

RAIDERS

NMHA Annual General Meeting

Minutes

May 13, 2019

Present: Brenda Neumann, Wendy Tyman, Helen Crawford, Jodi Parker, Patricia Steele, Terry Martin, Arlene Cameron, Greg Clarke

Regrets: Hart Wolfe (Life Member)

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting as presented.

Motion by Lincoln MacDonald seconded by Claude Provost

Motion carried.

2. Financial Report

- a. Alan Gutman of WGP Professional Corporation presented an overview of the financial statements for the year ending May 2018. He noted that it was a clean audit and there were very few differences in financial position from the fiscal year ending May 2018.

- b. Motion to accept the financial statements of 2017-2018 as presented.

Motion by Helen Crawford and seconded by Terry Martin

Carried.

3. Appointment of Auditor

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

Motion by Patricia Steele and seconded by Terry Martin.

Carried.

4. Presentation of Awards

The following individuals were the recipients of the NMHA Educational Bursary

Alex Bauer and Rajan Singh

The following awards were presented for the Competitive program:

AA Coach of the Year – Chad Hartnell

B Coach of the Year - Keith MacEwan

Manager of the Year – Eric Ho

Trainer of the Year - Nabil Bechaalani

The following awards were presented for the House program:

A Coach of the Year - Jason Chatland

B Coach of the Year - Matthew Mahoney

C Coach of the Year - Mike Hubbard

Manager of the Year – Jeff Hill

Trainer of the Year - Stu Schwartz

Midget B Goalie - Lucas Norman

Volunteer of the Year – Rebecca Shewfelt

5. President's Address

I'd like to thank all of you for coming to tonight's meeting. Tonight, is my first 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.

We faced some challenges this year, especially concerning the City and ice. Nepean Sportsplex 1 was shut down for months longer than was originally scheduled. This resulted in a loss of almost 300 hours of ice for our Association. As a result, we were given ice at times that were not always convenient as well as locations that we did not regularly frequent. I would like to thank our teams for their patience during this time. Emma worked tirelessly with the City to recoup lost ice, I would like to extend a special thank you to her, she worked many extra evenings and weekends to ensure our teams were looked after. We also lost a weeks' worth of ice due to the tornado. We were unable to hold and even reschedule the last weekend of HL sort outs. Our divisional directors did a great job of getting teams together, ready for the start of the season.

Ice Increase – The City has informed us that they will be implementing an unplanned 2% increase in ice beginning in September. In addition, HEO will be increasing their participant rate. As such: Ice

rental Registration fees, which were slated to increase \$5 across the board will now be increased by \$10.

Ice rental rates for NMHA teams will be \$200.

We had many positive events happen his year, we partnered with the Ottawa Senators, selling tickets at a reduced cost allowing teams to fundraise by selling them at a small increase. We were able to abolish the minimum number of tickets a team needed to sell, and instead rewarded teams that sold the most. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

We also partnered with the Ottawa 67s, we had them out to Walter Baker for a Community practice. Half of the 67s team ran a practice with some of our teams while the other half signed autographs. We had a fantastic turnout! We will be looking to do this again this year.

Our Association was featured on Hometown Hockey with Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan. The event took place at Algonquin College. Despite the rain and cold we had a great turnout during the weekend as well as at the Parade of Champions.

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 Stephen Keiwan.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Notice of Motions

None.

8. Directors/Committee Reports

a. Vice President Competitive (Arlene Cameron)

There is an incredible team of volunteers that help put our competitive program together. I would first like to thank the members of the Competitive Committee; Kathi Moran, Keith Ellard, Claude Provost and Nicole Kingsbury who dedicate their time to keep things moving in the right direction. I also thank the contribution of our Technical Director, Bob Byrnes, for his guidance, not only with the Committee, but also to the coaches that they know they have someone to count on for advice. Special thanks to Rebecca Shewfelt for her efforts as manager liaison and her leadership in the organization of Raider Day.

Our program would not be a success without the efforts of the 156 volunteers who comprise the coaching staffs of our 25 teams.

The NMHA enjoyed considerable success on the ice this year with four regular season champions; (Minor Peewee B Black, Minor Bantam B Black, Major Bantam AA and Minor Midget AA). 23 of 25 teams qualified for the playoffs and of those 23, 9 teams made the final round of the playoffs with four capturing championships. Congratulations to Minor Atom A (Steve Bennett), Minor Peewee B Black (Keith MacEwan), Minor Peewee AA (Chad Hartnell) and Major Bantam AA (Kyle Platt).

The following individuals have accepted head coaching positions for 2019-2020.

