

In attendance

Marty DeKanick	Brad Kaehler	Bill Karas	Amy Underwood
Karen Wagner	Guy Farah	Tina Mraz	Dan King
Don Blankenship	Doug Folk	Kathy Schmid	John Huninghake
John Dreshar	Darren Rodine		

Absent

Tim Olson	Cory Denny
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Guests

Rob Erickson	John Squire	Jason Bromen	Jake Bromen
Pete Carlson (NSC)	Todd Gibson	Jeff Palmer (SFHS)	Russ Eastburn
Rick Schmitz (Sports Star)	Luke Abbot (Sports Star)	Tom Stolarczyk	Cris Carrigan

Minutes

Members were given time to review the minutes. Darren Rodine motioned to approve the minutes. Marty DeKanick seconded. Minutes approved.

President's Report

Bill Karas opened up by introducing Pete Carlson, Director of Ice Arena Operations for the National Sports Center. Todd Gibson, new arena manager at East Bethel Ice Arena was also present. Pete was invited by Bill to speak to the board and guests to clarify issues regarding the arena. Pete began by saying that we are not to worry about the arena closing down, that they are simply trying to make the arena run more efficiently and hopefully in a profitable way eventually. He said that the NSC does not accumulate any profit from arena operations, but instead reinvests the money into the arena. Sponsorship dollars, also, are put into the arena. He spoke of a two year agreement with the city of East Bethel. The first year, they hope to break even and the second year hope to make a profit. If there is profit (or loss) the NSC and the city of East Bethel will split it 50/50. In order to break even or generate a profit, the ice sales must be expanded. Their goal is to sell 1200 hours of ice. So far, SFYHA has purchased 555 hours of ice, North Branch has purchased 107 hours and they expect about 100 hours to go to Andover. Of course, SF high school will also be purchasing hours. He stressed that they will not be putting a lot of money into the cosmetics of the arena. Although some improvements may be made, little will be done until year 2 of the agreement when they hope that a profit will be made. SFYHA will be losing use of the present board room space and the concession stand. However, the old board room space will be available for checkout and SFYHA members will be able to work in concessions. After the 1st year, the contract may be renegotiated between the city and NSC. Possible upgrades may be in the works for the compressors and the dashers (which may be from Columbia I).

Bill said the board room could be cleared by the upcoming weekend. Pete spoke of volunteer opportunities which are paid but perhaps could be paid to the association to cover ice fees, volunteer fees, etc. He was asked about the outdoor rink, to which he replied would be maintained as well as possible dependent on weather. Skate sharpening will resume once the sharpener is repaired. Pro shop items (tape, laces, etc) will be sold through concessions. Todd Gibson gave out his cell phone number: 763-458-6601 and the arena's new telephone number: 763-434-0397. Pete also suggested that NSC can help with setting up invitational tournaments when the association feels ready to pursue that. On September 18th, ice will be in the arena. Finally, Pete Carlson gave out his number at the Superrink: 763-717-3881.

Next, Sports Star Photo presented their program to the association. Rick spoke of competitive pricing, 10% rebate back to the association, and an element of their program called "Photos over time" in which parents can view past and present photos of their athletes if photos were taken by Sports Star. Bill said the board would get back to Rick when the board made a decision on the photo provider.

Bill then introduced Jeff Palmer, new boys' high school hockey coach at SFHS. Jeff spoke of his philosophy and goals and stressed a skills-based program for the high school and what he could do for the youth hockey teams as well. A question was raised about the bantams—should they move up to the high school program or stay bantams. Jeff said that in a normal situation with good numbers of bantams, he would recommend that they remain bantams but feels that this group would benefit more if they moved up to the high school program where they can get more

practice ice. Jeff said that other thing that he could help with are increasing the mite numbers and providing weekly clinics (for a fee) for the players during the season. He said he uses a proven program and would be willing to share it with members of the association and with the coaches of the teams. Tom Stolarczyk asked what Jeff could do to help us with the goaltender training. Jeff suggested we get involved with Stauber's Goal Crease which will be coming to the NSC soon. He did say he could help us but wouldn't be as good as Stauber.

Bill then went into information from District 10 and asked for feedback on the A Pee wee/A Bantam push from District 10. Bill explained the "parody" schedule once again which is that the smaller association A teams would play each other twice and the larger teams would play the smaller associations only once. Russ Eastburn asked what the smaller associations are supposed to do when they play true A teams in tournaments. Jeff Palmer interjected that the top 5 District 10 teams are really what he calls "AA" and said that if we can put together A teams, etc, that we believe may be able to win 25-30% of their game, then we should do it. With good coaching, those teams should come around. Guy Farah stated that he, at this time, knows of only about 21-22 peewees coming back when we exclude the players who are reportedly are playing elsewhere we would not be able to field an A team. If we were to keep the 6 players who are reportedly leaving, we would field a very good B1 team. Bill said that District 10 is aware of some of our players who, reportedly, will be trying to play in other associations and will follow up with them if they register in those areas.

Bill then discussed a new issue that Andover has presented. They are interested in taking our top 3-4 Peewees to help them make an A team. Dan King suggested that our reply to Andover needs to be that we merge all the players from Peewees, not just the few, which may help us with another problem—our kids who should be C players but may be forced to play on a B2 team if we choose to put a team at that level. Bill asked if he should go back to Andover and suggest that we may be interested if all peewees were merged. The board agreed. Dan King suggested having a follow up meeting to get going on this if a better merger proposal were presented. It was decided that the next meeting would be Sunday, August 6th.

