

Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Monday, October 28th, 2024

7:00pm VIA Mezzanine



Board members in attendance: **Justin Temple, Kyle Dziubla, Lauren Koehler, Erin Ludmer, Adam Sodersten, Kris Canto, Aubrey Freeman, Eric Helsher, Bill Snow, Mike Bakalars, Earl Tollefson, Karin Shippar, Angela Hunt, Joe Beyler, Megan Seefeldt, April Rabedeaux, Lelsey Steffin, Brian Lindow, Kendra Noll, Mike O'Brien, Jason Mattila**

1. **Call to order** – Justin Temple called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. **Approve Minutes from the September 2024 Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes by Mike, second by Kyle. Motion passed.
3. **Ice Inc. Report** (Mike O'Brien) – Asking for input about having the bar of Rink 2 open during the week from Monday-Friday. Would like the board's help to spread the word about using the bar space for parties, gatherings, men's/women's nights, etc. There was an outside donation of money to improve the mezz space in Rink 1, would like input on what we want this space to be and what we want to use it for. Josh Biser is working on the workout space, planning to have it ready by high school tryouts.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (Erin Ludmer) – Collections are going well. Someone from Crossbar is going to reach out about a potential switch from SportsEngine.
5. **President's Report/Region 4** (Justin Temple) – Region 4 is running smoothly.
6. **Committee Reports and Updates**
 - a. **Registrar's Report** (Adam Sodersten) – Everyone completed SafeSport, all coaches are cleared to be on the ice.
 - b. **Fundraising** (Mindy O'Brien) – Hockey sweepstakes cards have been ordered, it will start in November and run for 2 weeks. Expecting a profit of \$14,000. Culver's night is December 18th.
 - c. **Coaches Committee** (Joe Beyler) – Having teams practice together, working with Biser on practice plans.
 - d. **Ice Scheduler** (Earl Tollefson) – Practices in through December, all games in through December. Planning to find some age level skills sessions.
 - e. **Website Update** (Karin Shippar) – All teams are rostered, but we need to ensure better communication with the coaches to make sure that kids are not getting added to the roster until it is approved by the board. Mite tournament registration is up but need to talk about the process going forward. There are a lot of bugs with SportsEngine that team managers are working around. Registration is still open for Learn to Play and U18.
 - f. **Jersey Coordinator** (Karin Shippar) – Name plates should be in on Wednesday. Larger Maverick jerseys will be in next week.
 - g. **Equipment** (Megan Seefeldt) – Outfitted 60 players with gear, a few more getting gear on Saturday. Received new gear from the grant and got all goalie gear back.
 - h. **Legal Counsel** (Brian Severson) – No report.

- i. **Concessions** (Brian Lindow/Lesley Steffin) – Higher revenue this season so far by about \$1,300, partly because of higher prices but also a big thanks to Mike O’Brien. Should consider expanding menu items in the future, already started talking about this with Ice Inc.
- j. **DIBS** (Desiree Bates) – Everyone who has DIBS credit should have received it. All DIBS sessions have been posted through Dec 31, 2024.
 - dibs hours required from families: 1572.0 hours
 - dibs waived for coaches/team managers/board members/raffles/etc: 1384.0 hours
 - dibs completed: 86.0 hours as 10.28.24
 - dibs hours remaining to be collected from families: 1506.0 hours
 - dibs sessions remaining for this year: 270 sessions with 121 open sessions.
 - We have had 43 dibs sessions since the start of the season and all of them were fulfilled.
- k. **Recruitment** (Angela Hunt) – Last open house a couple weeks ago, there were ~20 kids.
- l. **Girl’s Hockey Committee** (Angela Hunt) – 31 U10 and U12 girls signed up for Jr. Lynx, working with the coach to get high school girls who can also attend.
- m. **Culture Liaison/CATS Subcommittee** (Eric Helsher) – CATS form is on the website, helmet stickers are on the way. Craig Bartlett is going to organize some activities for the coaches.
- n. **Communications** (Kristen Manning) – No report.
- o. **Apparel** (Kaiti Bohacek) – Coach jackets have been ordered in 2 rounds. The first round should be ready from the embroiderers any day now. The second round was placed on October 15th. We ended up ordering far fewer jackets this year than last year, having a leftover stock from last year helped, as I handed those out first, before ordering new ones this year. Based on an update I received from Todd this morning; the online apparel store will be set up through Madison Top and should be ready by next week. Hopefully, he will have a link for Kristen to send out next week. Signs By Caitlin is interested in doing an online store with us to sell more merch than apparel. They are in the process of buying a new business and asked for me to reach out again in November. They are currently working with Verona Volleyball and Golf, so there is a precedent.
- p. **Photography Coordinator** (April Rabedeaux) – Tentative dates are set, still need to finalize the specific times.
- q. **Tournament Director** (Kendra Noll) – Squirt C1 and C2 tournaments and Bantam A and B tournaments are in November, planning is well underway. Mavericks B/C tournament is currently March 15-16, but the managers should start doing outreach to other team managers. Can email the gmail account for now if they are interested and then Karin can get the website set-up later.
- r. **Update from ALD’s**
 - LTP (Kris Canto) – Close to 30 skaters so far, will set-up a schedule for coach volunteers.
 - U6 (Aubrey Freeman) – 6 teams (2 girl only teams), 3 coaches per team.
 - RWB (Amanda Ferwerda) –
 - a. We ended up with 6 teams (1 red, 2 white, 3 blue)
 - b. Games start this weekend
 - c. Goalie dojo lite starts this week, where we try to spark interest for goalies and prepare them for heading into Squirts
 - d. Earl, if you have any more home ice laying around on Sundays, we will take it!
 - e. We met with the greater Dane county league and established rules and expectations for this year. We have 17 associations participating this year and 70 teams! Verona schedules for the whole league.
 - Squirt (Wayne Pfahler) – Season is off to a great start! Amanda would like to be rostered as a coach on the C2 team. Motion to add Amanda by Eric, seconded by Adam. Motion approved.

