VDMHA – June 17, 2024

Members Present: Kris Dumanski, Kaylee Pipke, Trevor Zacharkiw, Trevor Kassian, Brad Morrow, Breanne Rattray, Trevor Warawa, Stepanie MacComish, Kristen Warawa, John Shedden, Kyle Bodnarchuk, Scott Dixon, Tracy Ezio, Travis Giebelhaus, Garrett Wiebe

1) Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.

a. Approval of Agenda – additions to agenda include U9 major/minor, U11, amendments to proposed budget, U13/15 girls hockey – Kristen made the motion to approve the agenda. Breanne seconded.

b. Approval of last meetings minutes – Trevor W. made the motion to approve. Kyle seconded.

2) Kyle presented budget update. Increase to Hockey Alberta fees of $2700. Surplus of $700 coming due from GIC (increased interest rate).

3) Fundraising

a. Golf Tournament update – Stephanie has Whitetail booked for August 16. “Thrift Shop” theme this year. Jojo to cater supper. 9 holes of golf with a cost of $125/person. Room for up to 72 golfers. Steph will need volunteers to work the tournament. Would like to look into having a supper sponsor. Prizes to be the same idea as last year. Booze cooler donated by the board with 1 big ticket item. Meal only option ticket for $40 agreed upon by the board. Registration at 4 pm and supper at 5 pm.

b. Raffle Box expectations – will begin early in the season and close at the end of December. Try to word as more encouraging to get families to sell tickets and set possible “goals”. Colin will do up an email closer to the beginning of the season.

c. Jackets – Steph researched different brands. CCM and Bauer jackets area quite pricey for the association to purchase for all registrants and bench staff. Sinbin prices are around $90 before logos. Steph is looking into different brands that are in previously agreed upon price point. Can look into a brand that is warmer for the bench staff. Suggestion to do sizing at the development weekend.

4) Contact Information – John has created emails for each board position. Please be using these for all hockey related issues.

5) Volunteer Conversation – Breanne brought forth the previously sent out volunteer points system format. We are going to go ahead with a points system for the upcoming season to help get volunteers for the bigger events we hold/are apart of. Discussed had about each role/job and members made decisions about how points should be awarded. Breanne will update the format and send back out to everyone prior to presenting to entire association(will include picture day, possibly corn maze and parade volunteering). There should be enough jobs for all families to fill their commitments. There will be no opt-out on the registration form – has been worded on the registration form for parents to know that more information about the system to come at a later date closer to the season starting. Kristen will send out invoices to all families that have not reached their points, $200 which will need to be paid before registering for the next season. Need to figure out who/how points will be kept track of (someone’s responsibility from each team – no the manager).

6) User Group Meeting – Colin provided update. Meeting was held last week with all four user groups in attendance. Minor hockey was able to get a small amount of ice back that is earlier in the evening. Skating club is unsure about ice needed as it depends on registrant numbers. Potential to get more ice back closer to the season starting. Town has agreed to no logos being placed at center ice but instead to have each teams logo smaller on the ice. Room 3 will be getting the door put back on.

7) Ice Update – Colin presented report. Report as follows. Questions and report

Currently training/orientating a new ice assignor

I understand there are some reservations about the person being anonymous.

The job will still get done but this is going to prevent burnout and the person from being contacted 24/7 which is not required of any job, especially a volunteer one.

Ice time must be scheduled in advance to avoid charges from the town. Practises cannot be cancelled last minute unless it is inclement weather. The email will be monitored during these times.

This places more responsibility on managers and coaches to plan ahead or be creative. We experienced a variety of strange situations over the last 2 years that did not require the ice assignor to be involved.

**Questions for future planning**

Season start and end date for U7 and U9 Please set this ahead of time, makes this much easier and non negotiable when things get busy at the end of the season

Suggested Oct 7 start (it cannot start prior to October due to Mundare not having ice yet, it is impossible to have tryouts for other teams and schedule practise for U7/U9 unless they'd like Saturday at 8)

End date? Feb 28. March depending who makes playoffs, there ends up being week day games and ice needs to be moved around. Also this year Mundare ice plant went down, it is always up in the air how long they will keep the ice depending on the weather.

U7 practising Wednesdays 515-6 and Saturdays 8-9.

