



RIVER FALLS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

May 2021 Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 11th

LOCATION: Wildcat Centre, River Falls

ATTENDANCE: Jody Christensen, Carrie Torgersen, Kristin Jepson, Greg Leier, Hattie Ekholm, Jon Wiech Kaylan Wilson, Catherine White, John Linehan, Chad Flanagan, Paul Bloodhart and Nicole Ralston.

ABSENT:

Meeting called to order at 8:03

AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Intro, Agenda Review** **Wilson**

2. **Consent Items** (All can be approved in one motion, unless an item is removed by a board member for further discussion) **Wilson**
 - A. Agenda Approval
Action Item:
Approve Agenda and any supplementary - Kaylan made a motion, John seconded
 - B. Approval of Materia
Action Item: Approve meeting minutes from past month. March 2021 meeting minutes were approved at the Annual meeting held in April.

3. **Guest Comments** **Guest**
 - Neil Accola was present for the meeting

5. **Hockey Operations - On Ice** **Hare**
 - WAHA has a new policy for move ups for 8u to 10u, criteria must be met. Form needs to be completed and approved by the WAHA director.
 - RFYHA move up policy needs to be reviewed in the handbook, table for next meeting
 - Move ups were discussed on both RF and BC Coop. It was determined that Board needed more information from the Girls Coaching committee regarding the request for the two BC moves. Jody will follow up with girls committee.

- Catherine made a motion to move up 2 Mite boys/1 mite girl to Squirts and U10, Jody seconded
 - Vote, all in favor - passed
- Conversation regarding future On-Ice development
- Kevin and John have met to discuss an On-Ice committee to focus on sustainability and succession planning.
 - Topics to include.
 - tryouts
 - coaching the coaches
 - level practice plan books (currently Mite, Squirt, Peewee exist), alignment with the High School
 - MAHA level of play, & coach interviews and selection
 - Discussion how to "entice" skaters to preseason with skills competitions, 3x3 sessions...Meetings will start over the summer with invites sent out to individuals at all levels including the HS and John from the board. Kaylan was also asked to be a part of the committee and accepted.
- Coaches Update:
 - 9 have put in for Squirt
 - 11 for Peewee
 - 12 for Bantam
 - 15 for Mite
 - 7 non-parent coaches at the Peewee/Bantam Level
- Number of teams: Tentative based on Jody's Projections:
 - 3 Squirt - 35 skaters
 - 3 Peewee - 34 skaters
 - 2 Bantam - 29 skaters
 - 2 U10s - 25 skaters
 - 2 U12s - 24 skaters
 - 1 U14 - 18 skaters
 - 10 moving to HS
- Goalies should not be an issue at the Bantam/Peewee Level
- MAHA level of Play: Input from the committee will drive the decision later in the fall
- Director of Hockey (aka ACE): Recommendation is that the new HS coach takes this role back. Primary role is coach development.
- Ice Time Requests
 - Post Tryout Blackout Weekend: On-Ice Coach's clinic
 - 2x Goalie Practices Oct/Nov then 1/Mo Dec, Jan, Feb (free of charge, inclusive of Boys and Girls):
 - 2x Power Skating Sessions Oct/Nov then 1/Mo Dec, Jan, Feb (free of charge, inclusive of Boys and Girls):
 - Tryouts: 3 sessions per level, then a black-out weekend as early in the season as possible
 - End of Year: 1 session (Squirt, Peewee, Bantam), skills assessment
 - End of Year: 3 sessions transition practices (3 time slots per level--Squirt, Peewee, Bantam)

6. Hockey Operations - Off Ice

Christensen

- Tournaments will be registering and payment through sports engine this season.
- Ice Schedule is in the works, if you know of anything that needs time, please let Jody know
- Green Bay Gamblers want to rent ice 2-3 nights a week from 4:30-9pm, from late September to Feb. Request has been denied, ice will be booked
- Jersey sizing will be held on May 19th and 23rd from 6-8pm
- Hunt, secure for 6 weeks in Jan/feb - camp will be in RF.
- Tournament added for Bantam - Last weekend in March
- Sept 25th - start of preseason camp

7. External Relations/Advertising

Williamson

- Jeri Williamson will no longer oversee External relations; Carrie Torgersen will take over.

