

**LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY
GENERAL MEEETING
MARCH 19, 2009 – 7: 00 PM
ARENA UPPER LOBBY**

PRESIDENT Troy Rider **x**
VICE PRESIDENT Gord McLennan **a**
PAST PRESIDENT Michael Kartusch **a**
TREASURER Sherri Straub **xe**
REGISTRAR Lin Luymes **x**
SECRETARY Susan Sargeant **x**
BOOKKEEPER Lori McCrea **a**
EQUIPMENT MANAGER Sheldon Kuhn **x**
Kevin Frank **a**
TOURNAMENT CHAIR Dawn Pecharsky **a**
ICE CONVENER Tom/ Diane Fisher **a**
CONCESSION CONVENER Sam Atsinger **a**
SPONSORSHIP Shawn Leggett **a**
FUNDRAISING Sonia Heck **a**

COACH MENTOR Al Brown **x**
GAME AND CONDUCT Chad Kanngiesser **a**
REFEREE IN CHIEF Rick Plante **x**
LOWER ASSIGNER Denny Pannenbecker **x**
UPPER ASSIGNER Rick Plante **x**
INITIATION Sam Atsinger **a**
NOVICE Shawn Playford **x**
ATOM Darin Gill **x**
Dwayne West **a**
PEEWEE Mike Kozak **x**
BANTAM Herb Woltjer **x**
MIDGET Lisa Otto **a**
FEMALE Sandi Gouchie **a**

x - present **a** - absent
e - left early **l** - came late

Troy called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Others in attendance were: Karilee Andrew, Nicole Burt, Gwen Jacobi, Jaqui Rider, Debbie Sissons, Donna Kenny, Marcel Paquet, Dwayne Steele, Chad Bouchard, Lynda Bouchard, James Kallen, Naomi Bennett, Heather Kanngiesser.

1. **WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Troy welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. **Mike Kozak moved to accept the minutes from the past meeting as presented. Herb Woltjer seconded. Carried.**

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Troy Rider**

Awards Night This is scheduled for Tuesday March 24th at 7:45 pm. It will be at the Lacombe Junior High School. This may not be the best time as it is usually scheduled in April, but as the school gym is booked and quite busy it would not be feasible until May if not scheduled now.

Rebel's Game The game is set for Saturday September 12th 2009. They will again be playing the Calgary Hitmen. As in the past the same arrangements will be made. We will be looking for volunteers to work this night. Typically there are planning meetings in July and August. In past it was held on a Friday night, maybe better this next year on a Saturday. If interested in helping with planning or volunteering please e-mail lacombehockey@msn.com

On-line Coach Evaluations LMHA has already received quite a few already. A link is on our website to conduct the survey. It will be up until the end of April. Please fill this out as it is a great tool in helping select coaches. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

2009/2010 Budget Review The budget was presented. There are a few changes this year. LMHA is wanting to improve Sponsorship this year. Shawn Leggett has been doing a great job trying to take us to the next level.

- The concession does not generate a big profit but it is truly needed. Discussion followed. Why not run the concession with volunteers? There has not been a lot of interest as of late. Sherri said there is a problem of no-shows by parents signed up to work in concession. The discussion was tabled to be revisited again at a later date. A supervisor is still needed, safety courses have to be attended and safety guidelines followed. There is also a problem of parents getting to early hours (after school 3:30 – 4:00) as most parents have a regular job. More discussion on hours of work in concession.
- Rebels revenue was a little short last year.
- Casino – nothing this year. With no cash lottery this year, funds were transferred out to pick up the loss.
- LMHA would like the cash lottery back for next year with a targeted revenue of \$15,000. Some people don't like the lottery and some don't like the idea of Sobey's cards. Discussion followed.
- With the cash lottery a solid revenue target could be met. A good portion could come from Sobey's cards as well.

Sherri Straub moved that Lacombe Minor Hockey Association once again continue with the Cash Lottery as a fundraiser for the 2009 – 2010 season. Lin Luymes seconded. 0 opposed. Carried.

All teams can participate with members selling as many books as they want. LMHA is targeting to sell 300 books.

