

RAIDERS

NMHA Annual General Meeting

Minutes

May 17, 2022

Via Videoconference

Present: Brenda Neumann, Wendy Tyman, Helen Tyson, Jodi Parker, Stephen Keiwan, Pat Lam, Arlene Cameron, Greg Clarke, Tim Nolan, Rebecca Shewfelt

Regrets: Hart Wolfe (Life Member)

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve minutes from the June 24, 2021, Special General Meeting as presented.

Motion by Rebecca Shewfelt seconded by Pat Lam.

Carried.

- b. Motion to approve minutes from the June 24, 2021, Annual General Meeting as presented.

Motion by Greg Clarke Seconded by Stephen Keiwan.

Carried.

2. Financial Report

- a. Annette Jensen of MKP Professional Corporation presented an overview of the financial statements for the year ending May 2021.

- b. Motion to accept the financial statements of 2020-2021 as presented.

Motion by Jodi Parker Seconded by Stephen Keiwan.

Carried.

3. Appointment of Auditor

- a. Motion to appoint MKP Professional Corporation as the auditor for the NMHA for 2021-2022.

Motion by Wendy Tyman seconded by Arlene Cameron.

Carried.

4. President's Address

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to welcome everyone to our 2022 AGM.

This is my first address as the president of the NMHA, although with the year it has been I feel like I have been doing it for much longer. It was yet another season of uncertainty and if I had to assign a theme to the season it would be “adaptability”. We started out hopeful that hockey would begin to return to “normal”, but the omicron variant had other plans! We unfortunately had to face another shut down of programming, although much briefer and we were able to see our season through to the end, with just a few missing pieces like picture day and hosting our Tournaments.

I want to thank our membership - our families and players for their patience as we once again found ourselves navigating uncertain waters, and without your willingness to adapt to the changes that were necessary, we would not have been able to get so much accomplished.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to our volunteers, who once again stepped up to take on positions at the team levels – coaching, managing, and acting as trainers, despite the uncertainty of how the season would play out. We are grateful for your willingness to step up and step in and provide a hockey experience for our players that we hope was a memorable one despite the pandemic. We could not do the things that we do without your dedication!

I would also like to acknowledge those volunteers that step up and take on the bigger roles that are needed in order to get the season started, running and finalized. These roles are time consuming and often thankless. The division convenors, directors, and the board of directors who devote countless hours, hours spent away from their families to help further the cause of the NMHA. You faced a season of uncertainty and were always willing to make adjustments to work already done, schedules already made, and plans already in place, sometimes with a moments notice. There are not enough accolades to acknowledge all that you have done this past season.

And if you would indulge me I would like to make personal mention of some of the people that went above and beyond this season and helped to keep the NMHA running during very trying times.

- Our past President Brenda Neumann who made the decision to step down last summer and therefore did not get the send-off that she deserved. I don't think there is a volunteer position with the NMHA that you have not done – manager, director, VP and Board member. And despite your many years of service you did not take retirement quietly and were always quick to offer help and support this past season.
- Stephen Keiwan who once again worked closely with Ottawa Public Health and became our authority and guiding light for all things Covid. Without your guidance and insight this season would have looked very different.
- To all our retiring directors – Chantal Brule, Erin McMullen, John Mason, Stephen Keiwan, Tim Nolan and Wendy Tyman. You represent the best of us, and your combined years of commitment to the NMHA is amazing! We wish you the best in wherever your hockey road takes you and we hope that you look back on your time with the NMHA with pride for all that you accomplished!

I would like to thank the NMHAOP for the willingness to adapt this season. The two years of the pandemic had taken its toll on them as well, with many experienced officials choosing not to return and despite the uncertainty that caused, they were able to hire, train and supervise enough officials to keep this season going, as well as successfully implementing the Green arm band program. I would like to thank Nico Bidin for his time as Referee-in-Chief and welcome Jeff Deavy as our new RIC

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Head Coach Tony Zaine who was selected as one of the seasons Coaches of the Week by HEO, Pat Lam our VP of Operations who was featured by Hockey Canada for Asian Heritage Month, our generous sponsors for all their support of our teams and our operations, and finally to our all of our teams who won tournaments and playoffs – I congratulate you all.

So, we look ahead to what we hope are brighter days – we anticipate opening registration on June 1st, and we are currently looking at the missed ice times from last season and will be communicating news of potential credits shortly. We have also had many questions about continuing the vaccine mandate and that will be addressed over the summer once the new board is in place. We look forward to welcoming you back for the 2022-23 season, a season where the NMHA can operate at full capacity again, including hosting tournaments, pictures days and other development programs.

