

# Minutes

## Slave Lake Minor Hockey Association

### Annual General Meeting

#### April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7:00pm Via Zoom

#### Board Members In Attendance:

**Members In Attendance:** Adam Ching, Al Beaulac, Amanda Oliveira, Alicia Blanchette, Andrea Poitras, Audrey Ghostkeeper, Audrey Romanchuk, Bobbi Hartman, Brent Lillo, Britney Whitney, Calvin Beauchamp, Carmen Conrad, Chris Taylor, Christine Lillo, Craig Pearson, Cristy Hill, Curtis Fudge, Debbie Conrad, Dion Poitras, Dwain Hill, Dwane Griffith, Greg Whitney, Jamie Green, Jeff Green, Jeneen Vennings, Jennifer Dierker, Jodi Broadhead, Joel Blanchette, Karen Cuthbert, Lindsay Pothier, Lyndsay Baird, , Melanie Herbert, Melissa Baxter, Mike Gelech, Mike Martin, Mike Seppola, Nicole Vondermuhull, Nicole Ward, Pam Boucher, Russell Baxter, Ryan Donaldson, Sable Seppola, Sheldon Ghostkeeper, Tara Maitland, Tracey Bonik, Travis Eben, Tyler Ching, Vanessa Bjornson, Veronica Ching, Murray Broadhead, Jenny Lafleur

#### 1. Call to order 7:05pm

2. **Adoption of Agenda** Motion to adopt the agenda with changes by Andrea Poitras, 2<sup>nd</sup> Britney

3. **Adoption of AGM 2020 minutes Motion by Melissa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tara**

#### 4. Year in Review

4.1 **President** - Year in Review (See President Report below)

#### 4.2 Administrator Update

193 players this season

Hopeful we can maintain these numbers for next season

Projected numbers for next season:

14 U7

34 U9

26 U11

41 U13

20 U15

24 U18

19 female

17 graduates this year: 14 males, 3 females. The most ever at once

No updates on exact numbers for thunder paraphernalia

Photos are schedules for October 26, 2021

HCR is rolling out an update.

May look at Exact Award of Excellence in the new season

Thanks again to Rachael Bellerose for all her years of service to the board. Welcome Pam Boucher, Safety Coordinator and Tracey Bonik, Treasurer.

#### 5. Financial Report: Presented by Tracey

5.1 Adoption of the Financial Report Motion by Mike Gelech to adopt the financial reports as presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Tara Maitland **CARRIED**

#### 6. By-Law / Rules and Regs Changes:

**6.1** By-Law additions/changes Motion by Britney Whitney to accept the changes as presented to the SLMHA Bylaws, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jenny Lafleur **CARRIED**

**6.2** Rules and Regulations additions/changes Motion by Nicole Ward to adopt the changes as presented to the SLMHA Rules and Regulations , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tara Maitland **CARRIED**

## **7. Elections - Open Positions:**

### **Vice President:**

Mike Gelech let his name stand

Dwain Hill nominates Murray Broadhead. Murray accepts

**Mike G was voted in by the membership**

### **Secretary:**

**Jennifer Taylor let her name stand, and was acclaimed.**

### **U7 Coordinator:**

Melissa Baxter is current coordinator and agreed to let her name stand. **Melissa was acclaimed.**

### **U9 Coordinator:**

Mike Martin declined.

Sheldon Ghostkeeper nominated Travis Eben

Sable Seppola nominated Nicole Vondermuhll

**Nicole Vondermuhll was voted in by the membership**

### **U11 Coordinator:**

Tara Maitland let her name stand

Mike Gelech nominated Nicole Ward, accepted

**Tara was voted in by the membership**

### **U13 Coordinator:**

Jenny Lafleur let her name stand

Joel Blanchette nominated Dwain Hill, Dwain accepts

**Dwain was voted in by the membership**

### **Ice Manager:**

**Britney let her name stand and was acclaimed**

## **8. Questions**

Dwain Hill asked if someone who doesn't have a child in hockey can become a member. Chris answered yes, they must apply to the Board and then pay a nominal fee that the board decides.

Sheldon Ghostkeeper asked if communication can be done in a different way. Perhaps an association group email? Jen can certainly set this up to get things out to the membership in a timely fashion.

Craig Pearson asked about the possibility of getting a program in for players who'd like to do some more power skating. Many parents would like to see the Association offer something. Several parents voiced their interest in having more and would be willing to pay.

Maybe have someone local offer the service to the lower age groups and bring someone in for the higher age groups.

Anyone interested in being on a committee to look at this can send their name to Chris.

Craig asked about a hockey academy. Mike Martin said the HC website has information. Jenn Taylor said she would look into it.

### **Meeting Adjourned: 8:55**

Nicole Ward motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Gelech **CARRIED**

### **President Report**

SOOOOO this has been a strange year for sure.

COVID has made this a hockey season like no other. As a Board, we have made adjustments to our schedules several times to accommodate the changes to the government guidelines on an almost daily basis.

We've made sacrifices to ensure our kids got ice time and practice time. We've worked with the MRC in ways we didn't think we're possible in years past.

As an Association, we made it work.

As a Board, we have had to work together with the coaches, managers and players to develop a hockey model that worked within the confines of the guidelines to ensure that we were doing our very best to ensure a clean and safe environment....did we get everything right....probably not but this has been a year of firsts for everyone.

Our COVID Safety Coordinator worked diligently to ensure that we followed the public health guidelines and I think the position was filled by the right person with the right knowledge and commitment to see that our association worked within those guidelines to deliver our program.

On a side note...this position will change once COVID is finished, we have reached herd immunity and/or the government allows our association to resume "normal" hockey operations.

As we started the season, we had all the necessary things in place to successfully launch the hockey season and we even had a few games played with some of the teams. Then in November, that all changed again with the government's announcement that youth sports was put on hiatus again as the numbers of COVID positive cases was higher than the governments threshold.

The board worked through this time while developing an alternate plan including some form of refunding/credit solution and after much debate, it was determined that the membership would receive a refund of 70% of their membership fees.

While we waited for the government and Alberta Health to make decisions about youth sports, a window of opportunity opened for our association. In conjunction with the MRC, we would be allowed to get back on the ice but to only practice with very stringent restrictions in place. Again, our Board of Directors, coaches, managers, players and volunteers made adjustments to ensure that we could get back on the ice for an eight-week period to allow the kids to finish with some positives.

Our eight-week program worked well with the managers, coaches and chaperones ensuring the all parties involved worked within the guidelines to keep everyone safe. Throughout the program, the membership followed the rules, with some minor hiccups, and pulled off a successful season ending program. Congratulations to everyone involved.

One to other things....

Our league (Northern Alberta Interlock) will be holding the AGM on May 8<sup>th</sup> and will be attended through Zoom by our association.

Additionally, the league is having some issues related to various associations (Leduc and Ft. Sask) wanting to join the larger Edmonton League to avoid the increased travel demands and longer distances for hockey.

NAI is preparing for next season but like all associations/leagues, have no idea what the coming hockey season will bring. We are all standing by and as we learn more information it will be made available to the membership as appropriate.

Now on a more personal note...I want to thank the board, those of you who are staying and those who are leaving, for their continued support, their dedication to the association and their unwavering determination to push forward. Volunteers make up the bulk of any association and this one has some wonderful people leading it...I only hope it will continue to do great things.