- There is a 5% raise in fees next season. There has been no increase in fees the last few years. Two things impacted the increase: Loss of cash lottery and low numbers at Bantam and Midget levels (3 teams in past, this year 2 small teams at Midget) Clive and Blackfalds had a Bantam and/or Midget team. We had 20 teams this year as compared to 22 last season. Numbers may stay like this next year. It is better to be cautious. Sherri interjected that ice fees will be going up.
- LMH would like to generate \$20,000 from Sobey's cards. To reach this the sale of \$200,000 worth of cards needs to be sold to get our 10%.
- Sheldon asked what this equated to per family. Troy said about \$1000 per family. \$200 per family per month.
- Lynda Bouchard stood and explained the Sobey's cards. It is a national fundraiser open to non-profit groups if they meet the criteria. There is never a

limit - it is non-capped. The user group buys in volume; they pay a discounted amount to a maximum of 10% off. They buy \$100 gift cards and get \$100 value back in return. This can be used to purchase anything in store. Sobey's cards can be exchanged for Visa, MasterCard, and many other cards. Sobey's Capital donates ½ the money and Lacombe Sobey's store gives the other ½. There are 4 user groups already in Lacombe. A \$20,000 budget for Lacombe Minor hockey is attainable. Not everyone is a Sobey's shopper, but anyone can find someone to use it ie. a neighbour, relative, friend, etc.

- Sherri said some Sobey's stores will not trade cards; will this come in at the Lacombe store? Lynda said no.
- Troy is to get Website updated; LMHA would like to sell the remaining cards before next season.
- More discussion on fundraising. All teams can participate in the fundraising. LMHA needs a stable fundraising option (Cash Lottery) and a fluid one (Sobey's) Sobey's fundraiser is optional to families. If opting out of buying the cards, people can pay \$250 more per family. Would like to get ahead in the game to bring fees back down.
- Gift cards will be paid for with \$200 post-dated cheques. After teams are made, cards will be distributed monthly, with cheques being cashed monthly.
- More discussion on fees, cash lottery, fundraising. We have wanted to get rid of Cash Lottery but best to keep it, Why trade one fundraising option for another when we can increase revenue with more options.
- Expenses – there are some increases and some stayed the same.
- Shawn is to go around in the Spring to get feedback from this year's sponsors.
- Clinics – We didn't hit budget this year. Enrollment was not high enough, may increase next year.
- Insurance – The town is not sure who is to pay insurance of the Outdoor Rink. LMHA has to pay the next three years. Discussion on contract.
- Provincials – Atom A's were the only team to attend Provincials.
- Question asked about the absence of the Cash Lottery. The application was complete, all information was sent in. The financial statement got misplaced up there. A new one was sent in, they said it would take 6 weeks. The timeline was off because of Christmas. People would have been pressured to sell all and get them in for Feb. Sobey's cards process was already started so we went with this for the season. Casino cash was pulled to get us up to budget. Need to get message out for people to still buy.

Sherri Straub moved that the LMHA operating budget and registration fees for the 2009 – 2010 season be accepted as presented. Mike Kozak seconded the motion. Carried.

3. ELECTIONS (1ST ROUND)

President: Troy would like to step down. No nominations at this time.

Vice President: Gord would like to step down. No nominations at this time.

Secretary: Susan would like to step down. No nomination at this time.

Fundraiser: Sonia came to this position late in the season, as no one else took it. She does not wish to stay on. No nomination at this time.

Upper Ref. Assigner: Rick would like to step down. No nomination at this time.

Initiation Director: Sam is to step down. No nominations at this time.

There are a lot of good directors in place right now that will keep their positions.

Sheldon Kuhn volunteered to take the position of Midget Director.

Kevin Frank would take on sole position of Equipment Manager.

Troy explained aspects of some of the executive positions.

James Kallen volunteered to take on the position of Initiation Director.

Troy will post open positions on the Website. Troy gave a brief job description for the fundraising position.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER – Sherri Straub - Sherri had nothing to report as Troy did a good job of going through the financial statements.

