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MYHL minutes for September 24, 2007 Board Meeting held at Germantown Library

Attendees: Russ Beatse, Loleta McLain, Brad Bartlett, Mike McAteer.

Not in attendance: Chris Schmied, Jack Rogers, Allison Pitts.

Visitors: Tom Rose, Don Armour, Ken Chambers, Marty Martin, Bryan Hawley, Harold Moore, Jim Parsons, Duane Habben, Karla Habben.

Meeting started at 6:35 p.m.

1. Ice

3 ½ weeks until ice time! Ice goes down October 4th, we can take ice on October 8th.

Russ: High School dates are plugged in for whole year, October is set.

Learn-to-Skate had 37 signed up last year, retained 28 in league. This year 63 are signed up and it will be broken down into two sessions.

2. Budget

Russ: Not published yet. Issues with ice time and number of players. Allocated S&K money between last year and this year. Spent a little over \$40,000 last year, helped with Learn-to-Skate and ice cost.

Brad commented on travel pre-ice practice time, Silver Sticks tournament, and home weekend referees at Decatur since we do not have ice availability at our home (DeSoto Civic Center).

Russ: Midgets referee costs have gone up, High School has a little more ice time with 1 ½ hour games. Will need to meet with High School Directors to go over budget by the end of the week.

3. Director Report

Russ: Several High School issues – Darrell Wodowski is the current Houston HS Director, Jeff Powell is the current Houston HS Treasurer. Mr. Wodowski is still on Houston's account as an authorized signer, but needs Jeff Powell and MYHL's Treasurer Allison Pitts added to Houston's account for signature cards. 9-10 skaters for Houston High. If HS cannot resolve, will be moved to MYHL board level for decision. North MS has all MS players except for 2. Christian Brothers became a coop school with St. Benedict a couple years ago, 1 red shirt. Germantown has rest with 4 red shirts.

Mike McAteer: Inquired on making high school level all recreation midgets. Russ stated they wouldn't be able to go to state championship, next year will have 4 teams so may possibly go to recreation midgets.

Russ: Looking for a stop gap this year. High School meeting is tomorrow. Currently there is a 3-year age span in travel midgets. Mr. Martin stated a 4-year age span at high school level.

4. DeSoto Civic Center

Russ: Mr. Moore is visiting us tonight and is on the Convention Board.

DCC Issues: Less than 5 percent of our league was from MS before the DCC; 25 percent from MS before the Mall of Memphis closed; currently 60 percent are from DeSoto County. 63 kids have signed up for Learn-to-Skate, 53 are from DeSoto County. Have brought over 100 new families the last couple of years. We have lost 85 hours of ice time – 18 percent! Continual loss of ice time means we start losing our focus on what we can do meaning we will have to start folding programs if we continue to lose ice. It will be some hard decisions. Our travel teams are good for the limited ice time they receive, HS teams are competitive. Use half lights during practice at the DCC. Money is paid for security, a Zamboni driver, and lights – that is

\$125 an hour. If we are guaranteed 500 hours of ice time, we will pay for it. MYHL has spent over \$800,000 to the DCC since they have opened. We would love to have a contract with the DCC. We have never been able to host a home game because we are not guaranteed ice. Brad said this is a huge deal that's being passed up. Russ stated the DCC being built for the "youth." Cheerleading in November could have probably used the theater. There is no place within 200 miles we can get the ice to play. We can either grow or fold. Hopefully the DCC will work with MYHL, youth hockey. Where do we stand in DeSoto County?

4. Visitors Response

Mr. Moore said to give him 6 months. He is new to the convention board. He is for DeSoto County, Southaven, the community. Will raise questions we have raised. Wants to work with us and invited us to their meeting (every 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.).

Sponsorship: Marty Martin and Brian Hawley want to work with area businesses in Mississippi and Tennessee with chest patch to go over front of jerseys or patch on back with MYHL's approval, determine cost. Russ stated jerseys would need to remain identical. USA Hockey wants sponsor logos that cannot be detrimental to the sport; it cannot be done for personal gain, has benefit entire team, not just 1 player.

5. Director Report

Mike McAteer: Concerned about mites getting ice 4 times a month, if 1 day is taken, they cannot retain what they've learned. Can house teams have travel players? Squirts? Brad commented it benefits PeeWee and Bantams. Russ stated there are enough recreation squirt players, enough travel squirt players.

Brad: Trying everything we can to keep league here. This will be our 2nd year with reduced ice fees, feels all travel teams are competitive this year; this will be a great year.

Russ: Mike McAteer is working with Jack in getting coaches for Learn-to-Skate. Most High Schools will be out of town, Kerry Frankland will work with mites, and Tom Rose will inquire HS players. Pizza will be bought for coaches since there is a break in time (2 sessions with about 30 kids in each): Oct. 13th 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 2:15-3:15 p.m.; Oct. 14th 12:45-1:45 p.m. and 4:15-5:15 p.m.; Oct. 20th 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Oct. 21st 12:45-1:45 p.m. and 4:15-5:15 p.m. There is a Coaching Clinic on October 12, 13 and 14 for levels 1, 2 & 3.

Russ inquired about possibly finding a new home for the puck machine that is sitting in storage. No objections were made.

Jack wanted to relay cost to pay for some equipment since he is not present at the meeting, we will vote through e-mail on cost.

Brad: Made motion for Zachary McLain to play up with the Memphis Blues Squirts Travel team. All in favor.

6. High School

Ken Chambers brought up Carl Swearingen's proposal for 24-hour no talk to officials. Discussion to not entertain this.

7. Secretary

Will e-mail last month's minutes for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.