

New Prague Hockey Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Meeting Location: WebEx
Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

NPHA Board

President	Sam Blank	present
Vice President	John Prokopec	present
Secretary/Registrar	Miranda Vertnik	present
Treasurer	Krystal Beedle	present
Manager Director	Brian Christensen	present
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	present
Fundraising Director	Brian Vosejпка	present
Board Member at Large	Brad Breggemann	present
Past Board Member	Jason Ashley	present

Coordinator Positions

NPACC Manager	Kevin Cassidy	absent
Gambling Coordinator	Nate Borwege	present
Ice Time Coordinator	Tyler Kienow	absent
Assistant Ice Time Coordinator	Cory Johnson	absent
HDC Coordinator	Joe Franck	present
Volunteer Coordinator	Jen Mushitz	present
Concessions Coordinator	Brea Applen	present
Mite Coordinator	Brad Breggemann	present
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	absent
Tournament Coordinator	Eric Steinhoff	absent
Sponsor Coordinator	Sam Blank	present
SafeSport Coordinator	Mike Franklin	absent
Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Sarah Hartman	absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	Mike & Sara Westing	present
Concession Stand POS Specialist	Erick Christianson	absent
COVID-19 Point Person	Cameron Stoltz	absent
COVID-19 Point Person	Sarah Donovan	present

Others present: Tom Huber (parent & HDC member); and Kelly Weber (parent & Annual Beer Bash point person)

I. REPORTS

- Secretary's Report (Miranda Vertnik):** The Meeting Minutes for November 2020 were shared with the Board on November 17th. A motion was made by Jess to approve the November 2020 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Brian V. Motion carried (all in favor).

2. **Treasurer's Report (Krystal Beedle):** The Treasurer's Report for November 2020 was shared with the Board on December 8th. Expenses paid since the last meeting included: NPACC November ice bill; D6 fees; Jersey and socks from Westwood; Coach jackets from General Sports; Team Genius expenses; and November Faribault ice fees. Deposits since the last meeting included: December 1st payment plan; and Sponsorship checks. Krystal noted that she has not processed the Mite differential payments yet in light of the season being on pause. She has the list of names, but has not requested payment from those association families as of yet. Krystal noted that she has processed refunds to those who fundraised above and beyond the required amount and also paid in full for the season, those who are the payment plan will receive their refunds once all payments for the season have been made. She reported that we have had 11 tournaments cancelled at this time due to the coronavirus pandemic, she is keeping track of the refunds the association has received. There is one more month of payment plan fees to collect. A motion was made by Brian V. to approve the November 2020 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Brad. Motion carried (all in favor).

3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege):**

Nate shared the October 2020 Gambling Report with the Board prior to the meeting. Gross receipts totaled \$4,808; value of prizes paid totaled \$3,750; Net receipts totaled \$1,058; end of the month account balance is at \$4,168.45. Expenses included gambling taxes, accounting services, purchase of pull tab games, and rent at the Fishtale Restaurant. There still has not been any payroll expense since March and the return of lawful gambling at Carbone's remains unknown. In accordance with the Executive Order 20-99 and MN Stay Safe Guidance, all lawful gambling was discontinued on the evening of November 20th. Nate indicated that he had removed all money and games from the site during this pause. Discussion was given to the contrast of our gambling income this year as compared to last year. Nate reported that we have been pulling in approximately \$2,000 less per month for the months that gambling was running these past few months. It was noted that the raffle drawing date for the raffle calendars has been pushed out to March 1st (instead of February) and that calendars should be ready for distribution to the association after the weekend of December 19th. Nate noted that he is waiting to pursue establishing a pull tab program at the local brewery in town in light of Executive Order 20-99. A motion was made by Jess to approve the October 2020 Gambling Report and Lawful Expenditures and the Pre-Approval for November Payments, which was seconded by Brian C. Motion carried (all in favor).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Updates:

- i. **Outdoor Ice Planning:** Discussion on when to flood the outdoor rink was held.
- ii. **Cancelled Tournaments:** Several teams have had multiple tournaments cancelled due to the pandemic. The association should be receiving refunds for these cancellations. The Board determined that teams who had tournaments cancelled could pursue new tournament options as long as the following criteria were met: 1) Must be within the budget of \$1,000; 2) Must not interfere with D6 games already scheduled; 3) Must be within MN; and 4) the tournament must offer full refunds if cancelled due to COVID-19. Tournament fees will be refunded

as appropriate for the teams who are unable to participate in their 3rd tournament (the one that families pay for at registration).

iii. **How to handle potential season cancellation due to COVID-19:** At the time of this meeting, all youth sports are on “pause” in light of an order issued by the governor of MN. This order is set to expire on 12/18/2020, unless the governor issues an extension. In light of the uncertainty of the length of our hockey season, we discussed process issues for issuing refunds to the association. In an attempt to be consistent with our policy for withdrawals from the program in our handbook. However, at this time it is difficult to set in place a detailed plan as there is potential for our season to be extended out into the spring months. If the season is fully cancelled at any point going forward, we will need to consider the time difference of how much teams were able to participate in the season (for example the Mite season starts much later than the upper-level teams) when determining refunds. We are closely monitoring our teams’ participation in tournaments and refunds will be issued if teams are unable to participate in the 3rd tournament which families pay for themselves at registration. It was noted that the baseball association offered a credit to be applied to next season for those players who would be returning rather than a refund. It was suggested that we consider sending out a survey to the association to see what the preferences would be.

2. **All-Association Meeting Alternative:** This has not been completed. Our plan was to send out a letter to the association with updates from the NPHA President. However, in light of the many communications we are sending out throughout this unusual season, we will not be sending out a separate letter that will substitute for the All-Association Meeting.
3. **Junior Gold Updates:** No updates at the time of this meeting.

III. COORDINATOR UPDATES

1. President

- i. **NPACC Manager (Kevin Cassidy):** Sam will plan to talk with Kevin again about the issue concerning proper lighting in the parking lot. There were several times that our teams and visiting teams here for games arrived to an unlit parking lot. This is unsafe and needs to be addressed.
- ii. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege):** No further updates at this time.
- iii. **SafeSport Coordinator (Mike Franklin):** No updates at this time.

2. Vice President

- i. **HDC Coordinator (Joe Franck):** Joe reported that an all-coaches meeting was held in late November in which they discussed the 1 New Prague philosophy, how to hold Google Meet sessions with teams, the Team Genius virtual training program we are rolling out, and player/parent meetings with coaches. Our HDC members put in a lot of time to help coaches connect with their teams during this season pause. Tom H reached out the arena to inquire about using the rink (with a very minimal staff present) to video record skating instruction videos with Butch. These videos would be shared with coaches and players to help give a close-up view and detailed instruction on hockey skating skills. The arena agreed to allow use of the rink for this. The Board agreed that this will be quite helpful for coaches and players and agreed to pay Butch’s

normal wage for hours of skate instruction videos. These videos will be ours to use as long as we would like and can be easily shared with players prior to practice. Brad noted that use of the arena for this purpose is allowed within the Executive Order. Joe noted that we are rolling out use of the Team Genius Virtual Training program and that an email communication to the association went out today with instructions on how to set up player accounts. Team meetings are happening over Google Meet. Some teams are doing a lot of these meetings, some less so. Taylor (the Girls HS Hockey head coach) recently shared a packet of information to be given to our 10U and 12U coaches.

- ii. **Mite Coordinator (Brad Breggemann):** Brad noted that the Mite jerseys have been shipped out and should arrive soon. He also reported that all Mite teams have been added to the Prior Lake Jamboree which is scheduled for March 5th-7th. Many hockey jamborees are limiting participants.
- iii. **Ice Time Coordinator (Tyler Kienow):** With the pause on youth sports, we have had to cancel 130 hours of ice at NPACC, 7 hours at Faribault, and 18 hours at xHockey, all of which amounts to \$28,000.
- iv. **Equipment Coordinator (Troy Gilbertson):** No updates at this time.

