

NEPEAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF MEETING COVER SHEET

THE NEPEAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting – May 11, 2015

Walter Baker Cafeteria 7pm

PRESIDENT/DISTRICT CHAIR: GREG CLARKE
VICE PRESIDENT/COMPETITIVE CHAIR: STEVE BRUSH
SECRETARY: GAIL WISTAFF
REGISTRAR: JANET SHOULDICE
TREASURER: BRENT CAVES
HOUSE LEAGUE CHAIR: BRENDA NEUMAN

CRAIG SHOULDICE ARLENE CAMERON KAREN RUSSELL NICOLE KINGSBURY(regrets)
VALERIE PAUL TERRY MARTIN PATRICIA STEELE CAMERON WATTS VICKI SENS
BETH EVANS CLAUDE PROVOST MARILYN HARGREAVES(regrets) JAN FAQUET
HELEN CRAWFORD JODI PARKER DAWN DEMERS KEITH ELLARD SHANNON
CASTELLARIN SHAIL PALIWAL(regrets) CHRIS WOODCOCK PAUL WILLIAMS (regrets)
HART WOLFE(regrets)

APPOINT OF AUDITOR

First order of business is to appoint the auditor WGP Professional Corp. – Annette provided financials.

Moved by: Beth Evans Seconded by: Karen Russell carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from our previous year's Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: Patricia Steele Seconded by: Dawn Demers carried

President's Report

I'd like to thank all of you for coming to tonight's meeting. It's already been one year since I was elected President and I have to say I have enjoyed the challenge of the position. I could not have done my job without all the support of our Board. We had many new members elected last year and I can truly say that it has been an honour and a pleasure to work with you. Your commitment and dedication are second to none and I can only say thank you for everything you do.

It never ceases to amaze me how much time people are willing to volunteer to such an organization. And it not just hockey. If you watch the news section of our website, our teams and parents get themselves involved in many other worthwhile events that provide our players and parents that there is more to life than just playing hockey. For example, our Bantam A Team B played a game with the Capital City Condors, an organization dedicated to providing a hockey experience to players with developmental disabilities. Or the many teams who generously donated toys and food in our annual Christmas drive.

Even though we're a hockey association, the NMHA is a rather large business and over the course of the year, we have started a number of initiatives to improve our business processes to provide a better service to our membership.

- Widened our approved list of suppliers to 4 local vendors. This allows for better price competition and more variety for our players and parents for merchandise that carries our logo.
- We have upgraded our financial software and migrated it to an on-line hosting service to provide for wider reporting capabilities and better security.
- Changed our registration credit card payment provider to one offering better rates which will provide us a saving of about \$15,000.
- In conjunction with our ice scheduler, Mary Lou Zywicki, we instituted new software and management practices for managing ice allocations in House. This resulted in a reduction of burnt ice of approximately 165 hours (approximately \$26,000), which meant that all teams received their share of ice and the NMHA did not have to absorb the costs of this unused ice.

- Started an investigation into changing our on-line registration system.

I'd like to take this opportunity now to congratulate all the teams for such a great season and to especially congratulate the championship teams on a job well done. I didn't make it out to all the games but the ones I did attend were very exciting and fun to watch.

2015 marks our 50th anniversary of our founding. Over the 50 years that the NMHA has been in existence, it has striven to provide a place where players and parents can enjoy the game. However, our 50th anniversary season will be marked by a real challenge for the Board.

Our primary arena, Walter Baker, is scheduled to be shut down from April 17, 2016 to November 1, 2015 for maintenance which will result in the loss of about 700 hours of ice to the NMHA. To minimize the effect on our programs, the Board has taken the following steps.

- The Eric Leighton competitive tournament will be scaled back and moved from Walter Baker to the new Minto Complex.
- A number of House tournaments have been cancelled for 2015-2016 as ice must be diverted to our regular programs.
- Bantam and Midget games will be reduced from 70 to 50 minutes duration although midget will receive an increase in practice hours from 5 to 8 hours per team.

We will be working closely with the City on this issue over the summer. I would also like to thank Councilor Jan Harder who has gone to bat for us with the City Administration helping us minimize this disruption.

President's Award

It give me great pleasure to present the President's Award to Arlene Cameron. Arlene has been a House Director, a manager liaison to the House program and is now the bantam Competitive director. Her dedication is unparalleled and many parents in our bantam division began to think of her as one of them since she attended so many games this year. Arlene also puts in a great deal of time in the office assisting Gail with whatever needs to be done. Her dedication to the NMHA is very much appreciated. Congratulations Arlene.

District Chair

From an ODMHA perspective, this year has been somewhat of a disappointment. We had two physical abuse of official calls this past season; one of which resulted in a one-year suspension for one of our players. We also had far too many verbal abuse of official game misconducts and misconducts. I have found that the respect for our referees has diminished significantly with the NMHA and across the ODMHA, particularly at the midget level. It has gotten to the point that our referee community is now having difficulty recruiting new officials and without officials there can be no games.

To address this issue, we will be creating a coach/referee liaison committee headed up by Brenda Neumann and our Referee-in-Chief Cameron Watts. The objective of this committee will be to educate the coaches on rule interpretation and to set acceptable standards for coach, player and parent behaviour.

At Minor Council, there were a number of initiatives undertaken. New Midget AAA League. In conjunction with the CCHL, the ODMHA has approved a new Midget AAA League that will have 12 teams, each operated under the umbrella of a CCHL Jr. A team but managed by a governance structure that reports to the ODMHA.

