

Minutes

Slave Lake Minor Hockey Association Annual General Meeting May 20th, 2020 @ 7:30pm Via Zoom

Board Members In Attendance: Chris Taylor, Jenn Taylor, Bobbi Hartman, Jamie Green, Britney Whitney, Mike Martin, Mike Gelech, Melissa Baxter, Krista Dickson, Rachael Bellerose, Tyler Ching, Jenny LaFleur, Tara Maitland, Jeff Green

Members In Attendance: Andrea Poitras, Audrey Ghostkeeper, Calvin Beauchamp, Carmen Conrad, Cristy Hill, Curtis Fudge, Dan Wentworth, Debbie Conrad, Dion Poitras, Dwain Hill, Dixie Wentworth, Dan Wentworth, Gord Dierker, Jerod Hartman, Joel Blanchette, Karlene Ching, Keith Mercer, Mike Seppola, Pam Boucher, Russell Baxtrer, Sable Seppola, Vanessa Bjornson, Jennifer Dierker, Nicole Ward, Ryan Donaldson, Tracey Bonik, Travis Eben, Travis Romanchuck, Veronique Ching, Wade Skahl,

1. **Call to order: 7:42**
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Britney Whitney, 2nd by Joel Blanchette **CARRIED**
3. **Adoption of AGM 2019 minutes:** Motion Jenny Lafleur, 2nd Krista Dickson

4. Year in Review:

a) **President** - Year in Review (see below **Presidents' Report**)

b) **Administrator Update:**

-193 total players registered, down from last year (204)

-based on numbers from last year, this season coming are:

U7 - 13	U15 – 15 + 0 goalies
U9 – 16 major, 12 minor	U18 – 28 + 3 goalies
U11 – 33	U15-18 – 3 (U15) 19 (U18) 22
U13 – 33 + 4 goalies	

- pictures were a bit frustrating this year but the company was undergoing a change so things may look different next year. The Board will decide who to go with.

-Exact Award of Excellence was a 2-year sponsorship and it's coming to an end. Bobbi will reach out to them again and see if they'd like to sponsor again. If not, the Board will look for a new sponsor.

-Thunder Wall of Fame was completed and still waiting for a few plaques. It looks amazing.

-Teamsnap webinar tomorrow to help with team Managers and see how much it costs but it also saves time

-Jerseys were to be ordered this year but waited due to projected drop in numbers

-Melissa has helped with selling off the Thunder inventory. Unable to access MRC to report on how much is left. Board may decide to order more next year.

- Britney Whitney and Tracey Bonik were paid their Honorarium prior to the AGM as their original date for the AGM was postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Calvin Beauchamp has selected a recipient for the Game Changer Award. Due to COVID-19, announcement and presentation of the award is delayed.

- c) Jeff: Officials Update
- Can always use more, if anyone wants to join, come on out.

5. Financial Report: Rachael presented the budget report for review.

Motion by to accept the financial report with changes Mike Martin, 2nd Krista Dickson **CARRIED**

6. By-Law / Rules and Regs Changes:

- a) By-Law additions/changes: Chris presented the proposed changes to the By-Laws for the upcoming season. Motion by Mike Gelech, 2nd Mike Martin to accept the changes as presented in the By-Laws **CARRIED**
- b) Rules and Regulations additions/changes: Chris presented the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations for the upcoming season.
-Motion by Jerod Hartman to amend Player Selection Process #6 to include the line, **“However, skill level will be also considered when determining the team size (number of players).”** 2nd by Dwain Hill **CARRIED**.
-Motion by Dwain Hill to amend Player Advancement #5, **“Based on evaluations, the Board and/or Player Selection Committee will have final discretion for player placement,”** to read **“Based on evaluations, the Board and/or Player Selection Committee will have final discretion for player movement.”** 2nd by Joel Blanchette **CARRIED**
- c) Motion by Mike Gelech, 2nd Krista Dickson to accept the changes as presented in the Rules and Regulations **CARRIED**

7. Elections - Open Positions:

President – Chris Taylor let his name stand. No other nominations. **ACCLAIMED**

Treasurer – Rachael Bellerose let her name stand. No other nominations. **ACCLAIMED**

U15-18 Coordinator:

- Jenny LaFleur let her name stand
- Cristy Hill (nominated by Dwain Hill)

Cristy Hill was voted in by the membership

U15 Coordinator – Joel Blanchette (nominated by Nicole Ward) **ACCLAIMED**

U18 Coordinator – Tyler Ching (nominated by Krista Dickson) **ACCLAIMED**

Equipment Manager – Mike Seppola (nominated by Britney Whitney) **ACCLAIMED**

Coaching Director - By Application

Referee in Chief - By Application

8. Questions

-Dwain Hill asked that the female girls fees be reviewed. The fees associated with the All Peace League that the girls team plays in are costly and this is the reason their fees are higher than teams that play in NAI.

