

New Prague Hockey Association
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Dual Meeting Location: HillSpring Church and Google Meets
Wednesday, July 14th, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

NPHA Board

President	Sam Blank	present via Google Meets
Vice President	Rick Carey	present
Secretary/Registrar	Miranda Vertnik	present
Treasurer	Crystal Wong	present
Manager Director	Sara Westing	present
Communication Director	Jess Snyder	present
Fundraising Director	Brian Vosejka	present
Board Member at Large	Aaron Neumann	present
Past Board Member	Jason Ashley	present via Google Meets for first ½ of meeting

Coordinator Positions

NPACC Manager	Kevin Cassidy	absent
Gambling Coordinator	Nate Borwege	present via Google Meets
Ice Time Coordinator	Mike Nazzal	present via Google Meets
HDC Coordinator	Tim Applen	present via Google Meets
Volunteer Coordinator	Jen Mushitz	absent
Concessions Coordinator	Lornette Schmitz	absent
Mite Coordinator	Anthony Anderson	absent
Outdoor Ice Coordinator	Jeremy Denzer	absent
Equipment Coordinator	Troy Gilbertson	absent
Tournament Coordinator	Lauren Heuer	absent
Sponsor Coordinator	VACANT	
SafeSport Coordinator	Mike Franklin	absent
Clothing & Apparel Coordinator	Sarah Hartman	absent
Recruitment & Retention Coord	VACANT	
Concession Stand POS Specialist	Erick Christianson	absent
COVID-19 Point Person	Sarah Donovan	absent

Others present: Brad Drazan (HS Head Coach and HDC Member); Brad Hewitt (D6 District Director)

I. REPORTS

- 1. Secretary's Report (Miranda Vertnik):** The Meeting Minutes for June 2021 were shared with the Board on June 14th. A motion was made by Jess to approve the June 2021 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Aaron. Motion carried 9-0 Miranda will post the June 2021 Meeting Minutes to the NPHA website.
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Crystal Wong):** The June 2021 Treasurer's Report was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. Crystal reported that the majority of the tournaments for the upcoming season have been paid for, but that we are still looking to book some additional

tournaments for our 10U and 12U teams though. She noted that one check had been returned as we had the incorrect address for the MAHA tournament, this will be corrected. Discussion was given to whether or not we are using the association's credit card or debit card to pay for these tournaments. Crystal noted that in some cases, checks are issued at the request of the tournament director but that she would check with Krystal Beedle (Bookkeeper) on whether the credit or debit cards are used. Sam was interested in the incentives the association may earn by using the credit card. Discussion was given to the remaining families who still have an outstanding balance from last season. Two of those families have since moved upstate or out of state, thus we will remove them from our list. The other remaining families will be contacted and informed that they will be unable to register for the upcoming season until their outstanding balance is paid. Crystal will send this list of families to Miranda and Sam. Brian made a motion to approve the June 2021 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Jess. Motion carried 9-0.

i. **2020 Tax Signature:** Discussion was given to whether Crystal Wong (newly appointment Treasurer) or Krystal Beedle (former Treasurer and newly appointed Bookkeeper) should sign off on the 2020 tax returns. It was noted that in the past, the outgoing treasurer (or whomever held the role during that tax season) signed off on the tax returns, even if they were not a current Board officer. Sam requested that we reach out to our tax preparer to see if the individual who signs should be a Board officer or not. If they say it is not necessary, then the Board is in agreement that Krystal Beedle may sign off on the 2020 tax returns for the association.

3. **Gambling Report (Nate Borwege):** Nate shared the Gambling Report for May 2021 prior to the meeting. Of note, Nate shared that pull tabs had resumed at Carbone's on June 15th and that the machine at Fishtale had been malfunctioning recently – he indicated that a technician would be servicing the machine within the week. Jess made a motion to approve the May 2021 Gambling Report as well as to approve the Pre-Approvals for Allowable Expenses and Lawful Purpose Expenditures, which was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent).

