



Woodbury Area Hockey Club
Monthly Meeting of Board of Directors
January 20, 2020
HSC Upper Level Conf Rm

Meeting called to order at 8:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members in Attendance: Ryan Warner, Tim O'Connor, Dan Kraft, Matt Shillings, Tom Och, Scott Szybatka & Brandy Kane

Board Members Absent: Dan Weinmeyer, Nick Nyhus, Bill Kulesa, Ron Tarlton

Other Attendees: Amy Vasterling-WAHC Charitable Gambling Manager, Lonie Nelson- WAHC Administrator, and BreakAway Academy East group (Zach Sikich-WAHC member, Dave Snuggerud-Director, Andy Brink, Renee Godbout-WAHC member), WHS Coach Wes Bolin, ERHS Coach Dustin Vogelgesang

Open Forum

BreakAway Academy Group presented a proposal that they have in front of the City of Woodbury for a BreakAway Adademy East project. The purpose was to share their plans and get WAHC feedback given this would be a school within the WAHC hockey boundary.

BreakAway is a private education academy/hockey school for middle-schoolers (Grades 5-8). It currently operates out of the Chaska Community Center. Founded 7 years ago, it has grown to 105 students and is looking to expand with a second location in the East Metro.

A proposal with the City of Woodbury to use HSC is in review. The plan is to be operational for the 2020-21 school year. The HSC model is almost identical to the Chaska set up. Classrooms would utilize HSC space. Current school day is 8:45am-3:30pm and utilizes 2 sheets of ice (mid-morning for 5th-6th graders and early afternoon 7th-8th graders).

Potential impact to WAHC include

1. Build-out/Spatial considerations for proposed outdoor rink usage/build-out-Canopy and BreakAway's build out for additional classroom/space
2. Player waivers: Need to understand how MN Hockey / District will treat these waivers – school or discretionary.

MN Hockey YOUTH RULES
IV PARTICIPATION

3. A Mandatory Waiver shall be granted to any player in good standing, without conditions except as described below, who wishes to participate in the MH association whose boundaries incorporate the school in which the player is enrolled and is attending, as follows:

- a. For schools with multiple sites the "main" campus shall prevail unless agreed otherwise by the affected District Director(s).
- b. Players waived based on school choice shall be deemed to be members of their Association of School Attendance and shall have full rights and privileges accorded to all members of that association, including voting rights. (Exception – see "Changing Schools" below.)
- c. Players receiving a waiver based on school attendance shall register with their Association of School Attendance for as long as they continue to attend that school (including the first year). If they stop attending school in that association's area, they revert back to their Association of Residence for participation or waiver.

4. Players waived for non-school attendance reasons are subject to the receiving assn's policies in accordance with MH governing documents (may not be eligible for highest team, may be assigned to lowest team, etc.). They shall remain members of their Home Association, not the assn. they were waived to, with full rights and privileges accorded to all assn. members including voting rights.

5. CHANGING SCHOOLS:

- a. Players not living in the attendance area of the school they attend shall elect one of the following:
 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any division in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at all except the highest division in their Association of School Attendance for one year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school, with full eligibility thereafter.
Exception: Players enrolling in 9th Grade for the first time are immediately eligible to compete at any division in their Association of School Attendance.
- b. Players who have participated in their Association of School Attendance and desire to return to their Association of Residence without a related change of school shall elect one of the following:
 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any division with their Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day that they notify in writing both involved associations of their intent to return to their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at all except the highest division in their Association of Residence for one (1) year beginning with the first day that they notify in writing both involved associations of their intent to return to their Association of Residence. c. For purposes of this rule, a team that is eligible to participate in "AA" level playoffs at the end of the season will be considered a higher division than a team within the same association that is eligible to participate in "A" level playoffs. d. Submit unusual circumstances to the District Director Committee for a decision.

Charitable Gambling Report

Amy Vasterling-WAHC Charitable Gambling Manager presented the *Gambling Report Review for the Periods Ending November 2019 and December 2019*

Actual expenses including Lawful purpose expenditures of \$23,844.25 for November 2019 and \$52,944.25 for December 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Estimated Allowable Expenses of \$30,305.50 for January 2020 and \$31,305.50 for February 2020 were reviewed along with Estimated Lawful Purpose Expenditures of \$2,000 school donation and \$25,000 for WAHC ice bills (note: WAHC approved operational budget includes \$120,000 donations from charitable gambling. Donations received to date include \$20,000 paid for jerseys/socks, \$20,825 paid to SSP-Woog Ice bill) .

Motion to approve expenses and estimates as presented was made by Dan K. and seconded by Ryan W. Motion passed.

Checking account balance at December 31, 2019 is \$62,837.66

Financial Review

Budget to Actual Report and Summary of Cash position as of Dec 31, 2019 was distributed to the Board by email and again by paper copy at the meeting. No formal discussion followed.