Novice Tier 1 – Andrew Gibson, Joseph Carpinone
Minor Atom A – David Coady
Minor Atom B – Marc Ethier, TBD
Major Atom AA – Matthew Henderson
Major Atom A – Mark Kingsbury
Major Atom B – Ernie Chechetto, Colin Snell
Minor Peewee AA – Harry Mews
Minor Peewee A – Bryan Wood
Minor Peewee B – Frank Trudel, Stephanie Menard
Major Peewee AA – Nicola Gargaro
Major Peewee B – Keith MacEwan, Kevin Lefebvre
Minor Bantam AA – Paul Shibata
Minor Bantam B - Chris Diedrich, Lincoln MacDonald
Major Bantam AA – Tony Carbonette
Major Bantam B – Patrick Sum
Minor Midget AA – Joe Wiseman
Minor Midget B – Chris Armstrong
Major Midget AA – Steve Brush
Major Midget B – Ivo Arena

b. Vice President House (Helen Crawford)

The 2018 season was supposed to be an easier year than the one before. I was heading into my second year as VP House, 6 out of our 8 directors were returning, we knew what we were doing, and we were ready. But mother nature had other ideas and so while we were not without our challenges, we continued to learn and adapt as things came our way.

What was supposed to be a smooth start to the season was marred by the loss of the Yzerman arena for several months which made for some scheduling challenges during both sort outs and the first half of the season. This was followed by the devastating Tornado that hit our community and knocked out the power to all our arenas but one. Throw in a broken down Zamboni or two, and we were forced to adapt to a shortened sort out process which meant the all of the house league directors had to work extra hard to ensure teams were balanced based on only two weekends of results rather than the usual three. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the HL team during this time. Chantal Brule, Shawn Blank, John Mason, Shayne Benoit and Stephen Keiwan worked tirelessly during the balancing process to try to ensure their teams were balanced despite missing a week's worth of sort out data. Being a House League directors is probably one of the most demanding roles in the NMHA, and while many of you see the hours that these directors put in at the rinks, you don't see the countless hours they put in behind the scenes, often at the expense

of their own families, in order to ensure that all players within their division had a positive and rewarding experience. I for one am profoundly grateful for all of their hard work and dedication.

I would also like to acknowledge Allison McBrine for all her hard work as Manager Liaison and Jan Fequet for her work as tournament and Juvenile director. Jan has decided to step away from her role taking care of tournaments, but we are grateful that she has decided to remain overseeing Juvenile and will be able to benefit from her experience as we welcome Karen Turner as the new Tournament Director.

House League also welcomed Jodi Parker to the team overseeing the Initiation program. She will touch on the successes that were had there but she was a welcome addition to the team – and could always be counted on to bring the refreshments!

I would like to highlight some of the activities that we undertook in HL this season.

- We continued our goalie training program with over 90 goalies taking advantage of the program;
- We continued our Coach Mentor program with Alex Sperberg and thank him for a great season working with all our teams, particularly those in Novice C. The coach mentor contract is currently up for renewal and we have posted an RFP for the new contract. Applications are due by May 30th and information can be found on the NMHA website. I would also like to thank Tom Jones for his work with the goalie Mentor program.
- We piloted the half ice Novice program in Novice C this year. Piloting it a year before it is set to roll out across Hockey Canada, allowed us the opportunity to see how it would work and make any adjustments that were needed. We are grateful for the patience of the Novice C players and families as we adjusted from 10 team to 8 early in the season. The half ice program was a resounding success and those who were reluctant about the idea at the beginning of the season, quickly became believers when they witnessed how quickly their players developed. I would like to send a huge thank you to the entire Novice division of Chantal, Erin, Jennifer and Lisa who also planned a wonderful fun day to wrap up the season.
- After a successful pilot of the three-infraction rule last season, we expanded to rule to include all divisions from Atom to Juvenile, as well as all home games with interlock teams from Kanata and West End.
- We continued to work on policies towards our rules of play, including developing a HL Director job description, defining what constitutes a complete game, and updating our player allocation policy,
- And finally, after receiving consistent feedback from our coaches, we are currently working with a new player evaluation form that will allow the coaches feedback to be integrated into the sort out process for the following season, to allow directors better perspective on where to start players.

- I would like to congratulate all our teams on successful season and while they may not have all ended with a medal, I hope that everyone was able to take away something positive away from a season well played. A special congratulation to all our championship teams and those that went on to with their Grand final or Superfinal.
- House League accounts for most of our players, teams and volunteers. It takes closes to 800 volunteers at both the team level and the division level, to ensure that house league can operate smoothly, and I wish I could thank each an everyone of you personally for your commitment and dedication. We are blessed with some of the very best volunteers, and I hope that you continue to share your time and passion for the NMHA with our players.

Finally, I would like to thank Emma Grimes for all her work with scheduling, not only adapting to the new Half ice program, but for all the challenges she was met with along the way. I would also like to personally thank Brenda, Greg, Patricia and all my House League directors that I mentioned earlier, who supported me this season, especially when I experienced a personal loss in my family. I believe we accomplished a lot this year to be proud of and I look forward to working with all of you next year. I would also like to especially thank Stephen who is stepping away from his role as Midget Director. I hope you know that you are going, having left a huge mark and if you ever change your mind, there will always be a place for you.

c. Vice President Operations (Terry Martin)

Thanks & appreciations to Vicki Sen for organizing the coaching clinics, year-end plaques and awards, Shannon Barkhouse for handling the ice scheduling for the competitive division and Emma Grimes for coordinating all the NMHA with the city of Ottawa and overseeing the HL ice, as well as dealing with loos of ice with the Nepean Sportsplex.

