

WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Location: Watertown Municipal Ice Arena, Watertown NY

Date: 1/18/2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

<p>Vega Nutting, Board President Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>Samantha VanBrocklin, Ice Coordinator Chris Nethers, Learn to Play Tim Esposito (not in attendance) Tom Eiss Adam Nyitray Thomas Brown John Terry</p>	<p>Additional Elected Positions</p> <p>Brian Nutting - WHA Treasurer Angela Keegan - Secretary Michelle Rist - WHA Registrar *Dan McAloon - Ace Coordinator *Amanda Gregory - Equipment Manager *Lori Felder - Tournament Coordinator *Not in attendance</p> <p>Public attendee: Multiple 8U mite parents/Coach, Brett Melnyk</p>
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Agenda Items

Meeting called to order 6:04 PM

Public Participation: Multiple Parents for 8U group including a coach

- Melissa F. - Oswego girls' tournament was a good boost for the girls. They are skating harder and playing harder after the lift in confidence from the tournament.
- Concerns:
 - Feel the red team is behind skill wise. It is being expressed by all coaches at the level that they are behind, director is shutting the coaches concerns down.
 - Tom E. believes there is too much buy in to the ADM USA hockey model. says it's mostly skills stations and they aren't playing hockey for even 15 mins each practice.
 - Coaches didn't choose teams; they were provided with a google doc with teams already established
- Head coaches aren't the ones scheduling games, the director is.
- Some players aren't wanting to go to practice or play in goal when they did love it.
- Vega Nutting: Coaching committee met with the Mite director last week regarding concerns.
- Brian Nutting: Coaching Committee reviewed concerns and spoke with the director of mites. Committee will be meeting with the Mite coaches 1/19 regarding the situation. Everyone on the coaching committee has experience with mites and ADM through every level up, would like to get things investigated and addressed.
- Samantha VanBrocklin to mite parents: Is there a solution you have in mind?
 - Collaboration and communication issues.
 - Tom Eiss: 8U level, one solution is to have them play similar teams.
 - Adam Nyitray: maybe have coaches' step in and Director steps back the reigns.

Brett Melnyk:

- Do a 12U case study in spring evaluations this spring. Retention of talent. Believes this is a deliberate approach to the beginning of the season.
- Wants to run evaluation in March. Those moving from squirts to peewees, in the fall wants to run another evaluation. Would bring data to the board after.
- Identify 32 % of the staff. Managers should be able to schedule games.
- 57% of the team decided in the spring...Is this going to be by position, defense, offense? Brett says he could look at that. 7-8 players before fall evaluations. He likes a team of 14 skaters plus 2 goalies.
- Mike Ledoux: Not in favor of spring tryouts overall, doesn't believe it will be successful. 8 kids selected will have a big ego, there may be kids who improve over the summer. However, he is in favor of testing it. Concerned that the kids will play out of WHA for Steel or something and not willing to go to spring tryouts, then they'll wait to see if they make it and then decide.
- Sam VB: some downsides to spring evaluations: the stronger your organization the more kids will
 - It is a way to bring talent but not take away from the rest. Not trying, then we are potentially going to lose players.
- Point of this is that Watertown is viewed as organized competitive developmental program.

Asking for approving spring evaluations

Asking for permission to have parents to commit and pay a portion

- Vega: would like everyone to go home and come up with a list of questions and email prior to next month to have a decision at Feb meeting. Tom E. would like a call between now and Feb so we aren't cutting it too close that it fails because of board delay.

Vega Nutting motioned to approve Pilot Program for 12U on January 19, 2023. All board members approved the same day via text message.

December Meeting *Thomas Brown motioned to approve December minutes, seconded by Michael Ledoux, all in favor, Minutes Review: motion passes.*

Treasurer's Update: Bills Paid

- \$6,095 – City Ice
- \$630 – Snowbelt Dues
- \$1,585 – Referees
- \$1,330 - Tournament Registrations
- \$2,550 – Lawyer Fees
- \$500 – Memorial Contribution to Tyler Christman Fund

\$84,705.76 in registrations, \$1,135 in refunds.

\$9,586.18 in fundraising; Venmo of \$9,400 will be added to fundraising total.

Committee Updates:

Bylaw Committee: sent an email and no one responded regarding moving up policy changes that were made.

- Public participation: bylaws add 5-7 mins for them in board meetings.

Fundraising Committee: See fundraising on treasury report

Coaching Committee: meeting for mites coaches tomorrow regarding director

16U Plans:

Families have reached out to ask what is happening for next year. Do we offer a pre/post team? What will we have numbers.

- Feedback Vega received: those who left but would want to come back wondering what will 16U look like next season.
- Do we start earlier?
- Michael L: come up with a plan before the next meeting, talk to John Terry, Chris Nethers and Josh VB and their intentions. Michael to head up 16U/18U committee per Vega. Michael: feels like IHA that WHA supported, the kids are having fun.
 - Charge the committee with getting the most inclusive plan in place so we don't run into what we did last year where we didn't have a place for 7 kids.
- Chris's thoughts on 16U, if we offer TB or pre/post he thought it was required to have 20 players, now he has experience

Snowbelt update: No update, meeting tomorrow

Banquet Update: Delegated so much to Jess Eiss. Do it at Elks Lodge again, will be splitting up between 2 days April 22nd and 23rd. Jess is meeting with them in the next month.

Try Hockey Free February 25th: May put out to coaching committee. Vega says shouldn't go to mites. Feedback from the parents was awesome from previous ones, and a lot of fort drum kids.

Open Agenda: Coach Roch retired. Coach Garrison offering private or group lessons for goalies. Private preferred for older goalies. \$75/45 mins. Should be established goalies doing these lessons. Offer a single lesson to each established WHA goalie.

Michael Ledoux: does Unity need to renew affiliation with WHA? Would like to add Girls and all other levels still need affiliation.

Mike motioned to add Girls... Samantha VanBrocklin yes, seconded by Chris Nethers, ayes all around and motion passes to add Unity Girls affiliation.

Meeting Adjourned 7:58 PM, Vega Nutting motioned, Samantha VanBrocklin seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned, moved into Executive session.

Executive Session