- Peewee (Eric Helsher) – 3 injured kids who needed to get evaluated, should follow the process outlined in the handbook for next year.
- Bantam (Bill Snow) – Initial teams are formed while waiting for high school tryouts.
- Mavericks (Katie Baus) – Overall teams are in the swing of things. Games have begun.
 - a. A Team: They've registered for a fourth tournament and are asking whether the board can cover cost or if they should instead collect from families. They added this for two purposes:
 - I. Increase game count.
 - II. Align with 4 tournaments across all Mavs teams, as they are not included in Mavs home tournament.
 - III. Karin makes a motion to cover up to \$1,000 for the tournament registration fees, Lesley to second. Motion approved.
 - b. C Team: We've added two additional players to the Mavs C team due to late registrations. Had Adam check first for financial release from home club and both were in good standing. Both were informed before registration that they would be placed automatically on C, and they were fine with that. Had there been any reason to shift players up teams, would have brought to board for vote. Now all three teams are at the same number of players.
 - I. Mavs C TM stepped down. She has asked for us to consider in the future classifying the 14C team as a "14B2" team instead, to make scheduling more straightforward and also align w/ WAHA U14 Girls levels. Katie & Justin took over scheduling the remainder of their season and they are now in the mid/high 40 games for the season. Thank you Earl for your help finding more ice for them to work with and Justin for your input on getting the schedule over the finish line.
 - II. New Mavs C TM is in place now and is on board with managing all other aspects of the team this season.
- Midget (Mike Bakalars) – 13 registered skaters, there is a chance that they will end up with 2 teams. Practices on Wednesdays, coaches are in place. Should be proactive and place another order of jerseys for numbers 21-40, and 1 more goalie jersey. Motion to buy 21 goalie jerseys by Mike, second by Erin. Motion approved.

7. Old Business

- a) None

8. New Business

- a) **Transfers** – Would like this group to think about not accepting transfers going forward unless it is needed to field a team, although we would let kids stay that have already transferred. Not asking for a vote tonight.
- b) **3v3 tournament around the holidays** – No interest in December, could look at the spring. Should look at creating a 3v3 committee.
- c) **Board Positions** – Need to talk about what board positions will be open during our January meeting so we can get communication out early and also consider creating a few new positions (for example team manager coordinator). Lauren will add to the January meeting agenda.
- d) **Goalie Development** – Adam took goalie training, and the biggest philosophy is using quick change gear so that multiple kids can play goalie per game, especially at the Mite age. Adam made a motion to approve purchasing 6 sets of quick-change gear, Erin seconded. Motion passed.
- e) **State Tournaments** – Reminder that we need to get all teams registered by November 15, Adam will take care of it.

9. **Motion to Adjourn** – Motion to readjourn by Mike, seconded by Lesley, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.