

# ***RAIDERS***

## **NMHA Annual General Meeting**

Minutes

May 7, 2018

**Present:** Greg Clarke, Brenda Neumann, Wendy Tyman, Helen Crawford, Craig Shouldice

**Regrets:** Steve Brush, Jodi Parker, Hart Wolfe (Life Member)

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### **1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Motion to approve minutes from the 2017 Special General Meeting as presented.

Motion by Claude Provost seconded by Terry Martin

Motion carried.

- b. Motion to approve minutes from the 2017 Annual General Meeting as presented.

Motion by Lincoln MacDonald seconded by Steve Brown

Motion carried.

### **2. Financial Report**

- a. Brodie Rember of WGP Professional Corporation presented an overview of the financial statements for the year ending May 2017. He noted that it was a clean audit and there were very few differences in financial position from the year ending May 2016.

- b. Motion to accept the financial statements of 2016-2017 as presented by Chantal Brule seconded by Shawn Blank.

Carried

### **3. Appointment of Auditor**

- a. Motion to appoint WGP Professional Corporation as the auditor for the NMHA for 2017-2018.

Motion by Brenda Neumann seconded by Arlene Cameron.

Motion carried.

#### **4. Presentation of Awards**

The following awards were presented for the Competitive program:

AA Coach of the Year - Gord Weatherall  
A Coach of the Year- Craig Boville  
B Coach of the Year - Art Marcotte  
Manager of the Year - Maggie Ziade  
Trainer of the Year - William Hum

The following awards were presented for the House program:

A Coach of the Year - Pat Crawford  
B Coach of the Year - Jason Lehman  
C Coach of the Year - Kevin Smith  
Manager of the Year - Steve Brown  
Trainer of the Year - Steve Laflamme  
Midget B Goalie - Matthew Billyard  
Volunteer of the Year - Darcy Bronson

The following members of the NMHA Board were recognized for their service upon their retirement:

Karen Russell (Past President)  
Craig Shouldice (Member-at-Large)  
Steve Brush (VP (Competitive))

#### **5. President's Address**

I'd like to thank all of you for coming to tonight's meeting. Tonight, marks my last report as president and I have enjoyed the challenge of the position. I could not have done my job without all the support of our Board. We have an excellent team and I can truly say that it has been an honour and a pleasure to work with all of you. Your commitment and dedication are second to none and I can only say thank you for everything you do.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers without whom the Nepean Minor Hockey Association could not function. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all the coaches, assistant coaches, managers, trainers and all the other volunteers who made the season a success.

This past year was marred by situations that were entirely negative and consumed much energy that should have been directed towards the development of our programs.

There was an attempt by the president of HEO to disband the HEO Minor Executive and remove any voice of minor hockey Associations, parents and players from the administration of minor hockey within our Branch. HEO Minor, which had the strong support of the NMHA, ultimately prevailed with Hockey Canada but the time and energy it consumed ultimately resulted in a wasted year in the development of our programs, particularly at the competitive level.

The NMHA and HEO Minor were the defendants in human rights complaint filed by one of our members. The complaint was settled by mediation in October of 2017 with the applicant agreeing

that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the NMHA. I would like to note that the significant legal fees involved in settling this complaint were covered by our Director's liability insurance from Hockey Canada and no NMHA funds were used.

You will note that the fees for our Hockey Canada insurance will be increasing approximately \$5/participant next year. Approximately half of the increase is for liability insurance as people increasing look to the courts or administrative tribunals to settle disputes.

On a more positive note, the success of the Little Sens Learn to Play program has developed into a good recruitment program for the NMHA. 38% of the participants in the 2017 session registered to play hockey in the NMHA this year. Another positive effect was the reduction of withdrawals from our IP program. This kind of programming resulting in the NMHA having an increase in registration this year where many other surrounding Association saw their membership declining.

2017-2018 also saw the NMHA register its first Syrian refugee player. The player, who transferred into the NMHA from West End since they had reached capacity, was described by his coach Kevin Smith as "a very kind and nice young man" who asked innumerable questions on how to improve his hockey skills. Mohamad ended up the season with 2 goals and 7 assists which is quite an accomplishment for a player starting hockey at 15. Should he wish to play in the NMHA again next year, he would be more than welcome.

Lastly, 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 see all the games but I'm sure they were very exciting as parents could be heard cheering throughout the hallways.

#### **President's Award.**

The President's award was presented to co-winners Steve Brush and Craig Shouldice.

#### **District Chair's Report**

The NMHA had 100% of our registered IP and Novice players' parents complete the course. We have noted a drop in parental incidents since the introduction of the course.

