

Minutes

Slave Lake Minor Hockey Association

Annual General Meeting

April 27th, 2022 @ 7:00pm E.G Wahlstrom School

Board Members In Attendance: Chris Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Britney Whitney, Tara Maitland, Melissa Baxter, Pam Boucher, Tracey Bonik, Travis Eben, Cristy Hill, Joel Blanchette, Nicole Vondermuhll, Jeff Green, Bobbi Hartman, Mike Seppola, Tyler Ching, Dwain Hill

Members In Attendance: Nicole Ward, Ryan Donaldson, Christine Lillo, Lyndsay Baird, Adam Ching, Alicia Blanchette, Sable Seppola, Mike Martin, Sam Giroux, Jamie Green

- 1. Call to order** Chris called the meeting to order at 7:08pm
- 2. Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Nicki Ward to adopt the agenda as presented, 2nd Christine Lillo **CARRIED**
- 3. Adoption of AGM 2021 minutes** Motion by Lyndsay Baird to adopt the minutes from the 2021 AGM, 2nd Nicki Ward **CARRIED**

4. Year in Review

4.1 President Report

President Report 2021/22

Let's begin by saying that this year was a huge mix of many things...some went fabulously, some not so great but, as an association, we are still working toward getting better.

Covid was once again a huge part of the hockey season, at least in the initial days but once we were able to get some processes in place and work on getting everyone onboard, it turned out to be a great season. We worked with our COVID Safety Coordinator to make sure we were following the mandates and policies of both the Government of Alberta and with Jill and the MRC. Jill and her team were instrumental in ensuring that the rules were followed (most of the time) and worked closely with us when there were hiccups in the process to make sure the season wasn't in jeopardy

As we progressed through the season, it became evident that many people felt that this pandemic was essentially over and became less diligent and compliant with the restrictions and mandates. This led to some tense moments in the MRC and much discussion on the board and with the MRC about who was essentially responsible for monitoring and maintaining the restrictions. Eventually, cooler heads prevailed and we moved on from the COVID nightmare to have a very successful season in spite of COVID, which still remains.

Once again, as an Association, we made it work.

As we started the season, the Player/Coach Selection Committee, those responsible for determining how kids are evaluated as well as selecting the Head Coaches for the various teams, reworked the evaluation process to address several concerns that were raised about the process previously and how kids are placed on teams. Joel Blanchette, our Vice President, who oversaw that process and along with his committee, developed some great evaluation tools and processes to support player selection and placement. I won't go in to detail at this

point but I wanted to let everyone know and to reassure all the members that this is an on-going process and will continue to improve with each successful season.

One of the items that came out of the AGM from last year was the clear message that we needed to address player development. Following the AGM, we struct a committee with the plan to bring some programming to the association that would address the request. Our committee met a few times and looked at several programs. We examined one program and met with the owners in the fall of last year with the idea of bringing the program to the association and utilizing it as a fundraiser as well. The program would train the coaches to use the proprietary equipment and provide them the ability to run programs throughout the year. I want to say that I had high hopes for this program as it was widely spread across Alberta but so far, we have not been able to reach an agreement with the company due to costs among other things.

Most recently, our committee met with the operator of another Alberta grown program that would provide similar programming to the Association and have received a quote to deliver it in SL. The committee continues to work toward delivering a player development program.

We had the opportunity to apply for a grant sponsored by HA and we were able to secure \$5000 toward delivering the program but more fundraising will be needed to bring the program here if it is the one selected.

After a number of successful years working with the League and after successfully building a rapport with each President, to the point where I could shoot him a text to sort out any issues, the sitting President resigned his position, essentially leaving the League without direction. Since about the middle of December, myself and many other members of this association have found it increasingly difficult to connect with the League and receive feedback from them related to operational items like playoffs, tournaments etc. We heard that there were issues from other associations related to the amount of travel and that some of the MHA's are or have left the League and joined with Edmonton or other Leagues. Slave Lake is one of the farthest communities to travel to and has had it's share of games cancelled, postponed or forfeited because other associations teams will not travel here due to the distance. I want to let everyone know that Hockey Alberta is aware of the situation and has received a number of concerns related to travel and has a meeting planned with Presidents of the associations in May to address the issue.

Let's talk about successes!!!