REGISTRAR – Lin Luymes - Nothing to report. LMHA does not want to open up registration until President and Vice President positions are filled.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER – Sheldon Kuhn - Good for next season. Bought 8 new sets of jerseys this year and lots of pucks. Should end up spending less than budgeted for next year.

COACH MENTOR – Al Brown - All good.

SPONSORSHIP – Shawn Leggett - Will revisit all sponsors in the next few weeks. Get feedback and continue to grow the sponsorship program.

CONCESSION – Sam Atsinger – absent - A letter from Carol was read. In it Carol thanked the parents and Sam for all their hard work. She added a few new items to the menu. She is looking forward to next season.

GAME/CONDUCT – Chad Kanngiesser - Nothing to report.

REFEREE IN CHIEF – Rick Plante - Have four referees going to work at Provincials this weekend. We had a good year, no real issues.

TOURNAMENT CHAIR – Dawn Pecharsky – absent - There were five tournaments this season. All were very successful.

FUNDRAISING – Sonia Heck – absent - Was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. ELECTIONS (2ND ROUND)

Donna Kenny volunteered to take the position of Fundraising Chair.

No new nominations at this time.

6. DIRECTOR REPORTS

INITIATION – Sam Atsinger – absent Some teams still have tournaments to attend.

NOVICE – Shawn Playford – All wrapping up. Good Year.

ATOM – Darin Gill/Dwayne West – Everything went well.

C team – had good year. B team – Have final games in playoffs.

A team – Have a tournament left. Had good showing at Provincials, but lost in the Semis.

PEEWEE – Mike Kozak - One team left in Playoffs. Had a good year overall.

A's and C's had a tough year in league. B's are still in Playoffs.

BANTAM – Herb Woltjer – There are still 2 teams playing.

A team – waiting to hear who they are playing next.

AA team – Playing Championship Round against Sylvan.

MIDGET – Lisa Otto – absent – Both teams have had a strong showing.

A team still to play a tournament in BC.

FEMALE – Sandi Gouchie – Bantams are playing in league finals. Midgets lost to Olds in League. Still have a tourney to play in Bentley.

7. ELECTIONS (3RD ROUND)

No new nominations or volunteers at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

1. James Kallen spoke on behalf of the Peewee C team. It was disheartening to watch the team play their hearts out and only win one of 18 games. They scored 30 goals, but had 166 against them. Kids were upset and didn't want to play again. They were set into Tier 5 and were not competitive.

- He felt a better solution would be to make the 2 bottom teams equal and play in the same Tier. Maybe there needs to be re-evaluation in Tiering and bring some equality to teams.
 - Troy said he may have been able to do something if hearing of this before the end of the season. North Central combined Tiers 4 and 5 this season and did a poor job of managing teams. There were some problems at the Bantam and Midget levels as well.
 - Discussion followed on proper Tiering of teams. Troy said it is dangerous to players playing with others with a wide range of skill. If tiered properly from top to bottom, it may be better for less skilled players to play with their own caliber of players.
 - If there are issues with North Central, teams need to go to their Governors first to put pressure on them. The Governors in turn put pressure on the President and some solution may become of it.
2. Sheldon asked how the import rule will work on the new system. Provincial categorization is changing. Troy said it will be based on Division numbers and not Association numbers. LMHA will probably be "A" next season.
- Sheldon said he would like to see an import fee implemented. Troy suggested \$100 would be good.
 - Discussion followed about import rule, low numbers, going on a case by case situation.
 - Some players tried out here and then left us holding the bag. They had no intention of playing here; they just used us as a warm-up skate for their own town teams. Kids that have done this in the past should be "flagged" at registration and kept under review; we need to keep aware of what they might do.
 - More discussion followed. Lin said it needs to be laid out early.

Sheldon Kuhn moved that Lacombe Minor Hockey set all import tryout fees for Bantam and Midget levels at \$150 per player, non-refundable. If said player qualifies as an import then \$100 will be put towards their registration fee. Mike Kozak seconded. 0 opposed Carried.

9. NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be set for April. We have been meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month. Troy will let everyone know.

10. ADJOURNMENT Troy adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.