

**St. Francis Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8th – 7:00pm @ East Bethel Community Center**

In attendance

Amy Underwood	Doug Folk	Dan King	John Dreshar
John Huninghake	Brad Kaehler	Karen Wagner	Tina Mraz
Rob Erickson	Guy Farah	Cory Denney	Marty DeKanick
Kathy Schmid	Bill Karas		

Absent

Don Blankenship John Squire

Guests

Karen Hartstrom, Wade Parck, Greg Elsner, Shelly Johnson, Gary Lemke, Sally Mischler, Stephanie Christopherson, John Wilbur, Mark Brettschneider, Bree Medin, Bill Kane, Mike Ringhoffer, Joe Falk, Joe Adler, Jen Adler, Ross Gillespie (others entered late and names were not recorded)

Minutes

Minutes from last board meeting were passed out and reviewed. Bill Karas asked that the board review the minutes and suggest any changes. No changes were suggested. Bill asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tina Mraz motioned to approve last month's minutes. Brad Kaehler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Bill Karas asked guests, Karen Hartstrom and Shelly Johnson, to speak. Karen and Shelly spoke about a possible opportunity to earn money for the association by working concessions at the Metrodome. Details shared are below:

- Possibility for bonuses
- Suggested 80/20 ratio for association/parents
- Dome writes check directly to association
- \$60 per person/per event—managers paid more
- Opportunity to join dance team on Feb 17th for trial run
- Need managers
- St. Francis High School Dance team and French club interested in partnering
- To run entire booth, 22 people needed including inventory manager and money manager

The board was interested in the proposal and would look for a volunteer to join the dance team and french club on the 17th of February.

Next, Mark Brettschneider, asst. coach of the B1 squirts spoke about the difficult season at the squirt level. He mentioned that the parents are miserable and that the players are losing interest and confidence. He handed out a letter from Kristie Wilmer, a parent, who concurred with the sentiments expressed by Mark. He asked how we avoid a repeat of this next year. Other parents who were guests also spoke of frustrations and concerns. Brad Kaehler spoke of merger/co-op possibilities and how increasing the numbers of skaters would alleviate much of this problem. Rob Erickson and Bill Karas spoke of District 10 pressures that encourage us to play at the highest level possible. Guests continued to ask questions and share opinions. Dan King reiterated that until we get the numbers up we will have the same issues regardless of level of play. He spoke specifically about players who leave the association because the level of play is not high enough and that if we go too high with the level, then other players and parents become frustrated. Bill suggested that we needed to keep parents coming to board meetings and to sit on

committees to provide input. He asked that we form a committee for next year that would combine parents, coaches and board members to determine the level of play for each age group. John Huninghake spoke about his choice to play the team he coaches at the B2 level and felt at the beginning of the season that they could compete at that level. Sally Mischler asked about the girls' success and Tina Mraz explained that the same thing had been occurring in the girls' program but that this year the numbers were finally adequate at the 10U level. Mike Ringhofer asked how we can improve when other associations are getting much more ice. Brad Kaehler explained that ice will always be an issue when we only have one sheet. Bill added that he had talked to the high school programs about restructuring their practice ice times. Brad Kaehler also said we could free up Mondays next year which would give us more practice ice. Bill offered the example of Centennial, where he started as a coach, and explained that it took them 30 years to get a winning program. Bill spoke about increasing total practice hours by 120-160 hours next year in order to achieve a better practice - game ratio. Bill asked the guests and board what we needed to do for next year. Suggestions included more practices between games, coaches evaluate players prior and/or during tryouts in order to get a better idea of level of play for each group (most agreed that this is already being done), consideration of size and weight when determining appropriate players for each level (bantams used as example).

John Huninghake offered to spearhead a committee for next year's squirts to bring up concerns. He placed a sign-up sheet at the door and asked guests to volunteer. Stephanie Christopherson said that she and many others don't have the knowledge to assess levels of play and that we needed to trust the coaches and the board.

Another issue brought up by the guests was the lack of communication in the association. Guests expressed that email did not always work due to the firewalls used at some members' workplaces. Dan King asked what information was not getting to the membership. A change in a goalie clinic time was used as an example and the board shared that that one particular clinic time was changed by the arena management without prior knowledge. It was reiterated by the guests that not all members have email and that not all members access the website regularly and a suggestion was made to maintain a bulletin board at the arena to alert members to announcements and to changes in times, etc. Also, a guest mentioned that paper documents were more likely to be read if sent home with players, much like schools do. Amy Underwood said that then we are dealing with an increase in cost due to paper, toner, envelopes, stamps, etc.

Mike Ringhofer spoke about the quality of coaching at the C Peewee level and said he feels that his child did not get proper development. He spoke also about behavior of the C Peewee players in the locker room and on the ice. He referred to a fistfight that occurred and said that the coach did nothing to intervene. Bill Karas said that this was the first that he had heard about it. Mike also spoke about the promise of a waiver for his son and that Bill Karas did not follow through. Bill replied that Mike's son was promised a waiver if he made the Andover B2 team which he did not. Mike also referred to a waiver to Cambridge. Bill told Mike that the Cambridge president had asked Bill if our program could use Mike's son as a player and Bill said yes. Then Cambridge chose not to accept Mike's son as a player.