-Audrey Ghostkeeper asked about travel for Novice for the upcoming season. NAI will be striking a sub-committee to look at how better to deal with scheduling and travel.

-Audrey also asked if the NAI decision still isn't favourable for Slave Lake would there be an option for a house league. Chris said he felt there would be opportunity for that.

-Andrea Poitras asked about Novice Coordinator letters sent to the board and why they weren't dealt with. Bobbi and Chris said the Board would look at the issues again.

-Dion asked why issues brought forward to the coordinator weren't brought forward to the Board.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Mike Gelech, 2nd by Britney Whitney **9:42pm**

President's Report

It has been a very interesting year from a hockey perspective.

Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta, after exhaustive research, determined that a change needed to happen in hockey at the grassroots level and implemented the Intro to Hockey. Intro to Hockey is a model of the general structure and administrative guidelines as well as specific playing rules for players aged 5-8. There are five specific sections to address everything from playing rules to the structure of the season. These rules and guidelines were required by all sanctioned hockey leagues (Northern Alberta Interlock[NAI]) in Alberta.

SLMHA implemented this program this year and throughout the year had some struggles with differing opinions, the program was slow to gather speed and many needed help with understanding why HC had changed the way hockey was being played.

Coming next season...if there is a next hockey season, we will see some additional changes to, most notably to the addressing of the divisions. Hockey Alberta will again follow Hockey Canada's lead and rebrand the divisions U11 through U18 for divisions of Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget. Female hockey will be rebranded in an identical fashion.

Additionally, U11 will have its own development program in line with Hockey Canada's Long Term Player Development model. Many of the same rationales used in the Intro to Hockey have been used to develop the U11 program with the focus on player development and equal and fair ice time. This is to ensure that all players at this level get the same opportunity to contribute to the outcome of the games, regardless of skill or ability. This will definitely challenge our coaches next year and they will be looking for support and resources to support this change.

As an association we have made some changes as well. Recently we implemented the ability to send e-transfer of both players fees and officials' payment. This has allowed the association to remain fluid with respect to revenue collection. Additionally, I know that Bobbi, our Administrator has been in discussion with the Treasurer to examine TeamSnap and the ability of that application to support player registration....fun times ahead.

With all the administrative things out of the way I want to talk about our hockey teams and hockey family.

As an association, we were having a wonderful year. Our teams were doing well, except for the one or two mishaps during the season, we had not major issues...we were well on our way to a great season.

Wait...this is Slave Lake, they're not allowed to flourish!!!. Bam, all of a sudden we were all blindsided by Covid-19. Early in March, Hockey Alberta announced that it would be suspending all sanctioned hockey in Alberta in response to the increasing global pandemic. There was lots of shock and uncertainty about what was going to happen to hockey...how were we going to finish the year. Well as the global pandemic grew, it was decided that the 2019-20 hockey season was going to end. The administration had to determine how to finish off the year for the teams...what kind of wrap-up would we be able to hold. Much like the whole world...things just stopped!!

However, we had a lot of wonderful success stories this year...

- Midget finished with 22-1-1 record and winning the Gold banner for the division and were Provincial bound when the season ended.
- Bantam finished second in their division.
- Peewee 1 finished winning Gold in their division.
- Peewee 2 finished second in their division.
- Atom 1 finished second in their division.
- Atom 2 finished with an outstanding record of 16-0-0 and winning Gold in their division.

Congratulations to all the teams for a wonderful 2019-2020 season. I think it is a testament to the players, coaches, managers and parent volunteers and everyone else involved.

Slave Lake has had its fair share of tragedy over the years but we have rebounded and have held our hockey family tight. We always manage to make the best out of difficult situations, and this will be no different.

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.