

Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Thursday, April 17th, 2025
7:00pm VIA Mezzanine



Board members in attendance: **Justin Temple, Kyle Dziubla, Lauren Koehler, Erin Ludmer, Adam Sodersten, Aubrey Freeman, Amanda Ferwerda, Eric Helsher, Mike Bakalars, Katie Baus, Karin Shippar, Angela Hunt, Joe Beyler, Mindy O'Brien,** Megan Seefeldt, April Rabedeaux, Lelsey Steffin, Kristen Manning, Kendra Noll, Kaiti Bohacek, Mike O'Brien

1. **Call to order** – Justin Temple called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. **Approve Minutes from the April 2024 Annual Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes by Lesley, second by Erin. Motion passed.
3. **Ice Inc. Report** (Justin Temple/Mike O'Brien) – We had a great year and were very successful as a club. Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work and effort.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (Erin Ludmer) – Total revenue was \$441,000, 85% come from ice fees. Remainder comes from fundraising, tournaments, etc. We had a great amount come in from the tournament revenue, special thanks to those who organized the 3v3 and to Kendra for all of her hard work. Huge thanks to the concession team and Mike O'Brien! Total expenses were \$418,000. Largest expenses are ice fees (54%) and tournament entries (12%) and officials (12%). We had a pretty heavy investment with goalie equipment, which will hopefully pay off for the club. Net income is \$23,000 for the year, which is great since we had only budgeted \$9,000.
5. **Committee Reports and Updates**
 - a. **Registrar's Report** (Adam Sodersten) – 374 registered skaters, 31 teams. 97 coaches, 12-15 transfers. Looking to be a little lighter with overall number of skaters for next season.
 - b. **Fundraising** (Mindy O'Brien) – Hockey fantasy cards were \$14,000, Parent's Night Out was \$985, Culvers was \$384.
 - c. **Coaches Committee** (Joe Beyler) – Thanks to all of the coaches and parents. Planning to have a coaching platform for next year to provide more support to the coaches. Will look to do more combined skills session.
 - d. **Ice Scheduler** (Earl Tollefson) – Thanks to everyone on being the recipient of the MOB "For the Kids Award". Last year was the first scheduling 2 rinks for the whole season. We had a couple snafus, but for the most part things went well. Next year will lead to new challenges with the incorporation of the Metro Lynx. I am confident we can make it work without many bumps in the road.
 - e. **Website Update** (Karin Shippar) – Registration for more than 370 skaters, and more than 90 coaches. Ran successful tournaments through SportsEngine as well. Thank you to everyone who helped with the tournaments and tournament pages. We also ran two Try Hockey events, and the CATS awards. Thank you to everyone with their patience with the SportsEngine glitches at the beginning of the season.
 - f. **Jersey Coordinator** (Karin Shippar) – We purchased 5 new sets of Verona jerseys. We also purchased 5 new sets of Maverick jerseys. Purchased 41 Southwest Eagles, which will outfit 2 U18 teams going forward. Proved 37 new name plates. Sold 199 pairs of socks. 148 jerseys to LTP, U6,

and U8. 10 players decided to buy out jerseys. Given away 18 sets of old Southwest Eagle jerseys, still have 13 left.

