

WHA Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 10th, 2023

Location: Fieldhouse Conference Room or Zoom Link

Time: 7:00pm Board Meeting



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Randall, Adam Sullivan, Amber Dahl, Nate Shuller, Travis Young, Jeremy Johnson, Kris Dorneman, Eric Skott

ABSENT: Debbie Melville, Matt Engen

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Tonya Holien, Lucas Deutsch, Molly Randall, Casey Shuller, Jenni Wirkus, Kristina Suttan, Tori Simon, Jessi Eidson, Karen Gromis, Chris Gromis, Aaron Roberts, Jim Lloyd, Josh Finstad

Call to Order at 7:02pm

AGENDA for July 2023: Requests for additions to the agenda: Broadcasting game options & Hosting a State Tournament. Nate Shuller moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Eric Skott. Motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES for June 2023: Nate Shuller moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Travis Young. Motion carried.

1. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – update provided by President Todd Randall in Treasurer's absence. Todd met with VRS Partner (Mike Schneider) to discuss needs for the association including a complete review and reset for the financials. VRS has proposed options that Todd will forward to the board. Pricing options for this review, training and reset will be anywhere between \$2,500 - \$4,000. The board discussed the need for ongoing best practices for our bookkeeping. Motion made by Kris Dorneman to approve moving forward with partnering with VRS, seconded by Nate Schuller. Motion carried.
2. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Golf Tournament is July 22nd at Prairie Winds Golf Course** – overwhelming response to the tournament, selling out early. 40 Teams are committed with additional on a waiting list. Additional carts may be needed. Event will need volunteers which will be posted on TeamSnap. Molly Randall and Jenni Wirkus kicked off a raffle with a goal of bringing in an additional \$5,000 to cover expenses for this event. Prizes and information will be posted to Facebook, TeamSnap and website. Costs for tickets are 1 for \$10 and 3 for \$20. A BIG thanks to all who are working to make this event a success!
 - b. **Registration Fees & Registration Update** – Registration is open. Deadline for registration is August 31st. WHA Registrar (Jessi Eidson) is scheduled to attend two trainings with the state.
 - c. **New Board Member To-Do's DUE** (USA Hockey, Background Screen & Safesport) – These are due to the WHA Registrar no later than August 8th, 2023.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Community Foundation Grant** – we were awarded \$40,000 for dryland equipment. Looking for new nets, ice dividers, etc. \$20,000 earmarked for 2023. \$10,000 earmarked for 2024 and another \$10,000 for 2025. Thanks to Todd & Molly Randall & Lucas Deutsch for their hard work submitting and advocating for this grant. A big thank you to the Watertown Area Community Foundation!
 - b. **Preseason Ice, Games & Practices** – Coaches would like more preseason games and try something in addition to or different from Brookings ice time. For younger divisions, the idea would bring practice weekends, possibly hosting a jamboree. For PeeWee & up, there are options to travel for preseason tournaments with 4-game guarantee. Aaron Roberts is researching and coordinating efforts. Teams do not have to be split prior to the preseason games.

- c. **Preseason Prep: Purchases** – Question was posed whether there are any purchase needs prior to the season starting. Practice jerseys will need to be ordered. Discussion was in-house Mite sponsorship.
- d. **Training of Committees & Team Parents** – Kristina Suttin and Nominations committee did a great job gaining commitment for committees and team parents. Jeremy Johnson would like to get cloud sharing with drives to get all data compiled.
- e. **State Tournament (Added)** – We have the potential to host the GV tournament this year, hopefully in the new rink. We will need strong volunteer response to host a successful state tournament. Motion made by Travis Young to bid for GV state tournament in Watertown, seconded by Eric Skott. Motion carried.
- f. **Broadcasting of Games** – Karen & Chris Gromis presented a variety of options for livestreaming games. 3 main options:
 - i. Playsight (a high-quality subscription-based system which comes with a heftier cost, yet only needing 1 individual to ‘man’ the system);
 - ii. Blackmagic Atem (a low-cost option which can be livestreamed on YouTube, Zoom, Teams or Skype; options for play-by-play model and would need to be hard wired)
 - iii. Mevo (a user friendly, intuitive, good value system; reasonably priced; lesser quality than the previous two options).

Further discussion on options of SwitcherStudio, which we’ve used in the past for state hockey. Other options presented were Hudl and CamLink. Previous history of utilizing the radio stations to broadcast. Expressed interest in having play-by-play broadcasting for the Varsity teams.

4. **OFFICIAL COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS-** reports if any information

Coaching Committee, Adam Sullivan, Vice President, Lucas Deutsch, Staff – no additions

Dibs/Volunteer Committee, Tonya Holien, Staff & Sabrina Welder, Chair – DIBS will move to SportsEngine

Registrar Update, Jessi Eidson, Chair - no additions

5. **GENERAL COMMITTEES**

Marketing & Fundraising Committee, Molly Randall, Chair

- a. **License Plate Vinyl marketing** – License plate marketing in the works with Tori Simon.
- b. **Other Fundraising Opportunities** – Cookin’ on Kampeska, Joy Ranch Rendezvous, Stampede Game – options to earn DIBS for:
 - i. **Cookin’ on Kampeska** (DIBS will be 5 points per hour);
 - ii. **Joy Ranch Rendezvous** (looking for a lead for the August 19th event). WHA would be one of ten food vendors with 4k-5k people attending. 10% would go back to Joy Ranch. Remainder would go back to WHA. Hours are 9am – 7pm. Tonya Holien offered to plan everything (bought/purchased/prepared) but is unable to lead the day of (transportation and working). Post to WHA on TeamSnap looking for a lead.
 - iii. **Stampede Game** – Amber Dahl will ask for game availability for a preseason game (October).

Nominations Committee, Kristina Suttin, Chair - all positions are filled except for concessions

Grow the Game Committee, Aaron Roberts, Chair – no update

Equipment Committee, Lindsey Stricherz, Chair – Lindsey and Andrew are on the equipment committee – Tonya will meet with them in the next week to plan for needs. Will determine replacement jerseys and socks at that time.

6. **STAFF UPDATES**

Operations Manager, Lucas Deutsch – Steve Sheehan has offered to sell his skate sharpener for \$3k and all equipment. WHA currently uses Steve’s gear. If we don’t purchase it, there may be a potential buyer. City purchasing an automatic sharpener.

Business Manager, Tonya Holien (Interim) – n/a

7. **FACILITIES**

- a. **Build It Now Update & Pledge Forms** – The only thing that’s out is what’s left for naming rights on marketing. Tonya asked for Scott Gloe to coordinate a BIN meeting. Todd has a proposed letter from WHA to the City of Watertown expressing concerns and asking for a meeting. BIN is having a Thinktank meeting at KXLG for a final push on dollars.

8. **ASSOCIATION WIDE INFORMATION** – n/a

9. **ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm by Nate Shuller, seconded by Amber Dahl. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, August 14th, 2023, 7:00 pm, Fieldhouse