

## Irondale Youth Hockey Association Board Meeting Minutes

**NOTE: IYHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES ARE NOT APPROVED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING.**

**IYHA March 23, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting: Called to order 6:37 pm by President Tom Gombold.**

Board Members Present: Brent Eilefson, Angie Klesk, Tom Gombold, Dave Walsh, James Sigmundik, Rob Hanson, Kara Chamberlain, J Mancino

Board Members Absent: Adam Schmidt, Tom Rodefeld, Bill Jacob, Tim Manson

Guests: Ann Fieberg, DJ DeGiacomo, Cindy Solz, Doug Loahr, Steve Tisdale, Bob Gabler, Matt Remove, Andy Kaplan, Sheri Kunza, Brittany Sigmundik, Tom Peterson,

Minutes: Prior unapproved minutes not reviewed or approved. To be reviewed and approved in April.

### **Public Comment re Past Season:**

*[Note from Secretary: The following comments are condensed and paraphrased. Any inaccuracies are the fault of the Secretary, who will state in his defense the discussion was constructive and productive and said Secretary may not have been diligent in his note-taking effort.]*

Remove: Tryout process was a problem, and seemed to be made up as we went along. Can do better next season. If you stay with the pool formation process, you need to restore player scores to 0 after the pools formed. Disappointed that squirt season just ends in D2—no end of season tourney like D10. Squirt levels of play were not quite right—better to have B1 and B2 instead, but D2 doesn't have B1. Ratio of skill development to game time needs to be improved upon.

Loahr: Tryout process not good, needs to be improved. Need a mechanism to ensure coaches who know players have input in team selection. Levels of play need to be more carefully considered, and again it is critical to solicit the input of the coaches who know the kids and past performance. IYHA needs stronger voice in management of the co-op. Seemed we just gave our association to MV to be managed. Need to ensure accommodations made this year to get MV comfortable with a co-op are not deemed how things will be moving forward. We could have survived on our own, concerned about loss of identity.

DeGiacomo: Coordinators need to be talking to coaches. Girls just not slotted right, and coaches know the players. At 12s, if you have 2 A teams they need to be balanced. Not good for players or coaches to be getting killed. End up coaching to survive, not teaching kids how to

play the game. This group of girls has had several ugly years, and it is a drag on the kids and parents. Will lose kids if this isn't handled better in the future.

Cindy Solz: Would like to see better IYHA coach representation on all teams. B1 bantams had a great season, kids all got along, but seemed to be a general divide between MV and IYHA parents.

Andy Kaplan. 12A coach. Good year overall, but this group of girls has struggled now for several years. Ensuring appropriate playing levels again is the key. Recognize that at the 14s level it is difficult to get proper playing level—numbers are tough and there aren't many associations running 14B programs.

Gabler: Tryout process sketchy, but worked—certainly not the best, but not the worst. Playing levels questionable, though we need to assess whether adult expectations are misplaced. Player development should control playing level decision making process, not desire to be A or B1 etc., and regardless of player threats to leave if an A team is not declared. Important to have kids playing against peers at reasonable levels—provides the best environment to teach kids the game while providing some success. Really, best co-op so far, but recognize that the co-op is an evil necessity. Not terrible to acknowledge this, the goal is still the same—develop hockey players, have fun, and attract more kids to the sport. Key question is how do you sell the value of hockey to attract more kids to the sport and potentially then revert to separate associations (recognizing hockey will never to be the low cost leader)? This would be a good place to end up, but the co-op is necessary at this time.

Kunza: U10A. 2 good years, good improvement. Not great record, but success overall. Better communication would be helpful. Do more fun stuff-Youth Knights, etc. More consistent skill development would be beneficial. Maybe conduct a post-season evaluation so you have a sense of what you have coming back next season—Roseville we think does this.

Brittany Sigmundik: mite, 14A. Developed and improved skill level at 14. Mites a little lost. Confusing early, but had fun. Liked modules, games maybe could go better. Better communication.

Fieberg: Mite and U10 seasons went great.

Tisdale: Tryout process green stripe issue highlighted the fact that MV kids had more info concerning tryouts than IYHA parents/players had. Maybe some tryout info was passed on at pre-tryout meeting, but should have been better communicated than it was. B1 peewee, good year overall.

Tom Peterson: Peewee, best season ever. Would prefer no co-op. Lack of communication at start of season, no sense of what was happening or why. No organization during tryout. Decent communication during season, not great. Would like to see IYHA Board have more say in co-op decisions.

Gombold: Tom-ultimately we put kids first and sort of let MV run most of the show. We need parity going forward. Need to understand long-term goals of IYHA with respect to co-op, what are we seeking to accomplish. Will start working on those in the coming weeks.

### **Board Roundtable:**

President: See above.

Vice President: Reminder that VP position is being filled on interim basis, and would like to solicit interest from Members who might be willing to step into this position for the remainder of this position's 1-year term. Plaques have been ordered for association sponsors (with team photos).

Secretary: Will drill down election process for next month. Have received some interest in open positions, but happy to receive some more.

Treasurer: Absent.

Boys Program Coordinator: Has reached out to a majority of past season coaches to introduce himself and gauge their evaluation of the season. Despite reaching out to MV Boys Coordinator, has not heard back from him. Will seek to be actively involved in formulation of tryout process, coach selection, etc.

Girls Program Coordinator: General update. Discussed state of numbers in the girls program, especially at 14s.

Initiation Program Coordinator: General update.

District Representative: Absent, no report.

Ice Commissioner: Has already started planning next season's ice. Anticipating around 1,850 hours—more than this season. More shared practices, less ice given back to Ramsey County.

Registration coordinator: Nothing new. Looking for a replacement.

Equipment Manager: Wrapping up things. Certain goalie parent whose son has expensive taste is proving to be difficult.

Boys HS Coach: Absent no report. Get well!

Girls HS Coach: Absent no report.

**Standing Reports:**

Player and Coach Development Committee:

Lake Region:

Fundraising Committee:

Potential Partnership Committee: Dormant.

Website Update: No update. Summer hockey opportunities are on website.

Promotion and Retention Director:

Old Business:

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015, 6:30 PM,  
AT THE NEW BRIGHTON FAMILY SERVICE CENTER (NOTE NEW DAY OF THE  
WEEK)**