

LYHO Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2024

Those in attendance: Dan, Cammi, Kendra, Rob, Julie.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report approved.

BUSINESS

2023/2024 Youth Hockey

Gear Return: 13/20 gear bags returned, Julie will start calling families.

Registration: Start thinking dates for registration – want to do it in September this year. We will finalize a date at August meeting. Some discussion around the coaching committee's recommendation to look into the price for children under 6 and first year players. Rob to look into USA Hockey registration necessity for kids at the 8u level.

Fund Raising

Fair: Dan left message on fair ticket taking and will work toward a contract. Good response from volunteers for this event. Jaycees will fund \$250 to youth hockey for anyone working a shift at the beer garden.

Choke Cherry: Need to discuss a booth. HCR to donate a fire pit/ring.

Northwest Energy Grant: Felicia Briggs is working on the grant. Will check in on her progress and report in August.

New Equipment

Shed: Jeremy Melton maybe out of commission with a rotator cuff injury. Will need to start coordinating dirt work with LISA for the new 12x24 storage shed. May need to find a different source for a shed. Looked at Amish sheds, about 9k finished.

Divider Netting: Still need to look into netting attachment for the divider boards. Want to prioritize this to be completed by the beginning of season for safety when using dividers.

Gear: Julie will sit down with Scott to purchase gear rental from Jaycees grant: 8 Junior sized 3 small, 3 medium, and 2 large. Will need photo and documentation for Jaycees.

Coaching Update

Coaches Meeting:

- Coaches met on May 16th . Brandon Sandau, Shawna Sandau, Julie Kirsch, Shawn Briggs, Vanessa Descheemaeker attended. Rob Beattie led the meeting.
- Good meeting, will plan to meet again after registration and before the season. Will also have a meeting a couple weeks into the season.

- We spent a good portion of time talking about ways to communicate with individual players more to address some issues seen with coaching in the survey.
- Learn to skate causes a great deal of confusion at the beginning of the season. We discussed possibly moving it to a different day or starting at 5pm with learn to skate and having it go for only half an hour, then letting players attend their regular practices if they are comfortable with that. Need to talk to Scott also.
- All coaches in attendance willing to complete USA hockey certifications and recommend that it is mandatory for all coaches.
- Recommend Rob Beattie as 18u head coach, Brandon Sandau as 14u head coach, Shawna Sandau as 6u head coach.
 - Need to fill 8u head coach. Brandon will do it if nobody else will but would prefer to focus on 14u. Putting out some feelers to see who might be interested.

End Of Year Survey Results:

- Little to no bullying
- HEJA app is working
- People are generally happy with among of travel, some would travel more
- People think price is fair
 - There was a comment saying it was expensive for a 4-year-old. They generally don't travel much so they aren't getting a benefit of paid tournaments. Coaches would recommend the board look at different pricing for players under a certain age. Coaches also recommend a reduced rate for first year players and a refund policy. The objective of this would be to grow the program and encourage an early start.
- Parents want team and individual pictures every year
 - Coaches recommend doing this, it takes up some time but it is good to get everyone together on the ice as an organization also.

MAHA:

- Rob talked to Helena's MAHA representative June 9th about some concerns about joining MAHA and being able to follow the rules.
- Alleviated concerns about locker room issues – recommended a SafeSport trained adult in locker room at all times.
- Also alleviated concerns about referees, parents on the ice, etc.
- Expressed that current leadership is open to growing the game however possible and would be lenient so long as we are making improvements and trying our best.

Lewistown Youth Hockey Guidebook:

- Rob is currently working on a draft, Julie is going to assist.
- Based off of guidebooks from Helena, Missoula, and MAHA annual guide
- End document will cover and include things such as Safe Sport, Codes of Conduct, Coaching,
- LYHO Board, Travel, Registration....

- Not a replacement of LYHO By-Laws
- Goal is to help alleviate growing pains, have a reference to point back to if any disciplinary action is required for a coach, board member, player or parent, act as a guide for new coaches, and get all of our policies and information in one spot. Appendix will include registration documents, codes of conduct, financial assistance paperwork and everything else we have.
- Hoping to turn it over to the LYHO board for revisions at the August meeting. Would be great to have it completed by registration. Will be a continuously updated document.

NEW BUSINESS

Online Registration: Kendra to look into website for LYHO and possible online registration. Sports Engine is a potential option – would still hold registration and have the option for paper. This would give us someplace to publish meeting minutes, by-laws, guidebook, policies, etc.

Adjourn: Next meeting scheduled for August; Dan will send out email to get scheduled.