- g. **Equipment** (Megan Seefeldt) – Outfitted over 101 kids with equipment. Awarded over \$2,000 of grants for new equipment.
- h. **Legal Counsel** (Brian Severson) – No report.
- i. **Concessions** (Brian Lindow/Lesley Steffin) – We had a banner year with the increased number of home tournaments and high school games. Kept inventory costs low due to the help of Mike O’Brien and should net the most we’ve ever had as an organization. With continued efforts to make things better and more streamlined I only see us going up from here. Thanks to the association for volunteering their time, without all of you we couldn’t do it!
- j. **DIBS** (Desiree Bates) – No report.
- k. **Recruitment** (Angela Hunt) – Walked in 2 parades, hosted two open houses in September and October. Did a lot of social media posts.
- l. **Girl’s Hockey Committee** (Angela Hunt) – Hosted 4 week girls try hockey free, hosted 2 U6 girls teams for the first time. 2nd year of the Junior Lynx program, hosted a U8 team as part of that. Hosted a part-time U8 girls team as part of the Lynx. Over 80 girls attended the U8 jamboree.
- m. **Culture Liaison/CATS Subcommittee** (Eric Helsher) – Gave out 11 awards, our goal is to increase nominations for next year. Also helmet stickers again and focused more on coaching events.
- n. **Communications** (Kristen Manning) – Thank you to Eric for rules, thank you to Tara for helping with social media, thanks for Karin for helping to coordinate communication.
- o. **Apparel** (Kaiti Bohacek) – Planning to partner with a new apparel vendor for the club. 363 end of year pucks.
- p. **Photography Coordinator** (April Rabedeaux) – We got a poster this year!
- q. **Tournament Director** (Kendra Noll) – Nothing more to add.
- r. **Update from ALD’s**
 - LTP (Kris Canto) – Ended the year with roughly 60 skaters. Nearly all skaters were fully off crates within a couple of weeks’ time, with a few skaters taking longer but eventually off crates by year end. We had a wide range of ages and skills - after a couple weeks we moved to breaking the group up by skill set which really seemed to accelerate development. We had roughly 5 parents who jumped in weekly to help coach - a good sign for the continued coach pipeline. Several parents reached out looking for spring/summer skating opportunities.
 - U6 (Aubrey Freeman) – 39 skaters, 2 all girl teams which went well. 6 total teams with lots of coaches. 25 kids will be moving on to U8.
 - RWB (Amanda Ferwerda) – 63 players, 21 coaches. 1 red, 3 white, 2 blue. We owned scheduling again for U6 and U8, expanded out to 28 teams.
 - Squirt (Wayne Pfahler) – We had a great season.
 - Peewee (Eric Helsher) – 50 kids, 6 goalies, won 70% of games. Every team won a tournament, every team went to state.
 - Bantam (Bill Snow) – We had a very successful season. We sent three of the four Bantam Teams to the state tournament. Bantam A and Bantam B1 both took second at state with Bantam C finishing with the constellation trophy. A big thanks to all the Volunteer coaches, team managers and parents who put countless hours into the success of our U14 teams this season. Another big thanks to the Dodgeville families who helped fill-in our team numbers to make four teams. Without them, we would’ve had three really large teams. A special thank you to Noah Miller who came up from Peeweess to help fill a goalie void. As the club continues to grow there has been extensive discussion around the development of more goalies to fill future deficits. The continuation of this discussion and implementation with the new board is imperative to its success. After many years coaching and serving on this

board, it's been an honor to work with all the wildcat families and I look forward to passing the baton to the next successful Bantam ALD.

- Mavericks (Katie Baus) – Rostered 3 teams of girls from 8 associations. 39 skaters and 3 goalies. Numbers were great to see given the new East team. A and B played in the NIL league, they are looking to improve the scheduling process for next year. End of season survey was mostly positive, but the constructive feedback was around better coaching support and scheduling for the C teams.
- U18 (Mike Bakalars) – U18 had a tough season, 14 skaters (7 from Verona). Will work with the new ALD to boost the numbers for next year. A big thank you to Mike for 13 years on the board!

6. New Business: Annual Elections – Justin Temple

Motion to open nominations by Aubrey, 2nd by Eric.

a) Vice President (2-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Kyle Dziubla nominated by Lelsey, 2nd by Adam.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.
 2. Motion passed.
 3. Kyle elected as Vice President.

b) Treasurer (2-year term)

a. Nominations: None.

c) Secretary (2-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Lauren Koehler nominated by Eric, 2nd by Lesley.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.
 2. Motion passed.
 3. Lauren elected as Secretary.

d) LTP ALD (1-year term)

a. Nominations: None.

e) U6 ALD (1-year term)

a. Nominations: None.

f) RWB ALD (1-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Aubrey Freeman nominated by Adam, 2nd by Amanda.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.
 2. Motion passed.
 3. Aubrey elected as RWB ALD.

g) Squirt ALD (1-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Wayne Pfahler nominated by Adam, 2nd by Amanda.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.

2. Motion passed.
3. Wayne re-elected as Squirt ALD.

h) **PeeWee ALD** (1-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Amanda Ferwerda nominated by Adam, 2nd by Eric.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.
 2. Motion passed.
 3. Amanda elected as PeeWee ALD.

i) **Bantam ALD** (1-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Eric Helsher nominated by Adam, 2nd by Amanda.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.
 2. Motion passed.
 3. Eric elected as Bantam ALD.

j) **Mavericks ALD** (1-year term)

a. Nominations:

- i. Katie Baus nominated by Adam, 2nd by Amanda.
 1. Motion to close and 2nd.
 2. Motion passed.
 3. Katie elected as Mavericks ALD.

k) **U18 ALD** (1 year-term)

a. Nominations: None.

Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Mike, 2nd by Amanda, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.