Also I would like to thank Rebecca Shewfelt for her efforts as the Manager Liaison for the competitive teams and Allison McBrine, the Liaison of HL teams - for assisting the team managers and coaches with their questions.

A special thanks from to Rebecca, Allison and Allison's daughter, Victoria, who were a great help with the sweater drops this season.

Next season the Midget Competitive teams and the Midget HL teams will be issuing new jerseys with the new logos. The cost for these sweaters was \$64798.54 for the 26 teams. With this change we will be able to replace the Bantam B Red Sweaters with the current Black sweaters.

The purchase of the new jerseys is very large investment for NMHA and its membership. Our objective is to have these new sweaters in circulation for at least five seasons. However, 80% of the effort to ensure these sweaters are in circulation for five years is on the shoulders of our membership. When I refer to membership, I am referring to the players, coaches, team managers, trainers and parents, to ensure that sweaters are handled properly, not thrown in the equipment bag where the sweaters could be cut by skate blades and helmet cages. not

to be used to dry off the skate blades. As well washed during season and before the sweaters are handed in at the end of the season.

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

d. Referee in Chief (Nico Bidin)

No Report.

e. Member-at-Large (Jodi Parker)

Initiation Program

We had a great season in IP this year. We had 18 teams and approximately 312 players. Our head instructor, David Vesey, continues to set the bar, and we are known as one of the best IP programs in the city.

We continued our partnership with the Ottawa Senators in running the Nepean area Sens Learn to Play program. This is an introductory program, whereby participants receive full hockey equipment and 10 hours of instructional time for a very affordable price. As hosts we run the on-ice portion with our IP instructors led by Dave. This year's program had almost 50 participants. Based on past years, we hope this will generate approximately 30% new registrations for us in the fall at the IP and Novice level. In addition, we received approximately a net gain of \$5,000 which will be allocated to IP and player/volunteer/goalie development across the NMHA. We have informed the Senators we will be happy to host again next season.

Sponsorship Program

This season we implemented a new sponsorship program with the aim of providing our sponsors with greater profile in the community and providing our teams with a financial benefit. We moved to a tiered sponsorship program with Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship levels. The biggest change for teams was the elimination of sponsor tags for jerseys except at the Platinum level on a multi-year commitment, and the increase in sponsorship dollars from \$50 to \$250 per team. Teams and the association each benefitted by approximately \$14,000 from our generous sponsors. It was a learning year with the new program, and there are tweaks and improvements to make for next season.

Social Media

Helen and I took over the administration of the NMHA's Facebook & Twitter accounts this season. This is a work in progress; however, we have made great strides in increasing our followers and engagements on both platforms. I would estimate we have almost doubled our followers on Twitter. Going forward we will continue to try and extend our reach both within our community and across the district. We hope to showcase our sponsors, more team & individual successes and follow our alumni as they progress through the various levels of junior and professional hockey, as well as our volunteers who are doing amazing things in the community – hockey-related and otherwise.

Volunteer Recognition

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Night was a success. Some changes to VAN over the past two years include moving the event out of tournament season so that more teams are in town and offering complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. This year we saw a record number of nominations – over 165 - which tells us that our coaches, bench staff and team managers are nothing short of amazing.

f. Member-at Large - Risk and Safety (Patricia Steele)

Patricia noted that she had achieved 100% coverage with all NMHA volunteers having a valid Police Records Check.

g. District Chair (Greg Clarke)

Most of my activities this year were directed to several projects at HEO and HEO Minor regarding the implementation of a two major changes in hockey across the Branch.

I participated as a member of the Board of Governors for the Midget AAA pilot. The Board of Governors were charged with evaluating the Midget AAA League and to make a recommendation to Minor Council on its continued operation. The Board of Governors, with the support of the CCHL, has made a significant number of changes in the League operations, particularly with the financial oversight. Minor Council has adopted the League as a permanent fixture within HEO Minor beginning with the 2020-2021 season as the pilot ends in 2019-2020.

At the request of the HEO Development Committee, I Chaired the Novice Task team for the implementation of the new Novice 4-on-4 format which will begin next season. We also conducted a pilot of the new format in our Novice C Division this past year and the feedback has been positive on the development of the players.

For other HEO initiatives, the NMHA was a model for other Districts

- The NMHA had 100% of our registered IP and Novice players' parents complete 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 16 NMHA players to other Associations to allow them to join competitive teams after they had been released from NMHA tryouts. We also welcomed 38 players from outside of Hockey Eastern Ontario who moved into Nepean.

2018-2019 saw an alarming increase in the number of incidents across HEO Minor where players were assessed Gross Misconducts for uttering slurs of a racial or sexual orientation

nature. In response, HEO Minor has increased the minimum suspension for this infraction from three games to a minimum five games.

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.

Vice President (House) – Helen Crawford (acclaimed)
Vice President (Operations) – Terry Martin (acclaimed)
Member-at-Large - Jodi Parker (acclaimed)

11. Registration Draw

The winners of a free registration for the 2019-2020 season are:

- 1) Meredith De Mora
- 2) Stephen Keiwan

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Craig Shouldice seconded by Claude Provost

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.