Next, Jason Broman asked if Jake Broman, in his last year of mites, could be moved up to squirts. He explained that Jake played on the D mites and has been playing AAA. Marty was asked if there would be a D Mite team. Marty replied that he didn't foresee it happening. Brad Kaehler motioned to move Jake Broman up to squirts. Guy Farah seconded. Motion carried. Cris Carrigan petitioned for her son, Kyle, to move up to squirts as well. She explained that Kyle was stuck in the USA Hockey-Minnesota Hockey age discrepancy. John Huninghake advocated for Kyle bumping up to squirts, suggesting that he would likely fall in the top two-thirds in tryouts. John Dreshar indicated that squirts will need the numbers. John Huninghake motioned for Kyle to move to squirts and Darren Rodine seconded. Motion carried.

Bill shared that Darren Rodine, our VP, no longer resides in the boundaries of our association and that our bylaws indicate that he must. There was discussion about how to resolve this but the discussion was tabled until the next meeting due to the time.

Dan King was asked if any progress was made with the policy and procedures. He replied that nothing had been done since the meeting they had had in late July. Amy Underwood passed out the proposed budget which was discussed briefly but Bill asked everyone to review it and come back with questions and suggestions at Sunday's board meeting

Rob Erickson was present and he asked the board to consider moving his son, Holdyn, up to bantams. He explained that Holdyn was a second year peewee who played A peewees last year. Rob continued to say that since there will be no SF A Pee wee team and that he feels the Andover merger team wouldn't be a true A team, he doesn't see a team for Holdyn. In addition, Holdyn is within two months of the July 1st cutoff date for bantams. Rob said that he has options but would like Holdyn to stay in SFYHA. John Dreshar motioned to move Holdyn to bantams, Don Blankenship seconded. One opposed. Motion carried. Guy Farah said that we have 6 peewee goalies and two also want to petition to go to bantams.

For the last items, Bill said that next year he would like our registration to be completed before August. He then asked for two more registration dates in September. The board decided on September 6th from 6-8pm and September 9th from 10am-noon. Then Bill said that he will have a booth at the St. Francis Corn Feed on August 12th from 11am – 7pm.

Vice President's Report

Darren Rodine said he would have reported the same issue Bill had previously reported regarding the VP position.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Underwood handed out income/expense reports and also a list of members who have not paid their ice bills, presently totaling \$4705.93.

Secretary's Report

Dan King asked for *Puck News* items by Friday, August 4th. He said a *Puck News* will go out no matter what in order to inform everyone regarding registration. He also sent around a list of the board's contact information and asked everyone to update their information.

Bantam Director's Report

Tim Olson was absent.

Ice Purchaser's Report

Brad Kaehler reported that our ice purchasing was complete.

Gambling Director's Report

Kathy Schmid stated that she remitted the \$95 annual renewal to the state for theft/loss coverage. She also asked if the board would allow reimbursement for mileage for employees who are making dropoffs, etc. Don Blankenship motioned to allow 44.5 cents/mile reimbursement, Karen Wagner seconded. Kathy also stated that she had received a rebate check for unused pull tabs in February, which was \$200. She said we can expect much more next year. John Huninghake asked when the funds from the gambling program will be available to the association. Kathy replied that we will have to wait until our startup debts are paid. She said we will have to work on getting more sights. She gave tax and profit reports to all board members and a copy of the monthly documents for Dan King to file.

Equipment Director's Report

Doug Folk had nothing.

Girls' Director's Report

Tina Mraz said she may need help waiving two players and that Spring Lake Park called to discuss players, too. Presently, she believes she has thirteen 8U skaters, fifteen 10U skaters and eight 12U skaters.

ACE Director's Report

John Dreshar reported that the coaching applications went out and are online, and he asked Jeff Palmer if he would be willing to help him out with tryouts. Jeff replied that he would be willing.

Peewee Director's Report

Guy Farah stated that he wished he had been informed about the Andover issue before tonite. Bill and others replied that it had only come up in the last few days. He shared information about fall opportunities, including Breakaway Hockey at Elk River, SuperSkate (Jeff Palmer runs this) at the Superrink, and Andover's open skating and open hockey schedule. Dan King said Andover's schedule was posted on the web and he would take care of the others. Guy also stated that in his contacts with peewee parents some complained of too many out of town tournaments. Jeff Palmer stated that at East River they decided that teams could play in only one out of town tournament per year. Bill said that may be something we want to put in our policies. Guy then spoke of the issue of having 6 goaltenders at peewees and that last year having 3 on a team did not work. He said that two are possibly willing to skate out.

Squirt Director's Report

John Huninghake had nothing.

Mite Director's Report

Marty DeKanick said that we have too many A mite teams and that the more experienced A mites were not being challenged. He will look into having more B teams if necessary.

House Director's Report

Don Blankenship had nothing.

Goalie Director's Report

Cory Denny was absent

Volunteer Director's Report

Karen Wagner brought up the volunteer fee. Suggestions were made at \$75, \$150, but decisions were held off until Sunday's meeting. Amy Underwood suggested we work with Pete Carlson and Todd Gibson to allow our members to use paid arena positions to work off volunteer time and that we work on allowing members to work off money toward ice bills through those positions as well. Dan King suggested that we start revisiting our list of jobs volunteers can do and add more, such as ones that were eliminated like penalty box and score clock duties.

Continuing Business

VP position, bantam position, volunteer fee, late registration fee, weekly clinics held by Jeff Palmer, Andover proposal, Golf outings (Doug Schuster's and Blueline/Center Ice)

Amy Underwood motioned to adjourn. Tina Mraz seconded. Meeting adjourned.