President's Award

This year award is presented to Shawn Blank. Shawn began volunteering in the NMAH in 2013 and has filled many roles from division Convenor to head coach and has become an integral part of the House team. It is said the volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless, and this could not be truer in Shawn's case. Congratulations.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Notice of Motions

None.

7. Directors/Committee Reports

a. Vice President Competitive (Arlene Cameron)

2021-2022 was almost/or as challenging as 2020-2021. We are extremely thankful for all the work put in by our Ice Schedulers Emma Grimes and Gray Savoie, so again, Thank you both. Also, to our teams that rolled with the punches as we had to adjust on the fly to the changes in schedules due to COVID 19. Your understanding and cooperation were much appreciated.

It is said that a Leader is only as good as those around them. That is so true of the Competitive team that I have been fortunate to work with again this year. Thank you to Bob, Nicole, Steve, Tony, Maggie, and Claude for their countless hours during tryouts, games & meetings, always keeping the members best interest at heart with any decisions we have had to make. Just getting through tryouts alone requires countless hours at the rink supporting our coaches and evaluators, not to mention staying awake until all hours to post continuations as the coaches decide who moves on in the tryouts.

Highlights this year were the two teams that won the Regional Silver Stick in Pembroke, earning them a place at the International Silver stick. Congratulations to U 13B Black and U14 B White. Unfortunately, U13B Black had the International tournament cancelled, so the team missed out on this prestigious event.

We had 3 NMHA B teams win the Championship of their division. I was fortunate to be able to attend 2 of the 3 final games. Congratulations to Chris Armstrong, and his U 18B team. Kurt Combden and his U 14B Black team, and finally Chris Emery and his U15B team.

We look forward to a normal season next year, with little or no interruptions

2022-2023 Coaches

U9A Black	TBD
U9A White	TBD
U10A	Eric Harper
U10B Black	Terry Amodio
U10B White	TBD based on registration
U11AA	Kyle Barber
U11A	Greg Burnett
U11B	Richard Duguay
U12AA	Joseph Carpinone
U12B Black	Dale Horch
U12B White	TBD based on registration
U13AA	Tony Riccutti
U13B Black	Chris Jones
U13B White	TBD based on registration
U14AA	Jonathan Al-Aaraj
U14B Black	Pending acceptance
U14B White	TBD based on registration
U15AA	Dylan Sharpley
U15B	Kurt Combden
U16AA	Brad Kuruliak
U16B	Chris Emery
U18AA	Lincoln MacDonald
U18B	TBD

Competitive Program Awards

Congratulations to the following recipients.

AA Coach of the Year	Nicola Gargaro
B Coach of the Year	Chris Armstrong
Trainer of the Year	Todd Cosgrove
Manager of the Year	Andrea McDonald

b. Vice President House (Jodi Parker)

This year was not a normal I want to start off by thanking everyone – players, families and volunteers – for their kindness, patience and understanding this year. Although we were back to “normal hockey” there were still many challenges along the way this season, and everything seemed somewhat new again as we navigated the twists and turns once again brought to us by covid.

With a return to play from the bubble concept of 2020-21, it felt like decades had passed since we conducted the regular activities of a hockey season. So much heavy lifting this season was done by the house league advisory team of Chantal Brule, Dave Vesey, Jen Emery, Erin (Lehman) McMullan, Shawn Blank, John Mason and Sue Lecour. In my first year as VP House, I leaned heavily on the experience of returning directors and I wish to personally thank them. In addition, our team couldn't have functioned without the support of our convenors and my fellow board members, whether it was reconciling jersey deposits, ordering awards and plaques, arranging jersey pick ups, exchanges, drop offs, scheduling coach and goalie mentoring sessions and contact tracing for Ottawa Public Health, I owe a debt of gratitude to our President Helen Tyson, VP Competitive Arlene Cameron, outgoing VP Finance Wendy Tyman, VP Operations Pat Lam and members at large Stephen Keiwan, Tim Nolan, Jamie Leppard and Rebecca Shewfelt, as well as Greg Clarke and Brenda Neumann. Our ice scheduler, Emma Grimes, who put in countless hours as we faced many uncertainties in our schedule this year. Many hours were spent on the phone and on zoom calls solving problems or ironing out wrinkles. It's been an honour to work with this group of true team players who are at the ready to jump in to help a colleague, team, volunteer or player in need.

