

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-21 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 8th, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Video-conferencing

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Lisa Camilucci, Gerard Gagnon, Karla Clarke, Chad Chambers, Mike Speer, Wendy Baldin, Stephen Bent, Karine Tremblay (guest)

Regrets: Tony Matson

1.0 Call to Order [President]: 7:01 pm

2.0 Update on Season [All]

This Board meeting was called to discuss the direction for starting the winter session of the 2020-21 season. Reference was made to the February 1st 2021 Board meeting where two Motions were passed regarding the resumption or termination of the winter hockey session, based on the Ontario government extension to the Stay-At-Home order (see NGHA Board Meeting Minutes, dated February 1st, 2021). The rationale for revisiting the Motions was based on updated information expressed in the press conference held by the Ontario government today which presented a plan for reopening sooner than predicted, as well as the continuation of downward Covid-19 trends in Ottawa. Specifically, the Ontario government announced that the plan would be to reopen regions based on the provincial colour-coded framework with the date for the Ottawa region being February 16th 2021.

The basis for the motions passed at the February 1st 2021 Board meeting, was discussed as premised on the Ontario government Stay-At-Home order be extended by a two-week period (following a typical pattern observed for such extensions). Additionally, the Covid-19 number of cases were notably higher during the days preceding February 1st 2021, compared to the decrease in cases within the Ottawa region observed within the last week.

A discussion took place regarding starting the winter session, should direction from the province and local health authorities allow for hockey to resume on February 16th 2021 (as part of the re-opening of the Ottawa region announced at the Ontario government press conference). This discussion considered factors such as whether Ottawa would be considered within the red or orange zones (i.e. Ontario government colour coded framework for Covid-19 restrictions), the duration of ice times left in the season, and availability of ice (should other area hockey associations decide to cancel their season and arenas remove ice).

The primary argument for restarting hockey was raised as offering a condensed program for players to enjoy getting back on the ice for skill development. The duration of ice times available, should hockey be permitted to resume on February 16th, was acknowledged to be a reasonable amount of remaining time to offer programming and that the ice schedule is ready to resume (barring any changes).

The following concerns were raised with resuming the season:

- The uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation based on multiple factors including the more contagious variants;
- The unknowns about the dates, restrictions and any changes specific to hockey (from the Ontario government, Ottawa Public Health and/or the ice vendors) which may affect programming and protocols; and
- The need to implement 'emergency breaks' in regions (as articulated at the Ontario government press conference on February 8th 2021) which may result in abrupt /multiple stoppage of programming.

It was decided that there were too many unknown factors to make an informed decision about resuming the season based on the limited information announced at the Ontario government press conference held today.

Motion raised by Tracey Gillies → To reverse the motions passed on February 1st 2021 concerning the continuation of the 2020-21 season and delay the decision to resume the season once further direction is provided at the end of the extended Stay-At-Home order (on February 16th 2021). Motion was seconded by Stephen Bent.

The president reported that a communication to Members would be sent tonight to indicate that a decision would be communicated to Members about the 2020-21 season once more details become available based on the February 16th 2021 re-opening plan for the Ottawa region.

3.0 Round table items

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Gerard Gagnon (seconder: Lisa Camilucci)

Meeting closed 7:27 pm