Sam requested that all reports (secretary, treasurer, and gambling) be sent out to the Board at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. It was agreed by all that more time is needed to review these reports before voting to approve them.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Open Coordinator Positions:** The following positions remain open at this time: Sponsorship Coordinator; Recruitment & Retention Coordinator. Sam indicated that if we do not have a volunteer for the Sponsorship Coordinator by next month, he will begin working on those duties. Jess will send out another communication to the association asking for any volunteers for these two roles. Discussion was given to reaching out the DQ for sponsorship opportunities as well as xHockey – Rick indicated that he will pass along the contact info to Sam for Pete from xHockey.

2. **Condition of outdoor rink:** Sam reported that he had discussed this issue with the rink and the NPACC is not interested in taking over the outdoor rink. There are also no hold ups at this point prohibiting us from upgrading the outdoor rink as we wish. Sam shared that Marty Sticha has volunteered his time to level out the rink. Sam will work with our Outdoor Rink Coordinator to see what the cost may be to resurface the rink.

3. **Season Kick Off Event and Association-Wide Equipment Sale:** Jess indicated that she had spoken with Justina Cloutier as discussed last month to see if she had any interest in coordinating this event since she has been in charge of the end of the year party in previous years (which is now being replaced with the Beer Bash fundraiser instead). Unfortunately, this time of year does not work out for Justina to take on this event. Sara indicated that she would oversee the overall organization of this event and reach out to a few parents who may be willing to serve on a committee to assist. We will plan to shoot for Aug 22nd or 23rd in the evening. We will have food trucks available, the equipment sale, games, registration booth, etc. Sara will begin coordinating this immediately. The Board all agreed that we would not be participating in the Dozinky Days parade this year as we do not have a volunteer willing to coordinate this effort. We will plan to focus our advertising efforts at our schools.
4. **Preseason Clinic Planning:** Since the last meeting, Brad Drazan indicated that he was interested in having the HS program coordinate the Preseason Clinics. During this meeting, Brad noted that his vision of the Preseason Clinics is that it would be inclusive and affordable to allow as many players to participate as possible. He noted that he understands that kids are in other sports in the fall and that he wouldn't want to schedule an excessive number of dates for the clinics. He would plan to work around and be respectful of the other sports scheduling at that time, so clinic dates may include weeknights. He would plan to schedule a "tryout preview" session for the end of the clinic as this is helpful for kids to prepare for their upcoming tryouts. It will help players know better of what they will be asked to do, which will help limit time taken away from the actual evaluation process during tryouts. Ideally, he would like to open these tryout preview sessions to the entire association. He would also like to add a goalie tryout preview to the clinics as well. His goal would be to run these clinics as close to net zero as possible to help it be more affordable for families and any extra money at the end of the clinics would go toward coach education. Or maybe the extra funds could go toward subsidizing practice jerseys for the association. He noted that he has already reached out to Kevin at the arena and has been mapping out a rough schedule of ice times. Ice is going in on Sept 7th. Brad indicated that the HS program would handle all of the registration details and money collection, similar to how they do for their summer hockey clinics. The Board agreed that having the HS program coordinate the Preseason Clinics is in support of the 1NewPrague vision. Jess made a motion to approve Brad Drazan's proposal to have the HS hockey program run the Preseason Clinics, which was seconded by Sara. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent).
5. **Junior Gold Planning:** The Board needs to work out the details on requirements for JG families (volunteer hours, fundraising, registration deadline, and whether we will hold an informational meeting for families, etc.). It was agreed that we will discuss this further at a Special Meeting for the Board that is scheduled for next week.
6. **Off-Season Planning:**
 - i. **Approval of 2021-22 Budget:** Items still needing to be resolved: Preseason Clinic expenses; Mite program request for hockey socks; expenses for upgrades to the Outdoor Rink; and expenses for use of xHockey training. These details will be resolved and reviewed at a Special Meeting scheduled for the Board next week.
 - ii. **Approval of 2021-22 Parent Handbook:** Awaiting details regarding tryout dates for upper levels (these dates were provided prior to this meeting); need to sort out details specific to Junior Gold; review of Treasurer & Bookkeeper roles; need to settle on the issue pertaining to a coach ejection from game and whether this will be an automatic

Level 1 Violation; and plans for an All-Association Meeting. These topics will be discussed and resolved at a Special Meeting that has been scheduled for the Board for next week.

