

**WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Monday, September 20, 2004

Attendees

Directors- Dave Dicecca, Hugh Mullin, Fred Cammon, Ron Martignetti, David Hennessey, Jim Leo, Tom Troiano, Denis O'Donnell, Scott Fusco, Joe Sacco, Mark Robinson, Ed Ducharme, Nick Mitropoulos, Chris Goodyear

Members- Glenn Mills, Mike Driscoll

President Tom Troiano opened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

By poll of WYH Board of Directors members present, it was determined that a quorum was present to allow for the transaction of business.

Message from the President

Nothing to report

Minutes of August 16, 2004 BOD Meeting

On reading of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 16, 2004, a motion to accept the Minutes of August 16, 2004 BOD Meeting was made by Mark Robinson, and seconded by David Hennessey. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 16, 2004 were entered into the record.

Treasurer's Report

Hugh Mullin reported that WYH Cash balances are approximately \$176K with \$97,745 in the checking account and the CD valued at \$78,193. Revenue activities were limited to receipt of tuition payments and significant expenses were recorded for league fees, ice rentals and equipment. Delinquent payments were quantified at approximately 60 families in excess of \$150. A thirty day late notice will be sent out by mail to these families. There have been multiple notices regarding due payments but it appears a lot of families have not been checking the website.

Mike Hartnett has again been retained and is working on the 2003 Tax Returns and Audit that are due on November 15th. Mike will complete the audit by Mid-October and is following up on last springs IRS issues concerning our 2002 return.

Hugh Mullin reported that there is a possibility that in the future our books may have to use the Accrual Basis of Accounting versus our current Cash Basis of Accounting. The Accrual Basis method is wherein revenue and expenses are recorded in the period in which they are earned or incurred regardless of whether cash is received or disbursed in that period. This is the accounting basis that generally is required to be used in order to conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in preparing financial statements for most businesses and organizations like WYH who exceed \$250K in revenue and expenses. Cash Basis of Accounting is method in which revenue and expenses are recorded in the period they are actually received or expended in cash. Use of the cash basis generally is not considered to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and is therefore used only in selected situations, such as for very small businesses and (when permitted) for income tax reporting. This may require more information for our payment system as well as going to a PC based application to manage the organizations accounts payables and receivables.

Mike will complete the audit of our books by Mid-October and is following up on last springs' IRS issues concerning our 2002 return.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Denis O'Donnell and seconded by David Hennessey and approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Registrar's Report

Chris Goodyear reported that team rosters have been generated and available for coaches to begin the signature process. There are now two versions of each teams' roster. One roster will include home addresses and a second without will be used for tournament submissions. All changes to this roster including additions or deletions should be done on a Roster Change Form which is available on-line or in the Mass Hockey Guide Book.

USA Hockey/Mass Hockey Report

Chris Goodyear reported that she has obtained many Publications from USA Hockey including Rule Books, USA Hockey Guides and are available from her.

Equipment

Hugh Mullin reported that we are in decent shape on Jerseys, other than some minor activity cleaning up some missing or ripped ones. He needs to clarify the Tri-City Set of Jersey's and Goalie Equipment which are now stored between himself and Scott Fusco. The white set of Jerseys from last years PeeWee A team has been issued to this seasons PeeWee A team and 4 jerseys have been ordered to complete the set.

Coaches Committee Report

There is nothing new to report and the per Chairman Nick Mitropoulos. Nick reported that the coaches meeting held of September 13th went well.

Tom Troiano said that there is an issue with the Bantam C2 team. Tom said that this team is still without a head coach after soliciting potential parents of players. The coaches committee feels there are a number of parents qualified to take the role as head coach but has been unable to get a commitment from any of them. An attempt has been made to find a non-parent coach but the search has been unsuccessful.

In parallel a total of four skaters have dropped from this team from the original 14. A perception exists that lack of coaches has led to the dropouts.

Ron Martignetti said that while one potential parental candidate has legitimate scheduling issues, the most prevailing barrier in securing another volunteer/parent head coach has been criticism from a sub-group of parents who feel that based on the cost of the program the product at this level has been inferior. It was pointed out that there is a general opinion of other parents that the coaching is inferior at the lower levels throughout the program. Comments had been made by this group of parents that a non-parent coaching model exists at the highest Bantam level and the same should be in place at the lowest. Ron Martignetti commented that over the last ten seasons we've averaged 15 travel teams per season and of those 150 teams only 10 of them have been coached by non-parent volunteers. Ron said that the model is "parents coach the teams".

Tom Troiano commented that he has been in contact with over ten adjacent communities in search of players. Tom said that he sent out over 40 e-mail messages to contacts in the hockey community looking for additional Bantam players. He has received many responses, with most conveying they are in similar situations at the Lower Bantam Level. One town had openings for 4 players, a situation that would not be practical since we would have to absorb the balance. Tom noted that we will make every effort to find players to expand this roster and it is not an option at this point to disband this team and move 10 players onto the three remaining Bantam teams.