Special shout out to our U7 Instructors, led by David Vesey, Hannah Steele, Oliver Stickle, Alyssa Rafi, Peter Chapman, Jaydyn Neville, Cal Parker, Joel Sweet, Gavin MacIntyre, Adam Wallis and volunteers Max Shewfelt and Joshua Van Noort. Your on-ice leadership and mentorship of these young players is appreciated beyond measure, and we couldn't be luckier to have such an dedicated team.

To our volunteer coaches, assistants, trainers, managers and safety officers – there are not enough words in the English language to represent our gratitude. You consistently show up for these players and put together a photo album of memories that they will take with them for the rest of their lives. Your feedback, positive and constructive is always welcome, and is instrumental as we look to continuously improve our programming.

This season our registration was up from last, but a bit down from previous years. We are hoping that this will recover somewhat as we work our way out of the pandemic.

We had 92 teams total in House League:

12 at U7
18 at U9
18 at U11
18 at U13
20 at U15
18 at U18

We will be sending out a survey to gauge interest on revitalizing our U21 (formerly juvenile division for next season)

This season saw the first-ever Player Pathway Program pre-skate for the U9 and U11 divisions. This is a Hockey Canada Program whereby players in those divisions receive 4 skates prior to any formal evaluation (sort out or competitive try out). By all accounts the ice time was well-received by players and parents, and we look forward to fine tuning the logistics of this for next season.

We were thrilled to have had the opportunity to run a House League playoff this season. Congratulations to all players, runners up and winners. The energy was palpable in Walter Baker during the playoffs, and we couldn't have been happier for the players win or lose.

Next season we will hope against hope for an even more "normal" season, including:

- Re-establishing our interlock at the House A & C levels with Kanata
- Hosting NMHA tournaments at various House League levels
- A greater focus on goalie engagement and development
- Improved training and preparation for new team staff.

We will be recruiting for some positions on the House League Advisory Committee, including divisional directors at U7 and U13, a Tournament Director, and a Manager Liaison.

House League Awards

A Coach of the Year	Tony Zaine (U11 C Team A, U18 A Team D)
B Coach of the Year	Eric Glaude (U13 B Team A)
C Coach of the Year	William Yap (U13 C Team C)
Trainer of the Year	John Mason (U15 A Team D)
Manager of the Year	Estelle Mendonca (U11 A Team B)
Volunteer of the Year	Ahmed Zammar (U15 B Team I)
U18 Goalie of the Year	Filippo Slater (U18 B Team B)

Bursary Award

We are delighted to present our two U18 bursaries this year to two deserving candidates. The bursary is a \$500 award to graduating NMHA members furthering their studies at a post-secondary institution.

Austin DeMora: Austin will be furthering his studies at the University of New Brunswick in Kinesiology.

Matthew Cosgrove: Matthew will be attending Algonquin College for Mobile Application Design & Development.

Congratulations on your future endeavors.

c. Vice President Operations (Pat Lam)

Jerseys

A great deal of time was spent late summer reorganizing and switching out old jerseys for new jerseys at many House League and Competitive levels. Team sets were assembled for donation over 600 older logo jerseys and many hockey socks to players in the northern regions of Ontario and Manitoba via the RCMP's Indigenous policing unit. A great that many of these jerseys could go to good use for teams in need.

I am very thankful to the many high school volunteers that helped me this year. Could have accomplished what I could have this year without them.

Thankfully next year there will be a new Jersey Director. Tami Janveau will take over as Jersey Director.

Goalie Equipment Rental

The program going strong. We are happy to see goalies using the program.

Total of 41 rentals this past year.

Thank you to Lorne Wilkinson for his continued efforts to run this program.

U9 - 17 (15 were team rentals)

U11 - 15 (8 were team rentals)

U13 - 4

U15 - 5

Website

Our top priority was to replace the over 10-year-old website. It was completely rebuilt the website from scratch so that it can be viewed on a desktop and mobile device. Improvements are constantly being made and we are hoping to make as much information and services available online in the coming future.

Since Aug 15 of last year, our new website has had 320,000 pageviews.

2022-2023 Upcoming Plans

Mary Lou Zywicki, who spent over 10 years building and maintaining our scheduling system, has decided to retire. We thank her for all her time and effort on the system.

The NMHA will be taking over the system and hope to rework and redesign it to be a bit more user friendly and viewable on mobile devices.

We will also be integrating TeamSnap throughout the NMHA, providing every team with a TeamSnap Team Management Account to use throughout the season.

