**MILLET MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION – Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2017**

**\*Special Meeting Novice / Atom Placement\***

In attendance: Kelly Hofstra, Lisa Henschel, Tanya Klapstein, Greg Lepage, James Rennie, Cindy McGrath, Josh Van de Kraats, Theo Dykstra, Sheldon Hanson, Roger Lorenson, Melissa Emmerzael

Members at Large: Michelle Tolsma, Becky Buchaski, Ron Buchaski, Lana Grapentine, Crystal Saxty, Jerrod McGrath, Trevor Palmer, Allison Dziewiontkowski, Darren Max, Christina Max, Camille Giacobbo, Josh Giacobbo, Bee Langabeer, Shawn Whalen, Cynthia McLachlan

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: Roger called the meeting to order at 7:05
2. **DISCUSSION –**
* The purpose of this meeting is to have an open conversation with parents from the Novice/Atom aged players. This way they have all the information we have so there are no surprises going forward and everyone can be as prepared as possible.
* There was an email that went out asking for parents thoughts / concerns going forward with the proposed idea of possibly moving a few novice players up to atom in order to have one novice team and two atom teams. There were only three responses received by the board. There were two ‘no’ responses and one idea of possibly moving some atoms up to peewee.
* Josh laid out the plan that basically we would need to get about 5 novice players to move up to atom in order for the plan to have one novice team and two atom teams.
* Bee offered her feedback that she would prefer to keep her son at the novice level.
* Christina asked how evaluations will go. The plan is to have 1/3 evaluation plan. (1/3 of top players automatically go on the higher tiered team, bottom 1/3 go to the lower tiered team and the 1/3 in the middle will have some coach feedback based on coach expertise.)
* There was also discussion about affiliating players and keeping numbers small and still using AP throughout the different team. (Novice can move up to atom, novice can move from the lower tiered team to the higher tiered team and initiation can be affiliated up to novice.)
* Jarod McGrath also gave his opinion that novice kids would benefit from staying in novice.
* Michelle Tolsma was wondering when the decision would be made and the response that it will be made tonight based on numbers we have at the time although there may be changes if more kids register. There has been a lot of PR happening with the harvest fest parade, flyers mailed out to all residences in Millet as well as information going out with students when school is back in session.
* Josh Giocobbo offered his insight coming from someone who has coached 3-4 years with these kids. He thinks only 3 kids could move up skill wise but not maturity wise. He thinks low numbers is not the worst case and it is more beneficial to have fewer rather than more players on a team.
* Trevor Palmer posed the question in regards to the parents who didn’t attend the meeting and what if they don’t like the decision. The answer is those parents were offered an outlet to give an opinion (email) and only 3 responded. So if they haven’t made the effort to get their opinion heard, then the decision is made by the parents who emailed and / or attended the meeting.
* There was a discussion about evaluation. Some were in favour of the 1/3 method, while others liked the 50/50 split where it is all based on the evaluators. The questions was asked of the parents whether they were opposed to getting outside evaluators and only 1 opposed, and everyone else agreed. There was also a vote by hands of how parents want to carry out evaluation – 1/3 everyone voted on agreeing to, no opposed and no abstain. Therefore it is the most favourable way to hold evaluations.
* There was discussion about goalies that atom goalies could take part in the novice tryouts. Christina mentioned she thinks her son should get the top tiered goalie team because he was a goalie in the past and has been through extra workshops through Beaumont that MMHA paid for as MMHA sent all interested goalies to sessions last season. The response was that all players, goalies included, will go through the evaluation process and that will determine placement.
* Ron mentioned that HCR is not official until Jan.10 so player movement is also possible.
* Roger concluded that after all the discussion it seems that everyone is in favour of 4 small teams (2 novice and 2 atom) going forward. The general opinion is that yes that is how the parents and board would like to go forward. The plan is therefore to move forward with 2 novice and 2 atom teams and to get outside evaluators booked in for September when we have the ice in the arena.
1. MEETING ADJOURNED: Roger **adjourned the meeting at 8:09pm**