SLMHA teams triumphed this year. We had a number of teams received Gold banners for finishing first in the division (U11-1, U13-2(Tier 4), U13-1(Tier ½), U15) with three of those teams going to Provincials. Additionally, we had U13-3(tier 6), U11-2 and our female team all receiving Consolation banners for the great seasons. These teams worked diligently all year to get better and be more competitive. While we were not able to bring any provincial championships banners back to Slave Lake, each team represented this community with pride and conviction.

While that was going on...Slave Lake again pulled off another successful Provincial Championship Tournament for our community. The hard work and dedication of all those who worked in front and behind the scenes did not go unnoticed.... congratulations to everyone involved, you made this community very proud.

Now on a more personal note...we have a solid core of volunteers on the board and in the association who work each and every day trying to make the Association better and to support and develop, not just hockey players, but amazing young people. I would like to take this opportunity 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

Let's get moving on the 2022/23 season

4.2 Administrator Update

- New HCR program introduced. Lots of issues but we got through it.
- 187 total players
- 2 females grads from the U15-U18 female team
- 5 grads from the U18 team, board purchased grad plaques for them
- Projected numbers for next season:
 - U7-13
 - U9-32
 - U11-34
 - U13-35, 33 skaters 2 goalies
 - U15-29, 25 skaters, 4 goalies
 - U18-18, 16 skaters, 2 goalies
 - U15-18, 15
- Bobbi has offered to help with a U13 female team by combining U11 and U13 female players
- No swag left this year thanks to Melissa for selling it all off!!
- Fundraisers: association wide 50/50 meant that all teams got \$ and had their Teamsnap paid for
- Ornament fundraiser went well. Bobbi still has some at Second Helping.
- Any license obtained by SLMHA, the money goes to SLMHA and Tracey gives it back to you if you spend it on approved expenses.
- Bobbi suggests next year SLMHA applies for a larger license and sell more tickets to allow teams more money
- Currently running a tumbler fundraiser, Bobbi will check on closing date.
- U18 provincials update: 50/50 tickets sold to cover all costs and sold out. Raffles gained \$4580. After all costs were covered, \$3000 donation to SLMHA from the U18. Shout out to Jamie Green for her amazing organization. Big thank you to all of our amazing sponsors, LSFRS and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry for being on call the entire weekend.
- Idea for next time we host provincials: have the raffle table looked after by the board as all funds go back to the association.

5. Financial Report: Presented by Tracey

5.1 Adoption of the Financial Report Motion by Lyndsay to adopt financials as presented, 2nd Sam Giroux **CARRIED**

6. By-Law / Rules and Regs Changes:

6.1 By-Law additions/changes Motion by Nikki Ward to accept all proposed changes to the By-Laws, 2nd Ryan Donaldson **CARRIED**

6.2 Rules and Regulations additions/changes

Motion by Jamie Green to accept all proposed changes to the Rules and Regs, 2nd Alicia Blanchette **CARRIED**

7. Elections - Open Positions:

President

Chris Taylor let his name stand and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

Vice President

Joel Blanchette let his name stand and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

Secretary

Tracey Bonik nominated Pam Boucher. Pam accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received

Treasurer

Tracey Bonik let her name stand and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

U15-U18 Female Coordinator

Vacant

U15 Coordinator

Travis Eben let his name stand and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

U18 Coordinator

Tyler Ching let his name stand and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

Equipment Manager

Mike Seppola let his name stand and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

Safety Coordinator

Nicki Ward is nominated. Nicki accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as no other nominations were received.

Coaching Director - By Application

Referee in Chief - By Application

8. Questions

-via email

-a question came via email regarding concern for female player development. The member asked what the plan was for females in SLMHA. Chris discussed that players who are female develop differently than players who are male. Many female players on male teams find it hard being a female player on a male team. The growth of hockey in SLMHA needs player, parent and coach commitment in order to develop and move forward. We may have the opportunity to combine the U11 and U13 female players into one team this coming

season. This will take player buy-in as well as parent and coach commitment. Chris spoke to the All Peace President regarding registering an all female team. He said that a female team would be welcome, but there are not always teams registered to play. NAI will also accept an all female team but doesn't have an already established female program.

-the floor

-could there be a parent meeting to see if there would be interest in a combined U11/U13 female team?

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Pam Boucher, 2nd by Tracey Bonik 9:28pm