III. COORDINATOR UPDATES

1. President

- i. **NPACC Manager (Kevin Cassidy):** Sam noted it was reported at the last NPACC Board Meeting, the rink manager, Kevin, had received a \$5k raise. The rink is planning to phase out the extra COVID precautions (like the plexiglass in the pro shop, etc). The rink received a Mighty Ducks grant to help fund switching out the cooling system at the rink. Parking lot updates haven't happened yet, and there were some questions as to what updates would be done – it was noted that the parking lot has many potholes and that the parking lines are gone, and that the lighting is poor. At this point, Sam was only aware that the potholes would be filled. It was also noted that the water heater in the building was leaking in our equipment room – Rick will plan to let Kevin know.
- ii. **Gambling Coordinator (Nate Borwege):** No further updates at this time.
- iii. **SafeSport Coordinator (Mike Franklin):** No updates at this time.

2. Vice President

- i. **HDC Coordinator (Tim Applen):** Tim reported that the HDC had a meeting recently and that they had reviewed the projected player numbers at the 12U level. There are some players who do not plan to return next season, so they anticipate having 16 skaters plus 2 goalies at the 12U level, thus, we will have one team. He noted that he had discussed the division of the team with the HS Girls Hockey head coach, Taylor Ries and they determined that it would be best to have the 12U team play at the B1 level this year to help better prepare those players for high school play in the coming years. Tim further noted that he has had many good conversations with Taylor this summer and that he has plans to continue his relationship between our youth girls hockey program and the high school girls hockey program. Upper-level tryouts and Mite placement dates have been worked out. Great care was taken to avoid overlap of scheduling with fall sports. Discussion was given to three dates that were scheduled for 12U and 10U preseason evaluations. These will not be tryout sessions, since each of those two levels will have only one team, but rather will be an opportunity for the girls program to have additional ice time before the season and to participate in early assessment of hockey skills to better support player development throughout the season. This process will be explained to families and Jess will send out a Save the Date email with the tryout and placement dates to our association. Tim reported that the HDC has continued to have ongoing discussions on identification of core hockey skills for each level of play. They will be sharing this with Butch K (skating instructor) for his feedback as well. Once those core skills are identified, the HDC will work to outline drills that will target each skill and make practice plans that are available for all coaches to use. The HDC is still working on scheduling off site ice for the season and we still need two tournaments at both the 10U and 12U levels. Rick shared that he had had a conversation with D6 about the issue of our second home rink. It will need to be voted on by the all D6 associations, but that we first need to get the okay from St. Olaf to bring this to the district for a vote. The Board shared with Tim the importance of obtaining the list of recommended players and coaches as soon as possible after tryouts are completed so

9. **Manager Director**

- i. **Outdoor Ice Coordinator (Jeremy Denzer):** No updates at this time.
- ii. **COVID-19 Point Person (Sarah Donovan):** Jess made a motion to approve with waiver of Sarah Donovan's 22-hour volunteer requirement for the upcoming season as a safety net whether her services are needed in this role or not, which was seconded by Sara. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent).