The Gender Diversity program, required qualifications for coaches and trainers was extended to all bench staff. We achieved 100% coverage of this program.

The transfer rules implemented a few years ago have been generally successful, so there should be no changes for the coming season. We transferred 11 NMHA players to other Associations to allow them to join competitive teams after they had been released from NMHA tryouts.

We will begin preparing next season to transition the Novice program to half-ice as mandated by Hockey Canada. I have been asked to participate on the HEO Development Committee and the Novice Task team.

## **6. Correspondence**

None.

## 7. Notice of Motions

None.

## 8. Directors/Committee Reports

### a. Vice President (Competitive)

I would like to start by thanking the competitive committee, Kathi Moran, Keith Ellard, Claude Provost, Nicole Kingsbury and our technical director, Bob Byrnes for their dedication to the competitive program. A special thank you to Steve Brush, VP competitive, who has been our fearless leader since 2012 and previous to that he was a competitive director.

This year, in my opinion, was a very successful year for our program. Out of our 25 competitive teams, we had 19 teams qualify for the playoffs and out of those 19 teams, 9 made it to the final round, with three emerging as champions. Congratulations to Harry Mews and his minor peewee AAs, Jeff Mercier and his major peewee AAs, and Art Marcotte and his major bantam Bs. Congratulations also goes to Keith MacEwen and his major atom B team that emerged as the B consolation champions and the two teams that qualified for the branch championship, held at Richcraft Easter weekend. The teams were major peewee B white, coached by Paul Campbell and major bantam B, coached by Art Marcotte.

Rebecca Shewfelt, our competitive manager liaison, also took on the organization of our Raiders Day this year. She did an amazing job and we can't wait to see what she has up her sleeve for next year.

### b. Registrar Report

Registration fees will increase for 2018-19 season as follows:

Initiation - \$480  
Novice - \$560  
Atom - \$560  
Peewee - \$575  
Bantam - \$575  
Midget - \$520  
Juvenile - \$460

### c. Vice President (House)

It has been a very busy year, one filled with lots of learning as many of the HL Team were new to their positions, including me.

We are a huge organization that takes a lot of people to keep things moving. We had 139 teams from IP to Juvenile representing 2460 players and 792 volunteers. 792 volunteers is an amazing number and I would like to thank them all for the commitment to the NMHA. As an organization who depends on volunteers, we could not do what we do without your hard work and dedication to minor hockey. I would also like to thank all of the student volunteers

that helped out this season during those early morning sort outs, and throughout the season working with a team and sharing your experiences.

I would like to congratulate all of our championship teams and those that went on to win Grand Finals or Super finals. All of the championship plaques in the display case are updated with all the winning teams. I would also like to commend all teams on successful season. I went out and watched a number of games during the round robin and playoffs and was witness to some great sportsmanship, positive coaching, and exciting hockey.

This year we continued with the successful goaltender training program with the Dave Stathos Goalie Performance Centre, where every registered goaltender had the opportunity to attend 3 training sessions. We had 99 goalies take advantage of the program.

This year we were again fortunate for the services of our Coach Mentor, Alex Sperberg. Alex not only spent his time on the ice with over 40 teams, he took on an additional role as Head Coach in Novice. Alex is working on some new resources for our new coaches next season as well as some other initiatives to offer increased support to our coaches. I would also like to acknowledge Tom Jones who spearheaded our goalie mentor program, and we look forward to expanding the program next year.

We introduced some new initiatives this year that I would like to highlight:

- In the Novice C Program, we introduced a development strategy that allowed coaches to be on the ice during games which allowed for easier coaching, player positioning and extra support to those players who needed it. It was initially launched as a 3-week trial, but after overwhelming support from the coaches we extended it for the entire first half of the season, and we will look to continue this practice next season. We would like to thank the NMHA Officials for being supportive of this idea.
- In Bantam and Midget, we piloted a new 3 penalty rule policy. This policy saw any player receiving 3 infractions during a game ejected on receiving the 3rd infraction. The goal of this rule was to discourage repeat penalties, to calm games and remove repeat offenders before escalation occurred and holding players accountable for their on-ice behaviour. We piloted this rule for the second half of the season in the two divisions, and we received overwhelming support from coaches, parents and even players who felt we were taking a positive step in ensuring player safety on the ice and providing coaches with a mechanism to calm down players before an ejection occurred. We hope to expand this program next year to include all division from Atom up, since part of the feedback we received was why we weren't doing it in all divisions. We thank the NMHA Officials and timekeepers for their support during this pilot.
- We initiated a new sort out process this season that drastically reduced the number of hours that directors had to spend manually sorting and logging evaluation results. Typically for every hour of sort out ice that a director had they could expect to spend an additional hour to an hour and half sorting those evaluations in a very short time frame, in preparation for the next weekends sort outs. After working out the kinks in the first week, this new program took that process of tallying the evaluations down from 25plus hours to a mere 20-25 minutes. And after listening to feedback from our coaches, we are now expanding that program to add a coach evaluation component,

so that the coach evaluations from the previous year will be implemented into the beginning of the sort out process for the next season. The HL Team extends its deepest gratitude to Darcy Bronson, who spear headed this program by volunteering to develop and write this program, spending countless hours working on it, and he continues to work on as we moved through the season.