The report reflects:

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Actual results for May – Dec 2019 show NET REVENUE of \$427,524. This position reflects the timing difference between the collection of our player fee revenue and the payment of our ice bills. Our player fee revenue is essentially complete whereas our Ice expense is only 60% paid through December. The majority of PLAYER FEES are paid in accordance on our installment plan which includes 5 installments beginning Jul/Aug through December. ICE is billed and paid monthly beginning Oct with final payments made in March. Ice expense through Dec includes bills for usage through Nov at HSC and Woog and through Jan at Harding.

CASH POSITION

\$547,123 Cash
\$341,332 Money Market
\$57,644 CD
\$946,099

ANNUAL AUDIT for General Fund FYE 4-30-2018 is in process.

OUTSTANDING PLAYER BALANCES –

We reviewed WAHC's PLAYOFF Policy and late payments.

- Prompt Payment Requirements: Any player whose account is not current may be FORCED TO SIT OUT of all team activities until the account is in "Good Standing".
- Playoff Policy: All players must have accounts in good standing on January 31st or they will not be allowed on the ice until their account is paid in full.

It was noted that the \$8,036.50 in late payments includes 10 players (8 families). WAHC Treasurer will follow with a final reminder that players of members who are not in good standing will sit until the member account is paid in full.

Old Business

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:

- Following up MN Hockey's approval of WAHC's Request of Variance to MN Hockey Article 5 to allow WAHC to pilot aligning teams by high school boundary – approved for S squirt teams in 2020-21, the Board approved retaining a professional survey writer from UMN and approved an initial fee range for the preliminary work and survey draft.
- The membership survey would be used to inform the Boards decisions regarding piloting an alignment of teams by high school boundary beginning with Squirts in the 2020-21 season
- Discussion continued around survey reach and scope of survey. Once surveyor is identified, Board and ERHS / WHS representatives will meet with surveyor to give back ground, outline scope, and finalize reach and scope of survey.
- Board requested a WAHC *Townhall Meeting* to be held Feb 24 to update and inform membership in anticipation of survey distribution in March.

ICE UPDATE - HSC Outdoor Rink and Harding Contract:

NEW Harding Contract Update:

- Our current contract expires with the 2019-20 season. Ramsey County presented a contract proposal which offers WAHC a two-year renewal with three single year with less (no) flexibility

for WAHC (less opportunity for ice returns) and a \$40,000 annual capital asset management payment (previously \$25,000/year). That is an additional \$50 per ice hour assuming an 800-hour commitment. Contract is under review by WAHC and feedback will be given.

- Discussion followed regarding implications (*likelihood of losing access to the Harding facility beginning with the 2022-2023 season*) and the importance of the WAHC Board prioritizing a long-term ice strategy-solution especially in light of our continued growth. We agreed that the biggest priority in the short-term is renewing our partnership with the City and accelerating our efforts to address the HSC outdoor rink opportunity to make the outdoor rink usable for Squirts and Older while we still have Harding in the mix.
- In our Nov and Dec Board meetings, the Board approved WAHC representatives to continue discussions with the City and commit up to \$250K for boards, netting, glass, and to engage Stantec (at recommendation of City) to build out the plan (from *Phase I* boards, netting, glass to *Phase II* build out for locker rooms, *Phase III* canopy or full enclosure).
- The Board was briefed on subsequent conversations with the City/Rink in which it has become clear that before any discussions with the City can move forward, WAHC must show stability (this is stemming from the continued rumors of a split). It was recommended WAHC hire a consultant to prepare a 5-10 year business plan and investment strategy for a proposed ice solution at HSC. Board agreed that the Survey was the *next step* here, to be followed by formulation of the business plan.

ICE DIRECTOR – Recruitment Update:

No formal letters of interest/resumes have been received.

HOCKEY DIRECTOR:

- Meeting time constraints prevented discussion regarding the Hockey Director contract. It was noted that the initial contract term was 2018-19 and 2019-20 hockey seasons and ends April 15, 2020 unless amended.
- Board agreed that further discussion will be included in the action planning and considerations to be addressed in our 5 year business plan, etc.

NEXT STEPS – TO TAKE ON A STRATEGIC VIEW:

1. SURVEY
Survey Preparation (retain professional surveyor, prelim meeting to prep survey – FEB 7 ?)
Membership - Townhall Meeting – FEB 24 2020
Survey Distributed and Results / Data analyzed – MAR 2020
Decision on piloting a team re-alignment in 2020-21 – APRIL 2020
2. Identify and Formalize a Strategic Advisory Planning Group to explore / lead
 - Ice Solution – 5-year business plan and investment strategy for improvements at HSC,
 - WAHC Organizational Structure/Board Hierarchy
 - Intra-Association Alignment Strategy (define parameters-e.g. minimum # skaters / goalies, and formalize a program/team structure-e.g. 2 AA/A teams at each level, etc., how we will handle exceptions like school waivers, player/goalie minimums not met)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.