3. Treasurer

- i. **Concession Stand Coordinator (Brea Applen):** Brea received the concession stand license renewal information from the state and Krystal sent out the check this week. Brea noted that she has been in contact with our vendors and has let them know that the stand remains closed at this time.
- ii. **Volunteer Coordinator (Jen Mushitz):** With the season pause, we are offering fewer volunteer hours at this time than we typically would be offering. She has been asked by association members if we are really going to require 22 hours of volunteer hours per family. Yes, it is our intention to require the full 22 hours, of course, if the season ends up entirely cancelled, we will need to reconsider this. Jen noted that, at this time, there are approximately 80+ families who still need to complete their 22 hours.
- iii. **Concession Stand POS Specialist (Erick Christianson):** It was reported that Erick has started to set up the POS system, but that he has been quite busy with work and will get to more of this project as he has time available.

4. Secretary/Registrar: N/A

5. Fundraising Director

- i. **Tournament Coordinator (Eric Steinhoff):** No updates at this time other than he is getting some information from D6 on hosting tournaments during the pandemic.

6. Communications Director

- i. **Sponsor Coordinator (Sam Blank):** Sam reported that he is still waiting to collect money from some of our sponsors, but noted that he has received some funding which he will be passing on to Krystal. He noted that we have 4 new dasher boards this year. He was happy to report that he is over the budget for sponsorship this season.

7. Board Member at Large

- i. **Recruitment & Retention Coordinator (Mike & Sara Westing):** Sara reported that R&R started a “pass the puck” activity within the association during the season pause. For this activity, when a player is “Celly-ed” they receive an anonymous small gift from another hockey player, they then pay it forward to another player anonymously.

Names are logged on a shared Google document and players are encouraged to post a picture on social media with NHPA tagged on the photo/post.

8. Past Board Member:

- i. **Clothing & Apparel Coordinator (Sarah Hartman):** It was reported that the clothing vendors, with the exception of ID Threadz, will be closing tonight (they were reopened for our Mite families and for any one who missed the opportunity to purchase New Prague hockey clothing earlier this fall.

9. Manager Director

- i. **Outdoor Ice Coordinator (Jeremy Denzer):** Prior to the meeting, Jeremy asked the Board when we should begin preparing the outdoor ice. Discussion centered on the issues of how long it takes to prepare the outdoor ice and the status of the pause on youth sports. If the ice is prepared too soon, there is a risk that teams/players may use the outdoor ice in violation of the governor's order. Ultimately, it was decided to wait until new information is shared by the Governor next week. Brian C. will connect with Jeremy to get more information on the amount of time it typically takes to prepare the ice. Jen asked that, when the time comes to prepare the ice, someone let her know the names of the volunteers so she can log their volunteer hours.
- ii. **COVID-19 Point Persons (Cameron Stoltz & Sarah Donovan):** Sarah noted that the CDC and MDH have issued new quarantine guidelines. If an individual is exposed to a person who has tested positive for the coronavirus, then that individual needs to self-quarantine for ten days rather than 14 if that individual does not experience any symptoms (unless it the positive person is someone within their household, then it is 14 days). The exposed person also only needs to self-quarantine for 7 days if during that time they test negative. This all means a quicker return to the ice for our player and coaches once we can resume the season. Sam indicated that the COVID-19 Coordinator for MN Hockey will be connecting with Cam and Sarah. Sarah noted that she had added her phone number to the COVID-19 webpage on our NPHA website to give families another way to reach her beside email. Jess will plan to send out the COVID-19 procedures to the association again when we are able to resume the season. The question was raised as to whether we would plan to use our warming house once the outdoor ice is ready to go and the season can resume. Sarah noted that the town of Chaska will not be using their outdoor warming houses this season as it is difficult to monitor the warming houses. Sarah indicated that the more cautious approach would be not to use the warming house, unless we have a volunteer assigned to ensure that social distancing practices are being followed within the warming house. The question about shinny hockey was