Mark Robinson suggested that since a team at this level is skills deficient, a set of practices can be designed for them. Scott Fusco commented that players who only participate in a town youth hockey program have less opportunities which is parallel to youth soccer which does not have the costs of youth hockey. Ed Ducharme followed up by stating that there are many professional organizations outside of WYH that offer multiple opportunities to improve an individual player's skill level.

There was agreement among the board that this issue should not continue to fester and the coaches committee should call a meeting with the parents as soon as possible.

Ice Committee Report

Tom Troiano reported that the dates for team pictures have been set for 10/26 and 10/28 and this will require some minor adjustments to the practice schedule.

Tom confirmed that John Roderick will be running the Fall Midget Skills Program.

There will be ice available that is normally allocated to the Tri-City Program in October and there will be an adequate supply of ice to meet the programs needs after November 1st. Tom Troiano stated that he and Hugh Mullin need to finalize the ice budget and determine if any ice needs to be sold.

Girls Only Program Report

Jim Leo reported that there are improvements in the roster numbers and we are now up to 11 skaters for each Squirt team and 14 for our PeeWee teams. The season for these teams will not start until late October per our requests to the Middlesex Yankee and the Route One leagues.

In regards to practice and skills ice, having two 4PM sessions during the week may be a challenge in terms of coaching availability. Also, it may be difficult for a director to be present and on-ice at the Thursday Skills Session. In response, Denis O'Donnell volunteered to do his best to be present at the 4PM Skills Sessions.

Glenn Mills summarized the Fall Girls Midget Skills Program in terms of numbers and reported he should have the ice schedule locked up shortly. He was asked what percent of the Varsity will be participating in the program. He responded that all except for 2 or 3 players.

Dual State League Report

Nothing to report

Valley League Report

Nothing to report

Tri-City League Report

Scott Fusco said that the program will begin on October 15th and games will begin in early November. Tom Troiano said that he was asked whether players can be placed on teams with their friends or a school grouping. This is not sometimes feasible and we have had complaints in the past where the three highest skilled players were on the same team. After discussion it was recommended that teams should be chosen by use of a draft to ensure parity. It was also noted that there may be communication issues if the Flynn Rink does not open as scheduled.

Learn to Skate Report

Tom Troiano said that a notice will be sent out to each elementary school announcing the program. Tom Troiano said that he has received a few comments regarding the outside instructor that we've hired to run the program. Tom said that it is the opinion of some board members that the program does not have a Winchester Youth Hockey feel but rather the feel of a figure skating school.

Scott Fusco noted that there has been improvement over the last 2 years with more consistency in the on ice-instructors. Scott also noted that the woman who runs the program has asked us what she can do for hockey and the standard response is "work on their edges". Concerns were heard regarding the lack of focus on "the transition into hockey versus skating". The consensus agreed that WYH LTS needs professional instruction. The price is right and we should retain this contractor but the instructors should consider softening their edge and be more welcome and inviting to the participants.

Skills Report

Tom Troiano reported that Wright Hockey is on board to run the WYH Skills Sessions for the upcoming season. Matt or Christian will be the lead instructors. If not available we can default back to ourselves to run the sessions. All open travel teams are invited to one or the other of the Sunday sessions including the Bantam level. The Girls-Only Program will also have their skills scheduled with Wright Hockey.

Fund Raising/50th Anniversary Report

Hugh Mullin gave an update on the upcoming Fund Raising event scheduled for 10/23. He has refined the cost and revenue projections. The admission will be set at \$50 per ticket. The capacity is 225 with the cost of the site rental at \$650 for the hours of 7-Midnite. The casino rental is \$3600 which includes staffing. Tables will be open from 8-11PM. The \$50 admission will give you an X \$ amount of play money with opportunities to buy more. Food will not be a primary offering and a budget of \$5 per attendee is planned. A program similar to the one printed for our last awards banquet needs to be generated.

Based on board input, Hugh will investigate adding some popular card games that may attract significant revenue and also move the table hours up a half hour to 7:30 to 10:30 PM to allow for the live auction. Leagues have been notified and no games will be scheduled that evening to avoid conflicts.

Hugh has taken the lead on contacting businesses but needs someone top help him with auction items. We need to secure some credible “High Profile” Items. A sub-committee to take over the auction items was proposed and then formed with Chris Goodyear, Mark Robinson and Joe Sacco volunteering their time.

Committee on By Laws and Policies and Procedures

Tom Troiano began a formal review of the proposed changes to the WYH By Laws drawn up by the By Laws Working Group.

David Hennessey and Denis O’Donnell raised concerns that the scope of the Coaches Committee’s role may be too large. The discussion was tabled as time was running out on the meeting room.

New Business

Tom Troiano announced that the member survey/data collection project will be pushed out until after our Fund Raising Event in October. Mark Robinson reported that the Winchester Community Center Committee submitted a proposal to the Board of Selectmen that involves a privately funded sports center to be built on town land. The proposed 2 acre building would include an ice rink, swimming and diving pools, etc with parking for 400 cars. The Board of Selectmen voted to continue the matter.

October Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2004, in the cafeteria of the Winchester High School, at 7 PM.

Adjournment

Mark Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by David Hennessey, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.