- Finally, we implemented an end of season survey in each division from Novice to Midget to get feedback on the season, and ways we can improve our processes. The survey went to all coaches and team level volunteers asking for their feedback and we received over 130 responses. Recognizing that some of the suggestions that were brought forward would be impossible to implement we are reviewing all suggestions and looking at ways we can improve what we do.

I would like to take the time now to acknowledge some folks who helped us deliver an exceptional hockey program to our kids.

A gigantic thank you to Dave Vesey and his team of IP instructors who yet again delivered an amazing program to all of our little Timbits. They provide the stepping stone for what we hope will be a long NMHA experience for these players, and I am sure you will all agree it is an innovative and fun experience for all. Who knew you could play hockey with a rubber chicken. I would also like to thank Karen Russell for her time as IP Coordinator.

I would like to thank Jan Fequet who coordinates our tournaments. Jan does a tremendous amount of advance work to put these together, and is crucial to the success of each weekend, not to mention taking on the responsibility of hosting the Juvenile tournaments. We will be making some changes to our tournaments next season including adding a Midget A tournament so stay tuned for those next seasons.

On a personal note I would like to thank Greg Clarke for all of his support this season. As someone who was new to this role, he was a wealth of information for me, and my go-to with any question or issue I had and there were many of them.

And finally, I would not be here celebrating the success of another great season without the amazing HL team, who worked tirelessly through the season to ensure that all programs ran smoothly. Chantal Brule, Shawn Blank, John Mason, Patricia Steele, Stephen Keiwan, Jan Fequet and Allison McBrine. Without the commitment of these wonderful people along with their convenors, House League would just not be able to function and there are no words to describe my gratitude for all their hard work and dedication, as well as their support and patience as I learned the ropes. We are so fortunate to have volunteers such as yourselves to take on the enormous task of managing a division within House League.

#### **d. Vice President (Operations)**

The NMHA will be going forward with a number of changes to its information technology infrastructure. The Association has acquired a new domain name which will be integrated the website and also email accounts. The domain is nepeanminorhockey.ca. All volunteers who play a major role within the association will be provided an account which includes President, VP, Directors, administrators, convenors and risk and safety positions.

We hope this will improve communication within the association and help the volunteers in their roles during the hockey year.

We also will be upgrading our website and will have launched by September to improve its communication to our membership.

Clinics for next season are being finalized (awaiting ice confirmation) but the halls have been booked for the following dates:

- Sept 15/16 for Dev 1 (1 week later this year to allow the competitive teams to know their rosters and get the coaches in)
- October 20/21 for Coach 1 and Coach 2
- November 4 for Coach 2.

Dates will be added to the HEO and NMHA websites as soon as we have ice confirmed so people can start to sign up early.

Ice rates will increase \$10 to \$195 for 2018-2019.

**e. Referee in Chief**

THE officiating program performed over 900 supervisions to promote development which was top-3 in the Branch. Additionally, we have 14 officials working centrally assigned or with Junior hockey.

This was our first year with a standardized complaint/compliment form, this allowed us to focus supervision efforts on officials in need

Officials Bryson Beauchamp and Joshua Lapierre were awarded the inaugural NMHAOP Bursary for their academic and officiating excellence.

We have had 63 applicants for 14-16 spots as new officials for 2018-19. Interviews will take place this month.

**f. Risk and Safety**

Nothing to report.

**9. General Business**

None.

**10. Election to the 2018-2019 Board of Directors**

The following members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve a 2-year term

President - Brenda Neumann (acclaimed)

Vice President (Finance) – Wendy Tyman (acclaimed)

Vice President (Competitive) – Arlene Cameron (acclaimed)  
Member-at-Large Patricia Steele (acclaimed)

### **11. Registration Draw**

The winners of a free registration for the 2017-2018 season are:

- 1) Rebecca Trudel-Shore
- 2) Barb Campagna
- 3) Alyn March

### **12. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Claude Provost seconded by Shawn Blank.

Carried