Bill then introduced the subject of the '07-'08 budget. He said we needed to start immediately. He was waiting on the ice cost but said to estimate it at \$175 per hour. He wants to increase traveling team practice hours by 10-15 hours per team. Brad Kaehler stated that we will have to utilize other arenas in order to do this.

The potential of a merger with North Branch was shared. Preliminary talks occurred at the D10 President's meeting between Bill and Wayne Danka, North Branch's president about a peewee and bantam merger. Bill said Wayne told him that North Branch's merger with Cambridge was working but there was disappointment with Cambridge not allowing their players to try out for the A teams. Wayne asked if North Branch's players would be able to try out with A teams and Bill had told him yes. There was a question about the girls from North Branch. Tina Mraz said that

as far as she was aware they did not have a girls' program and that there were a couple of skaters from North Branch who presently skate with St. Francis. Bill said that he will see what North Branch comes back with on February 17th's District 10 meeting.

Bill then asked about board vacancies for next year. The positions are listed below. Tentative candidates are in parentheses.

President	filled	Bill Karas
Vice President	vacant	
Secretary	vacant	
Treasurer	vacant	
Equipment Director	filled	(Doug Folk)
ACE Coordinator	vacant	(Mark Brettschneider)
Girls Director	filled	Tina Mraz
Bantam Director	vacant	(Rob Erickson)
Peewee Director	vacant	(John Dreshar)
Squirt Director	vacant	(John Huninghake)
Mite Director	filled	Marty DeKanick
House Director	filled	Don Blankenship
Goalie Coordinator	filled	Cory Denney
Ice Purchaser	vacant	
Volunteer Coordinator	vacant	Karen Hartstrom

Bill continued his report and spoke about low goalie numbers and suggested giving goalies a price break so we can encourage more players to be goalies. No ice fee for goalies was suggested but numerous board members explained disadvantages to this, including abuse of the advantage by parents who want to lower fees, goalies who do not put in time beyond the season. Sally Mischler, a parent of a goalie, concurred that no ice fee may not be the way to go and that 1/2 price seemed more realistic.

Bill asked Karen Wagner about banquet possibilities. Karen spoke about a spaghetti feed as a way to lower costs. Suggested venue could be the E. Bethel Community Center and Bill said that Todd Gibson, arena manager, told him the arena could be used again this year. Suggested date was the 24th of March.

Bill then said that 3 volunteers were needed to sell boards for bar bingo at Fatboys on Wednesday, February 28th at 6:30 for the \$949 cover-all jackpot that the gambling program must give away.

Lastly, he said that when parents and players attend out of town tournaments, they must remember that they are representing the association.

Vice President's Report

Absent

Treasurer's Report

Amy Underwood handed out balance sheet summary of finances. John Dreshar motioned to accept the balance sheet summary. Doug Folk seconded. Motion accepted unanimously. Amy also handed out a list of outstanding balances owed to the association.

Gambling Manager

Kathy Schmid had to leave before reporting, but Bill Karas reminded us that the board was emailed the gambling report. He asked that we accept the monthly gambling report. Marty DeKanick motioned to accept the gambling report. Tina Mraz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary

Dan King asked for any follow-up to the communication issue presented earlier. It was reiterated that a bulletin board would be nice. Bill said he would talk to Todd about using the one already at the arena. Also, paper copies of newsletters and important information could be given to managers to hand out. Lastly, Wade Parck said that it would be nice to have a draft of board meeting minutes online so that members can see those prior to their approval.

Dan said he would also set up the online registration for next year and that he has gotten the documents to fax in to make it happen. He said he has no information on charging sponsors on the website. Brad said he had asked the website provider and that they did not have a sense of that either. Dan will continue to look into it or bring a suggestion next month.

Ace Coordinator

John Dreshar had nothing to report but said he would not run for ACE Coordinator for next year.

Girls Director

Tina Mraz had nothing to report. Bill congratuated her and the girls' program's success.

Bantam Director

Rob Erickson stated that it seems unlikely that we will have a bantam program without a merger.

Peewee Director

Guy Farah said that the peewees could have used a couple of more players per team. He also said that the C Peewees wish they had had an opportunity to share ice and that, like the squirts, there were level of play issues with the peewees.

Squirt Director

John Huninghake stated that he didn't feel that the squirts' seasons were failures. He spoke that the B2 team lost a lot of games but were in most.

Mite Director

Marty DeKanick spoke that the mites were doing well at all levels. C mites are about .500 and the B and A mites are very competitive.

Goalie Director

Nothing to report

Ice Purchaser

Brad Kaehler spoke of an additional fundraiser like the one at the Dome. He said that he has put us on the list for associations to sell programs at Minnesota Wild games, where kids/parents work for the first two periods, then get to watch the 3rd. He also has submitted grant applications to a few different organizations but has been denied. He also sent out letters to charitable giving foundations for funds.

Volunteer Coordinator

Karen Wagner said that the SKATE program is in good shape. Kally Sigfrinius has done a great job. She stated that she needs volunteers for the District 10 tournament in Anoka.

Continuing Business Merger possibility

New Business No new business

Tina Mraz motioned to adjourn meeting; John Dreshar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.