

New Prague Hockey Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Location: Raven Stream Elementary
Wednesday, September 14th, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

NPHA Board

President	Sam Blank	present
Interim Vice President	Jason Olson	present (via Google Meet)
Secretary/Registrar	Miranda Vertnik	present
Interim Treasurer	Jon Beckius	present
Manager Director	Sara Westing	present
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	present
Interim Board Member at Large	Thomas Gallagher	present
Interim Board Member at Large	Aaron Lindholm	present
Fundraising Director	VACANT	

Coordinator Positions

NPACC Manager	Kevin Cassidy	absent
Gambling Coordinator	Nate Borwege	absent
Ice Time Coordinator	Tyler Kienow	absent
HDC Coordinator	Tim Applen	present
Volunteer Coordinator	Aimee Bombardo	absent
Concession Stand Coordinator	Ashley Lindholm	present
Mite/8U Coordinator	VACANT	
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	absent
Tournament Coordinator	Lauren Heuer	absent
Sponsorship Coordinator	VACANT	
Safe Sport Coordinator	Chelsea Casey	absent
Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Amanda Will	absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	Brandy Rife	present
Concession Stand POS Specialist	Erick Christianson	absent
COVID-19 Point Person	Sarah Donovan	present

Others present: Jen Mushitz (former NPHA Volunteer Coordinator); Jeff Nelson (parent); Amy Danielson (parent); Tasia Balk (parent); Brea Applen (parent and former Concession Stand Coordinator); Mike Westing (parent and Coach); Brad Drazan (HS Boys Head Coach).

I. REPORTS

1. **Secretary's Report (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda shared the Meeting Minutes for August 2022 with the Board on August 30th. There were no revisions suggested by any Board members. A motion was made by Jess to approve the August 2022 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Jon. Motion carried 8-0. Miranda will post the August 2022 Meeting Minutes to the NPHA website.

2. **Treasurer's Report (Jon Beckius):** Jon sent out the August 2022 Treasurer's Report to the Board on Sept 14th. He noted that we are currently cash positive more so than in comparison to this time last year but attributed this to the earlier release of registration this season. He noted that our overall projections though are looking to be a bit behind our budget since our overall registration numbers are lower than anticipated. Jon is getting acclimated into his new role and will take some time to carefully review our budget. It was noted that hockey registration flyers would be passed out at each of the elementary schools early next week and this will hopefully drive more registrations. A motion was made by Miranda to approve the August 2022 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Aaron. Motion carried 8-0.
3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege):** Nate was absent from this meeting. He did not provide a gambling report to the board as of the time of this meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Open Board and Coordinator positions:** Sam suggested we consider making a SportsEngine application for Board Member and Coordinator positions that folks can access via the website. Miranda will look into creating such an application when her time allows.
 - i. **Interim Fundraiser Director:** No candidates identified at this time. It is very important that we will this position ASAP, this role is responsible for the oversight of funds raised for NPHA around \$100k, if we cannot continue our fundraising program, skater fees will increase dramatically next season. This point was stressed during the All-Association Parent meeting last night.
 - ii. **Mite Coordinator:** At this time, the plan is for the HDC to absorb these duties.
 - iii. **Sponsorship Coordinator:** We have communicated this vacancy to the association, sales experience is a benefit. This position currently manages \$25k of funds that are raised for the association, if we cannot continue our sponsorship program, skater fees will increase.
 1. **Post Meeting Update:** Hollie Weckman reached out to apply for this position following the All-Association Parent meeting. She has sales experience and currently works from home and believes she will be a good fit for this position. This information was shared with the Board via email. Sara made a motion via text on 9/15 to approve Hollie Weckman as the Sponsorship Coordinator, which was seconded by Aaron. Motion carried, 8-0. Sam will connect with her about the decision.
2. **Status of transitioning to an accounting services provider for NPHA:** Jon will be scheduling a meeting with the folks at Valley Accounting and Tax to go over their processes and will connect with them about completing our taxes.
3. **Used Equipment Sale/Season Kickoff Event Debriefing:** Ashley noted that she has detailed notes from the event that she will be sharing with the Board and with our new Recruitment and Retention Coordinator within the next week or so. She noted that the turn out to the event was pretty good and that she and her team were able to stay under budget for expenses. NPHA will be receiving approximately \$110 from Smoke BBQ as an incentive for using their services. Ashley noted that they had tried to line up an additional food truck for the event, but it just didn't work out for the scheduled date. She shared feedback she had received about the event and indicated that all of that was laid out in her notes that she will be sharing. She noted that

the high school hockey programs were eager to help with the event. Thank you, Ashley and your team, for all your hard work putting the event together!

4. **All-Association Meeting Debriefing:** Multiple people have reached out after the meeting to report that they very much appreciated the information shared by Tim Applen and Eric Fiala of the HDC, especially about the tryout process and how teams are determined. Thank you, Tim and Eric, for taking the time to discuss these things at the meeting! It was very informative and helpful to the association membership. The slides from the presentation have been posted to our website in a couple of spots so that folks can review them if needed.

