

UPPER ST. CLAIR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Regular Board Meeting—February 10, 2019 (at Ice Castle)

Board Members Present

Ed Gaussa
Dave Speer
Brad Sileo
Tara O'Brien
Laura Schuster
John McShane
Jesse Sweet

Board Members Absent

Jake Ploeger
Prashant Gosai
Dan Sinclair
Pete Gialames
Kevin McNally
Erik Happ

Additional Attendees

Amy Shegan Siniawski
Todd Eberle
Annabelle Carone

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Brad Sileo at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Report of the Secretary

- Jesse Sweet presented the report of the Secretary.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January, 13, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed.

Team Updates

- Discussion was held regarding certain players needing medical waivers in order to be eligible to participate in playoffs. Team Managers are aware of the requirements to obtain waivers, and are coordinating with Brad Sileo to obtain them.
- It was noted that book checks will be conducted on February 14, 2019.
- Regarding the Varsity team, two additional issues were discussed:
 - During the Varsity game at Armstrong on January 31, one of the USC players stated that a player from Armstrong directed a racial slur at the USC player during the game. Two USC players who witnessed the incident reported it during the game to Head Coach Justin Becinski. Coach Becinski summoned the referee to the bench and reported the incident to the referee. The referee stated that he did not hear the racial slur. In the days after the game, Brad Sileo spoke to the parent of the player to whom the slur was directed, as well as to the Mid Am Safesport Representative. Brad then filed a formal Safesport complaint on the matter, which means that PIHL and USA Hockey will conduct an investigation. It is not known how long the investigation will take.
 - During the same game, the PIHL Reps working the clock and scoresheet claimed to have gotten into a verbal altercation with the USC parent working the penalty box. The USC parent denied any allegation of improper behavior. Regardless, the parent agreed that he would no longer work the penalty box at Varsity games. Brad communicated with PIHL and no further action is required on the matter.

- One matter was discussed regarding the JV team: One of the players decided to quit the team due to the fact that the player has not been called up to the Varsity team. Brad will follow up with the family of the player who quit to make sure there are no other issues. No further action is required of the Board.

Treasurer's Report

- Dave Speer presented the Treasurer's report.
- Dave presented the current status of the association's finances. All bills are current and the budget is on track. Expenses are up slightly from last year.
- Approximately \$85,000 is in the association's account, with no more revenue anticipated for the year. Several bills remain to be paid. The organization remains on track for a buffer at the end of the year approximately equal to or slightly less than the one from the previous season.
- Dave noted that all families have paid their bills in full for the season.

Old Business

- Planning for the annual banquet continues. Heather Gausa and Michelle Fisher are planning the event. A survey was conducted of middle school parents to see if there was interest in not inviting middle school players to the banquet and/or having a separate event for middle school players. The results of the survey were nearly 50/50, so no changes will be made for this year. It was noted that attendance at the banquet is not mandatory, so those families who don't wish to attend are free to miss the event.
- Further discussion was held regarding whether to try to field two JV teams for 2019-20. It was noted that no decision can be made until registration is complete and the number of players for the season is known. Association member Amy Shegan Siniawski stated that she is not in favor of having two JV teams, and feels that the organization should cut high school players who are not deemed to be good enough to make Varsity or JV1. Association member Annabelle Carone asked if one reason to have two teams is to increase revenue for the organization. Brad Sileo stated that the reason would not be to increase revenue, but instead would be to allow as many players as possible—including younger players who may someday play on the Varsity team—to remain a part of the organization. Dave Speer stated that adding a second team would nearly be a financial wash because any increased revenue would likely be offset by increased costs (i.e. more ice time, more PIHL fees, more coaching salaries). The issue will be discussed again at subsequent meetings, and a decision will be made after registrations and tryouts, but before team declarations are due to PIHL in June.
- Ed Gausa continues to prepare for tryouts for 2019-20. The current plan is to hold tryouts during the week of May 20 for both high school and middle school, but that plan has not been finalized yet.
- Discussion was held regarding summer teams for the Mt. Lebanon league. Two MS teams have been registered. Erik Happ will send out a registration email for HS teams, and either one or two teams will participate, depending on the number of interested players.

- Regarding Outreach, it was noted that Varsity and JV raised \$450 for Mini Thon, and that the bagged lunch event was scheduled for February 12.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Annual Meeting will be held on April 9. Nominations for Board positions will be opened in early March.
- Tara O'Brien stated that approximately 50% of players at the high school level qualify for PIHL Academic Awards (given to players with unweighted GPAs above 3.5).
- Brad Sileo stated that he sent a letter to USC Athletic Director Dr. Kevin Dietrick requesting funding support for the 2019-20 season. The letter noted the long history, academic success, student participation and community outreach of the USC hockey program. Brad will update the Board on any response received from Dr. Dietrick.
- Brad mentioned that the Board will discuss end-of-season player/parent feedback at the next Board meeting.

The next meeting will be either an Executive Session on March 3, 2019 or a Regular Meeting on March 24, 2019, with such meeting(s) to be held at a time and location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Sweet, Secretary