amanda shared that there had been some confusion at the Mite/8U level when scheduling scrimmages for teams that fall at the 6U age level.

2. **Director of Operations (Mike Westing):** Beginning discussion of spring hockey camps – in the past we have done shinny games and “try goalie for free” sessions with ice time in March.

3. **Board Member at Large (Kirk Crabb):** No updates.

4. **Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** Team pictures are done; Jess did not hear of any problems with the process. We had two parent helpers assigned to help keep things moving smoothly and all seemed to go well.
5. **Past Board Member (Tony Robles):** No updates.
6. **Treasurer (Ben Jones):** Discussion was given to when we might see an invoice for the JG jerseys that were ordered in late November.
7. **Secretary (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda shared information about a local hockey stick dealer – out of Eden Prairie who offers hockey sticks at great prices and wraps the sticks in an association's logo etc. This company has put together a store link for us to use, for each stick that is purchased by association members, NPHA will receive money to be used to purchase sticks. We might consider using this incentive to purchase sticks to raffle off at the season kickoff event, or something like this. Mike also suggested NPHA consider purchasing sticks through this company next season for our equipment rental program. Miranda sent the store link to the Board, and we will share it with the association.
8. **Vice President (Jason Olson):** No updates.
9. **President (Aaron Lindholm):** No further updates.

Ben made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Amanda. Motion carried 6-0 (with three Board members absent). Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Miranda Vertnik, NPHA Secretary/Registrar.