5. Registration Updates

- i. **Coaching Applications:** As of this meeting date, we have received 53 coaching applications, 5 of which are non-parent coaching applicants. Miranda has been sending communications to each of the applicants about their coaching requirements.
- ii. **Player Registrations:** Registration launched on August 1st, and email went out to the association with the link and registration info the following day. As of this meeting date, we have received 280 player registrations. Of those registrations so far, 34 are new players, one is a Squirt level player, one is a Peewee, and the rest are new Mite/8U players. As of right now, we have waived out 4 players to other associations (PLSHA, LHA, & Farmington) – these are all complete. We have 5 waivers into NPHA, one is complete, the others are still pending (coming from PLSHA, TCU, MN River, LHA).
- iii. **Team Manager Applications:** As of this meeting date, we have received 8 team manager applications.
- iv. **Board/Coordinator roster:** Still waiting on USA confirmation numbers from a few Board members, Miranda needs these ASAP as the Board/Coordinator roster is due to D6 soon. Sam, Aaron, Jon, Sara, & Miranda are the members who are caught up on this. Please complete your Safe Sport training and Background screening ASAP if you haven't already done so. These are due to the district in two weeks.

III. COORDINATOR UPDATES

1. President

- i. **NPACC Manager (Kevin Cassidy):** Sam reported that Kevin is very pleased with the progress of making ice. The arena appears to be holding temperature very well. There is an issue with the dehumidification system, but it is being fixed. You will notice the First Bank and Trust logo on center ice as the bank provided the necessary loan to complete the renovations to the rink. Discussion was given to the Learn to Skate program. Kevin hasn't been able to find someone to take this over and asked if NPHA would be interested in running the LTS program. It was decided that we can not undertake that program this year but could possibly do so next year with enough time for planning.
- ii. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege):** No updates at this time.
- iii. **Safe Sport Coordinator (Chelsea Casey):** A reminder was given to all at the All-Association Meeting last night to send Safe Sport training certificates to Chelsea when completed.

2. Vice President

drop off their child that morning. She noted that they have a good-sized list of participants. Parents are being asked to bring a bag of candy with their player. She noted that Brad B helped put together NPHA flyers to be distributed at elementary schools early next week. Brad D noted that he will try to connect with Brandy in the near future to discuss his ideas for HS involvement this season. He would also like to bring the Little Wild to New Prague next fall. It was suggested that Brandy consider setting up an information table at the rink during Learn to Skate at some point this season.

8. Past Board Member/Board Member at Large

- i. **Clothing & Apparel Coordinator (Amanda Will):** Apparel store links have been shared with the association.

9. Manager Director

- i. **Outdoor Ice Coordinator (Jeremy Denzer):** No updates at this time.
- ii. **COVID-19 Point Person (Sarah Donovan):** D6 recommended that we keep this position filled for the 2022-23 season. Sarah has agreed to continue in this role. She reported that she will be looking at the COVID information on our website to update any information that is out of date.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Brad Drazan – Planning for 2023 Summer Ice:** High School boys Head Coach Drazan met with the group to discuss his vision for using ice this summer. He noted that the coaches' trainings held in the off-season (one in July and one over the weekend) went very well and that the focus was on the vision of NP hockey program, which is that we are one big hockey family here together. He shared that he would like to see our Mites involved at home games this season, but noted that it might be difficult to get every Mite team on the ice with our players – we may need to limit this to our Level 2 Mites? He would also like to invite each of our Squirt teams to join the team in the locker room before a game this season as well like last year. HS players will be helping with our youth player practices. Miranda will send Brad information on the requirements for Student Coaches as anyone who participates with our players more than twice per season will need to be rostered as a Student Coach. Brad shared that a lot of his hockey program is surrounded around character development and helping raise good people, not just good hockey players. He noted that when making team placement decisions at the HS level, coachability and relationships are the number one factor is team considers during the tryout process. Talent on ice is rated 6th out of the 10 criteria they look at during tryouts. Brad reported that his vision for the summer ice program offerings in the upcoming off-season will be centered around what is best for kids, noting that more is often not better and that time away from the ice is good for kids. Getting a break from the ice helps make them more excited to come back. He also noted that he supports kids playing multiple sports – as it is good for their development. It is good for kids to be coached by multiple people and to train athletically in different sports, this has been shown to help decrease burnout and injuries. He noted that sports psychologist say it is good for players to take a month or two off from their sport. He reported that his summer camp will likely start around June 1st and end the last week of July. He will likely change the days/times to try to help reach more kids and make room for multi-sport athletes to participate. Focus was also given to Junior Gold planning, Brad noted that

ideally, we will have 13/14 skaters to field a JG team. This topic will be discussed at the HS parent meeting coming up next month.

V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- 1. Fundraising Director (VACANT):** N/A.
- 2. Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** No further updates.
- 3. Manager Director (Sara Westing):** Sara reported that she has been receiving team manager applications, but that we will need to seek more given the low number of applicants thus far.
- 4. Interim Board Member at Large (Aaron Lindholm):** No further updates.
- 5. Interim Board Member at Large (Thomas Gallagher):** No further updates.
- 6. Interim Treasurer (Jon Beckius):** No further updates.
- 7. Secretary/Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda reminded the group to complete their Safe Sport and background screenings so that they can be added to the flex board roster which needs to be submitted to D6 at the end of the month.
- 8. Interim Vice President (Jason Olson):** No further updates.
- 9. President (Sam Blank):** No further updates.

Jess made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Sara. Motion carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:06pm.

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