In addition to the many administrative features that we are hoping to use, we are looking to automate updates from our scheduling system into individual TeamSnap accounts to ensure accuracy and convenience through the upcoming season.

d. Referee in Chief (Nico Bidin)

No Report.

e. Member-at-Large (Tim Nolan)

As I am leaving the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that I have worked with over the years. This past year, I ensured manufacturing and delivery of team plaques and awards. VAN and Team photographs were cancelled for 2022 and are set to resume for this upcoming season.

f. Member-at Large - Risk and Safety (Stephen Keiwan)

I would offer my thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers from safety officers, to coaches, to trainers, to managers, to directors, to coordinators, to players, and parents for their patience with the frequent changing of health protocols and guidelines. It is with their support that we could have an on-ice program for the players.

This concludes my two years of service with the Board and forward and I wish the NMHA well in the future.

g. Member-at-Large (Rebecca Shewfelt)

34 of our teams received sponsorship funds in addition to more than 200 U9 Players that enjoyed a Fun Day sponsored by Scotiabank's Community Sponsorship program. In total, the NMHA brought in over \$15,000 in sponsorship funds with over half going directly to teams. Sponsorship funds are distributed via a lottery to teams that are determined to be high needs based on criteria such as number of players per team, non-parent staff, etc.

We had two Platinum sponsors this year - Doug Guy from Desjardins Financial and Myers Automotive. Platinum sponsorship requires a 3-year commitment at \$5K/year and it gets a sponsor tag put on the back of jerseys.

Additionally, we had 1 Silver Sponsor - FirstAid Plus

Finally, there were 4 custom agreements:

- Pro Hockey Life
- Silver Dental Centre
- Desjardins Insurance through HEO
- Scotiabank

h. Member-at-Large (Jamie Leppard)

House Coach Mentor Tony Iob and I conducted the first ever pathway skates for the House U9 and U11 programs, as required by Hockey Canada, where each player got 4 skates before

the selection process began. They were well attended, and the process went well but the timeframe of the ice sessions was too compressed. We will be looking to extending it over a longer time frame in 2022-2023/

The House Development program also provided both on-ice and off-ice instruction to House coaches with a focus on strategies and drills. The program also hosted monthly meetings that were well attended before the covid shutdown.

We had some challenges this season with Covid and the Jan shutdown which forced a packed second half of the season with games and less time for practice development.

Each goalie In U11, U13, U15 was offered 3 goaltending sessions with Dave Stathos that were used by 52 of the NMHA goalies.

We will continue to develop the house program with new ideas and strategies for next season to make sure the kids benefit with long term development.

i. District Chair (Greg Clarke)

Most of my activities this year were directed to ongoing activities with policy issues still flowing from the amalgamation of HEO Minor into HEO.

- I continued with my role as Chair of Minor Council and as Chair of the Discipline and Appeals Committee.
- The implementation of Hockey Canada's new Maltreatment rule had a huge impact on the D&A Committee. Each penalty for discriminatory slurs results in an automatic hearing with the D&A Committee and the committee was often so backlogged that hearings had to be held on multiple evenings just to keep up with the demand. The NMHA compared favourably with other Districts with just 8 players assessed discriminatory slur penalties. That said, 8 is still 8 too many.
- In December 2021, Minor Council passed a resolution allowing for the creation of Select Teams within HEO. This will be effective in the 2022-2023 season. The new regulation limits the activity of a special team to one exhibition game per month and two tournaments per season.
- I continued my involvement with HEO's Return to Hockey Committee, which developed a framework for minor hockey operations, strategizing communications to the local Public Health Authorities and the Ontario government, as well as monitoring COVID outbreaks and response.
- There will be a motion at the HEO AGM to administratively move all high-performance hockey (AAA) in one District. This means that the NMHA will no longer be administratively responsible for the Myers program.
- There will be slight modifications to the U11 Pathway program for 2022-2023. The 45-game limit has been removed as it was too confusing, but teams will now be limited to

30 games for League, Playoff and Exhibition play. House teams can enter 3 tournaments, Competitive teams can enter 4.

- There have been changes to the regulations which will allow a player, whose season is complete, to serve any outstanding suspension as an affiliate under certain conditions.
- Minor Council is working with HEO to simplify the affiliation process in the House program. This work is ongoing.

8. General Business

None.

9. Election to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors

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

President (House) – Helen Crawford (acclaimed)
Vice President (Finance) – Tony Farago (acclaimed)
Vice President (Competitive) - Jamie Leppard
Member-at-Large – Michael Hollingworth
Member-at-Large – Jen Emery

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tim Nolan seconded by Stephen Keiwan.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.