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Fargo Penalty Box Cup early season tournament (Mike Nazzal):** Mike shared info on a new tournament in Fargo that might be an option for our 12U and 10U teams. He shared the link with Miranda, who will share it with Tim so that the HDC can take a look further into this.
2. **Conversation with Brad Hewitt (District Director of D6):** Brad introduced himself to the Board and asked if there was anything he could do to help support our association at the district level. Sam shared that we are working with St. Olaf to see if we can get off-site ice time with them to be able to declare them as our second home rink, since we only have one sheet of ice in NP. Brad indicated that he will support us on this when the matter comes before the district for a vote. The Board and Tim shared its concerns about other associations within the district being allowed to have a AA team, but no A team, when their next team level jumps down to a B1 level. It was noted that this is a district wide problem that affects all of the kids in a district, as teams end up playing at the B1 level, but really should be playing at least an A level, and this creates unfair match ups and the kids suffer. Brad agreed that this has been a problem and shared the process for approving levels of play, which is up to a committee's approval. Discussion was also given to requests from D4 to take on both NP and Waconia into their district since they are short on teams in that district. Re-districting discussions happen every two years. Brad noted that D6 is not interested in giving up NP and would only support such a move if our association wanted to make that move.
3. **Review of Player Petitions [CLOSED SESSION]:** Only Board members and the HDC Coordinator were present for this session, which was held at the end of the meeting. Discussion was given to whether player petitions would be shared with the Board or discussed without providing player names. Tim indicated that he felt it would be most fair to the players to have their cases reviewed without sharing the player names to ensure that each petition receives an objective review. Thus, it was agreed that players would be referred to by Player 1, Player 2, etc., rather than review player names. The Board and the HDC received five total player petitions from players with summer birthdays who are grade eligible to play at the level higher than their date of birth allows. The HDC noted that there were no concerns for any of these players to be allowed to play at the level higher. Brian made a motion to approve the grade eligible player petitions, which was seconded by Sara. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent). A final petition was received for ability, not grade eligibility. Tim reported that the family for Player 6 had submitted a petition for their son to play up at the SQ level. It was noted that this player has played at the Mite level for six years and was on the Advanced Mite team this past season. It was reported that his placement scores qualified him to play on the Advanced Mite team the year prior as well, but that he was placed on an Intermediate level team instead to allow an older Mite a spot on the Advanced team. It was further noted that this is the only season that the family anticipates petitioning their son up a level. Tim noted that the HDC was in unanimous support of approving this player's petition based on the player's ability. Jess made a motion to approve Player 6's petition from Mites to play up at the Squirt level, which

was seconded by Miranda. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent). Tim will provide the list of players to Miranda so that she has this information at Registration time.

V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

1. **Fundraising Director (Brian Vosejka):** Brian reported that he will begin reaching out to our fundraising vendors this week or next.
2. **Communications Director (Jess Snyder):** No updates at this time.
3. **Manager Director (Sara Westing):** Sara noted that she is working to finalize the Team Manager's Handbook and that she is going to begin working on the Manager's application soon as well.
4. **Past Board Member (Jason Ashley):** No updates at this time.
5. **Board Member at Large (Aaron Neumann):** No updates at this time.
6. **Treasurer (Crystal Wong):** Crystal shared that she is working closely with Krystal Beedle to train into her role as Treasurer.
7. **Secretary/Registrar (Miranda Vertnik):** Miranda shared that we have received two applications thus far from non-parent coaches. She will check with Tim to see if he has reached out to those applicants yet. We have also received a few coaching applications from parents as well, but will likely receive the majority of them over the next month or two. Miranda asked the group if we would be holding an All-Association Meeting this year (we did not last year due to COVID). The Board indicated that we should hold such a meeting and we should plan to schedule it for shortly after the registration deadline. This will be when parents will pick up their fundraising packets as well.
8. **Vice President (Rick Carey):** Rick shared concerns that were raised at the last D6 meeting from the SafeSport program about an increase in racial slurs being used against players and teammates this last season. He noted that the number of these reports was 10, which is 8 more than usual. D6 will be distributing informational flyers about this issue to associations. He further noted that 21 players and 11 coaches were disciplined within the district last season. D6 has indicated that they are making improvements to referee training and ask that players, coaches, families, all give the refs some slack. USA Hockey rule changes are coming in September. Start and end dates of the season have been tentatively chosen.
9. **President (Sam Blank):** No further updates at this time.

Motion was made by Jess to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Brian. Motion carried 8-0 (with one Board member absent). Meeting adjourned at 10:41pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Miranda Vertnik, NPHA Secretary/Registrar