8. Financial Operations

Flanagan

- Jody will look for pinnies and report back with cost
- Request to purchase pucks, we currently have two boxes of pucks.
- Rush River reached out to Neil regarding hosting a Bingo night. After discussion, we are not in the position to take on additional nights.
- Conversation regarding how to get out of negative projection.
- Upgraded to the pro QB version
- Financial packet was reviewed
- Matthew Friemann has received the RFYHA Scholarship. Neil will attend and present. No Applications from the Fusion.

9. Fundraising

Jepson

- Player/Family monetary commitments are remaining the same as year's past; however, there will be changes to both fundraisers.
 - Raffle tickets will now cost \$10 per ticket and families will be required to sell more tickets at the lower price. There will be many raffle winners at a range of dollar amounts all drawn at the same time. We decided against the calendar raffle due to timing as well as increased workload placed on the fundraising and finance committees.
 - Fundraising is in talks to change vendors for the pizza card fundraisers. They hope to move forward with McDonald's. Coupon card were designed, and the idea was pitched to the owners of the surrounding McDonald's franchises. If this is successful, we will net approximately \$8k more from this fundraiser.
- The golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021 at Kilkarney. Working on the logistics for the tournament, raffles, donations, as well as activities for non-golfers.
- The Welcome Back Event is TBD and will be held at Rush River Brewery. Working to set up food and activity options. We are also considering having Wildcat gear from River City Stitch for sale at this event. Otherwise, this event is completely free for our association families.
- First Purse Bingo event was a great success. Looking on holding seconded event late this summer; hopefully at a bigger venue.
- Once the organizational chart is updated, we need to clarify roles as well as workload for the members of the Fundraising Committee.
- We are on the list at Johnnies for the 60/40

10. Building Operations

Bloodhart

11. Member Engagement Retention/Recruitment

Wilson

- Player registration will go live May 15th and run with a 10% special for 30 days and registration will remain open until August 15th. At that time, the new jersey order will be placed.
- LTS registration is about ready to turn live in sports engine, we have a small waiting list from last season to register first. Numbers will be capped at 50
- Preseason registration is about ready to also go live on sports engine, same plan as last year
- working with KariAnn on a sports engine coaches' registration to start collecting this data electronically
- Looking for a new Try Hockey for Free Head, Desiree is moving away from that role
- Vanessa is working with marketing to look at grants and opportunities for marketing LTS and registration when it is available
- Welcome Hattie as the new Blackcats communication liaison in the Member Recruitment and Retention group
- All bucket heads were asked to provide job descriptions for the jobs that fall in their category. Once the org chart has been updated, this will help with the succession planning and sending out notices of volunteer job opportunities

12. Girls Coaching Committee

Open

13. Building Events

White

- Boxing Expo (Peek-A-Boo Boxing) will be held on May 15th from 6-10
 - \$500 rental fee
 - RFYHA gets all the concessions money.
 - Financials were reviewed, very little income was generated from selling alcohol, we will not be selling this year.
 - Walking taco's will be sold in concessions.
- River Falls Days Softball Tournament is planned for July 16 - 18.
 - Catherine and Stephanie Klecker are planning the tournament.
 - Flyer is attached has gone live on Social Media
 - Have already received messages from teams wanting to register.
 - Picnic License for the event will applied for later this month

13. Other Business

Wilson

- RFYHA was asked by Karen Bye to use the Wildcate center for an interview location, executive committee approved
- Discussions around new format for Agenda and Minutes
- High School has hired a new Varsity Hockey coach, Cam Wilken.

Motion to adjourn by John; Jody seconded All in favor