- New Midget AA program. This will have all Midget AA operate as a single division with 15, 16 and 17 year olds. The B program is unaffected by this change.
- Respect in Sport – Parent Program. This a new mandatory program for all parents starting with Novice and IP for 2015-2016. This program reinforces a parent's role by encouraging positive sport behaviors and providing insight into other roles, such as coaches and officials, play. Players will not be placed on a team until 1 parent or guardian has successfully completed this on-line course.
- The transfer rules implemented a few years ago have been generally successful, so there should be no changes for the coming season.
- The ODMHA passed an amendment to their constitution which provides for more equity for the voting structure. The NMHA will now have 7 votes rather than its previous 1 vote.
- HEO will be presenting a new constitution at the AGM for ratification. Along with updating their bylaws to bring it in line with the new Ontario Noto for Profit Corporations Act, it includes method for allocating votes by player population. This vote allocation will result in equity between minor and junior.
- At last year's AGM, HEO approved a motion to increase the fees paid by every participant under their purview. The assessment fee will drop slightly next year but HEO is still trying to come to terms with years of poor financial planning and management. However, there may be light at the end of the tunnel as they plan on hiring a professional accounting firm to do the books and financial reporting.

Craig and I will continue working towards making updates to our registration system so it can be more of a full service tool for our clients.

Competitive Chair

There were 425 competitive players from Novice B to Major Midget AA.

Next season there will be a change in Novice, having Novice A and B rather than two B teams.

Tryout dates will be listed shortly. Due to the ice construction at Walter Baker there will be some changes for the next season. The younger players will start tryouts on August 16th.

Trainer – Doug Grose
AA Coach – James Hanlon
A Coach – Chris Armstrong
B Coach – Geoff Simpson
Manager – Roslyn Ross

Registrar

More members are using the online system to register. We are almost full in peewee, bantam and midget.

Treasurer

Audited financial statement for 2013-2014 has been posted on the NMHA website.

Technical Director

NIL

House League Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the board for their guidance and assistance this year. This was my first year as HL chair there was a very steep learning curve, I thank the gurus on the board for their patience and understanding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the players, families and volunteers who made this hockey season a success! As a Board, we appreciate all the time and effort from our volunteer Coaches, Managers, Trainers and parents.

Volunteers are the most important resource community organizations have. The ability of people to work willingly together for the betterment of their community and themselves is a valuable resource.

Without these dedicated people that step up year after year we would not be able to house such a large organization. 2014-2015 season: HL consisted of almost 150 teams, IP through to Juvenile. This consists of over 650 parent/non parent volunteers that give their time to insure the team is structured, organized and maintained throughout the season. Their level of commitment is a true asset to our organization and we could not operate without these volunteers each year. Each year we depend on the assistance of our student volunteers to assist us with the sort outs, tournaments and really anything that was asked of them. Many of these volunteers will become the future of the NMHA. Thank you so much for all your help.

Directors/Convenors. It is truly not an easy task to run a division but year after year, we have dedicated members that put forth a great deal of effort as well as sacrifice their family time to make sure all the teams in their division are organized in order to provide our members an enjoyable season. The Directors will typically put in over 100 hours even before the season starts! I commend them for their dedication to the NMHA.

HL Mentors. I would also like to thank Alex Sperberg and Ken Lothian our HL mentors for all their efforts and hard work this season with our HL teams. We are looking forward to another successful season to come. We will continue our focus on player development. This year we piloted a mentorship program which involved players/goalies at the older levels to come out to Novice/Atom and Peewee teams practices to help out. We will be looking to expand this Mentorship program for the upcoming year with the help of Bob Byrnes and players from the competitive program.

We will be continuing with our 50th anniversary celebrations – I encourage you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook for event listings. For example We recently had a very successful 67s day at the Nepean Sportsplex where 4 of our Novice and Atom teams got to play mini games with the Ottawa 67s as well as get autographs signed. The links can be found on our website.

Championship Teams. I would like to congratulate all the championship teams. Thanks to all teams for such exciting hockey during the round robin, finials and championship games. We no longer have trophies but – on the second level of Walter Baker we have a houses plaque with the names of the winners each year.

A coach of the year Brad Venebles
B coach of the year Chad Beddie
C coach of the year Peter Kelly
MGR of the year Shawn Blank
Volunteer of the year Todd Reeves
Trainer – Sue Lecour
Midget Goalie Mitchell Shahan

Referee in Chief

There will development and mentorship for young officials. Cameron is hoping to exceed 500 supervisions this season for house league and competitive programs. Caise Chandler received the most deserving award. There are 27 candidates for new officials and 16 of those will be chosen.

Volunteers

NIL

Risk & Safety

Chris noted that police checks are good for three years. Chris is organizing a Police Records check day in October with the NGHHA. For those who do not attend that day, they should get the Volunteer letter from the office so there is no charge.

Sweaters

NIL

General Business

NIL

ELECTION TO THE 2015-2016 NMHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The following directors are returning and are not required to run for election:

President: Greg Clarke

Vice President: Steve Brush

Past President: Karen Russell

Life Time Board Member: Hart Wolf

The following Board members returned for their second term:

Janet Shouldice, Arlene Cameron, Brent Caves, Nicole Kingsbury, Claude Provost, Terry Martin, Shail Paliwal, Patricia Steele, Cameron Watts, Brenda Neumann, Vicki Sen, Dawn Demers, Beth Evans, Chris Woodcock, Paul Williams, Keith Ellard, Jan Fequet, Helen Crawford, Jodi Parker, Shannon Castellarin

The following directors were elected for a two year term from May 11th 2015.

Craig Shouldice, Valerie Paul, Gail Wistaff, Marilyn Hargreaves

Winners of the free registration for 2015/2016 were:

- 1) Andrew Kerry
- 2) Brandon Reinisch
- 3) Terry Martin

Move to adjourn Craig Shouldice and seconded by Lorna MacIsaac. Carried.

DRAFT