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Shinny hockey this season?** Shinny hockey is casual "pick up" outdoor hockey games held between two to three teams. Sarah D noted that the current guidelines for youth hockey prohibit the cross-participation of teams for practices at this time. She indicated that Shinny hockey would be a very big risk this season as it would make for very difficult contact tracing and could result in two to three teams being out on quarantine in the event of an exposure.
2. **Roll Out of Team Genius Virtual Training:** The Team Genius Virtual Training program was launched tonight, which was ahead of schedule. We are calling this program the New Prague

Hockey Academy. Of note, we are the first association to use this program other than the New Jersey Devils professional hockey program. Team Genius was very excited about our interest and value our relationship and the feedback we have given them from our use of their player evaluation software. The NP Hockey Academy program will include daily work outs, challenges, etc. There will be incentives worked in for challenge winners. John reported that we have an association family who has two hockey players who are unable to participate in this year's hockey season due to medical issues within the family. These two players are interested in participating in this virtual training program. The Board agreed to allow them to participate as long as we have enough software licenses available. The Board would like to express our thanks to the HDC in getting this program started!

3. **Building safety - Lack of outdoor lights in parking lot:** See NPACC Manager section in the Coordinator Updates above.
4. **2020-21 Beer Bash planning:** Kelly Weber, our Beer Bash Point Person, asked for direction from the Board regarding planning of this fundraising event in light of the pandemic. It was determined that we will delay this event until the spring or summer as we would prefer to have an in-person gathering/event if at all possible. We will still ask our teams to put together a silent auction basket that we will use for the event as this could be done in-person or virtually. We can work in some incentives for the team that raises the most money with the sale of their basket – the incentive could be earning an hour of ice time as a team for some fun. We will plan to revisit this topic in the spring to plan out the details.

V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

1. **Fundraising Director (Brian Vosejka):** No updates at this time.
2. **Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** Jess is waiting to hear more information from the sports photography vendor in light of the current season pause on how/when we will be able to move forward with this. She noted that other nearby associations have opted not to do a picture day this season.
3. **Manager Director (Brian Christensen):** No updates at this time.
4. **Past Board Member (Jason Ashley):** No updates at this time.
5. **Board Member at Large (Brad Breggemann):** Brad shared that as a team manager, he feels our team managers could be doing more to reach out to their teams during this season pause. Some fun events like trivia game nights, hockey challenges, use of the new virtual training program, etc. could be implemented to keep players engaged during this pause. Brian C. asked if the HDC could draft up a notice to share with the managers on how they can help keep players engaged during the pause.
6. **Treasurer (Krystal Beedle):** No further updates at this time.
7. **Secretary/Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda reported that she submitted all of the Mite team rosters to D6 last week prior to the deadline and that all Mite team rosters have since been approved by D6. Links to the official team rosters were sent to Mite team managers. At this time all of the Mite level coaches have completed their coaching requirements except for one coach, who is new to coaching, and still has two items to complete. Miranda will connect with him again to follow up. At this time, we have a handful of upper-level coaches who need to complete their coaching certification training as they are set to expire at the end of the month. Those coaches have been reminded that this needs to be done before Dec 31st. The Board

informed Miranda that last year, it was decided that any coach who did not complete their CEP by the expiration date would not have their volunteer hours waived. Miranda will include this message in her next reminder communication to the appropriate coaches.

8. **Vice President (John Prokopec):** No further updates at this time.
9. **President (Sam Blank):** Sam expressed his gratitude to John and the members of the HDC who have spent a significant amount of time on getting the Team Genius Virtual Training software up and running, noting that he sees the benefit of this type of programming offered to our players. He noted that there could be some use of sponsorship money to be used for rewards issued to virtual training challenge winners, which would be a nice use of sponsorship money an provide visibility of our sponsors during this pause.

Motion was made by John to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jess. Motion carried (all in favor). Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Miranda Vertnik, NPHA Secretary/Registrar