This did work well from a scheduling stand point. The biggest complaint was finding teams to play at 8 am. Recommendation is to have U9 and U7 work together if U9 is not using their Saturday 915-1015 they can offer it to U7.

Sunday at midnight is the cut off for changes or cancellations for these levels though as the schedule is then confirmed with the town and the workers schedules are made.

**Tournaments**

Are we having tournaments, if so those dates need to be inputted to block off ice. No weekend tournaments back to back please.

I recommend not hosting in Vegreville as the Viper schedule always changes, we attempted to book weekends they didn't have games but they changed that.

Mundare is booked solid for the 24/25 season, we were given the same weekends as last year so that is all that is reserved for us. Nov 15-17 and Nov 29-Dec 1

Two Hills is an option for hosting tournaments, I have reached out for availability but have not heard back yet, would need a few date options to ask for sure.

Mondays are held in Mundare for Power skating or Goalie clinics

**Pond Hockey**

Currently reserved Fridays 645-745

- reservation about junior teams and Friday evening games they will have to work around it

-may be able to have Tuesday or Thursday in Mundare depending on registration

**Vipers**

- requested no Junior team go on the ice before 8

- difficult to work with as usual

**Items to Note**

- planning to have U15 and U18 alternate weekends like all other levels with 2 teams currently do

- there will not be later ice times available as is the preference because the Vipers schedule changes and it is difficult to manage around them

- planning to have games finished and dressing rooms empty before we have to deal with any junior teams

- please be patient as we are trying to advocate for minor hockey

- room 3 is getting a door and lock to allow it to be a usable room with no access for Vipers during our usage

**Ice times**

- Mundare stays the same Tuesdays/Thursday 530-900 and Wednesdays 530-745

- Vegreville Tuesdays 515-1000 Wednesdays 515-830 Thursdays 700-915

**Holidays**

-Arena will be closed all holidays

-No practise December 23-27

-Practise Dec 31-Jan 2 by request only but Jan 1 will not be an option as the arena is closed

8) Season Start

a. Beginning and end date

i. U7 – October 7 and ends February 28

ii. U9 – September 30 and ends ?? (HA pilot project updates??)

iii. U11 – September 9/16 (3 on 3)

iv. U13 – Early September (depends on numbers, girls teams, evaluations)

v. U15/U18 –

vi. Pond Hockey – tentatively 6:45 – 7:45 Fridays in Vegreville

b. Fall 3 on 3 – start week of September 9 – possibly run for 2 or 3 weeks depending on what gets figured out with the referee clinic (dates conflict Steph and Ryan to see what can be done to move/accomdate)

c. Training Camp – date TBA due to weekend scheduling conflict. Discussed holding U18 goalie tryouts at this time. Trevor Z has the contacts for those that helped out last year with goalie tryouts. 4 skates are required prior to evaluations Trevor W reminded. \*\*Cash Rowe has been released to Vermilion Minor Hockey for this upcoming seasong\*\*

d. Ref Clinic – has been booked for September 21 – dates currently conflicting. Colin, Ryan and Steph will try to figure this out prior to next meeting. Those interested are encouraged to get registered early.

9) U13/15 Girls Team – Trevor Z is trying to get a program up and running this year. He has been in contact with various other coaches/parents with daughters in this age group and thinks a team would be viable. Kristen can open up registration with a lowered fee and close date so numbers can be figured out sooner then later. Steph will make a FB post. Discussed potential to have to outsource ice slot or look into having only 1 ice slot but for 2 hours for those that may be traveling a distance. Trevor Z made a motion to open registration for U13/15 girls hockey with a close date of August 1 with a fee of $700. Kaylee seconded.

10) U9 Major/Minor – Travis brought up about dividing the teams based on age or skill level. Communities around us are doing both which can make finding competitive teams a challenge. Travis will look into those close towns and see what they are doing for this year. Board will make a decision at the August meeting.

11) U11 – Scott wanted to discuss looking at how we divide this age groups teams. Issues arose last season with the NEAHL and how teams were tiered. He talked about why he believes two even teams would be better for the players. Is something we can look into further closer to the season and see what the NEAHL does to improve the tiering process and discourage “sandbagging” teams.

12) Adjournment at 8:15 pm

a. Next Meeting August 14 at 6 pm in the Pool Boardroom

\*\*Next meeting topics – affiliated players\*\*