**Date: April 23, 2020**

**Called to Order: 6:38 pm**

**Minutes Taken By: Joanna Parnell**

**Attendees:** Ali Whelen, Joanna Parnell, Brandy Fisher, Nicole Howatt, Cassandra McNirney, Duane McNirney, Peggie Melnychuk, Rob Melnychuk, Joe Reynolds, Steven Kuchirka, Melissa Price, Marc Aromin, Rainie Gervais, Max Rupp, Steve Benson, Kathy Morton, Trish Way, James Devries, Erick Barba, Heather Marelli, Fiore Marelli, Brittany Wright, Michelle Dewar, Al Dewar, Wayne Wolfe, Mark Sloan

**Motion to approve the agenda:**

* Motion to approve the April 23, 2020 agenda made by Ali Whelen, seconded by Nicole Howatt; All in favour, motion approved

**Review and Approve March 3, 2020 Minutes:**

* Motion to approve the March 3, 2020 minutes made by Ali Whelen, seconded by Steven Kuchirka ; All in favour, motion approved

**New Business:**

* **Update on Hockey Edmonton Application: Rainie Gervais**
* DMHA had submitted and application 20/21 season. Heard on April 15, 2020 that our application to join the Edmonton Hockey Federation was denied by a vote of 16-7; the rural teams that voted AGAINST DMHA’s application were Strathcona, Sherwood Park and Spruce Grove, as well as the Edmonton teams. Two other associations that applied were ALSO denied, Leduc and Ft Sask. The denial was not based on the proposal, but mainly that no other associations be accepted into EFHL at this time.
* After the vote, Chris March from the EFHL reached out to explain in more detail about why our proposal was denied. He mentioned that next season EFHL will be putting together and expansion committee that will further explain the criteria. Chad Kuckaluk (non-voting member of EFHL)from Stony Plain was quite upset about the denial and will be a part of the expansion committee. This does not mean that any future applications will be approved.
* Chad K of Stony Plain communicated that one of the major reasons for the denial is the EFHL does not wish to be portrayed as “killing” the NAI League. Ft. Sask placed proposal to EFHL back in January. Randy Mak president of NAI and member of Ft Saskatchewan had lobbied the EFHL that should they continue to accept satellite associations, that it would jeopardize the position of the NAI. NAI has also been lobbying Hockey Alberta to restrict association movement based on geography. Meaning that as association will have to play in the league that “effectively” own a specific territory therefore tying the association to the geography. At this point in time, Hockey Alberta has REJECTED this proposal, as this is not in the best interest for everyone. Some things that were mentioned were, the year before Strathcona got accepted in EFHL, they did some independent play at various levels and those teams were not involved in NAI. It was mentioned that if DMHA wished to play some independent exhibition games, that while not mandated, could be a possibility. If Devon has a non-contact team and NAI does not have a specific division for it, the EFHL would consider this team for league play. Chad feels that any other year, our proposal would have been accepted, although no guarantees.
* From there, 6 associations from NAI - Devon, Wetaskiwin, Ft Saskatchewan, Leduc, Camrose, Ft McMurray, had a conference call to discuss some of the major challenges with tiring such as combining tier 1 and 2, travel, game play, cost associated due to the amount of travel. The consensus was to speak as one voice to the NAI in the form of a letter expressing our collective concerns. The letter will be attached as an addendum at the back of the minutes. It was sent out on April 21, 2020. Randy Mak has already responded that they will be creating a sub-committee to discuss tiering and travel. The three teams wanting to leave the league on top of the combined letter of concerns from 6 associations has put NAI into a position of awareness that there is some unrest at an individual league level.

**Discussion:** some concerns expressed about having individual teams going as independent may alienate DMHA from NAI as we are not yet guaranteed to EFHL in the upcoming years. If we had independent teams, it would mean that there are no playoffs, and only exhibition games that we could line up. NAI by-laws do state that you can suspend membership for 1 year with no penalty or repercussions as they still have DMHA’s bond vs leaving the league entirely. Our hope is that NAI will come up with a solution that is to our benefit.

**Reports:**

1. **President:** Ali Whelen

Novice Update/Poll

* Has heard from many novice level parents this past season about team numbers, game play. Possibility to make a poll for Novice parents about what they wish to see for hockey next season with regards to league involvement.
* Max Rupp, suggests that we should try to make teams even across the board as many parents were dissatisfied that the teams were “uneven” in number of players and unbalanced teams.
* Move towards having the 18 player rosters across the board.
* All teams need to be heard as team three was highly dissatisfied with game play from the past season.
* Will we have to cap the registrations at two teams? Number of teams will be determined by the number of registrants. Currently we have 22 players that should be coming back, 34 with initiation coming up, this number does not include new registrants.
* Is there any confirmation at this point that NAI will have a novice level division? At this point we still need to be in contact with them before a determination can be made.

**Action Plan: Ali Whelen, Max Rupp, Nicole Howatt** will create and distribute a poll for all novice parents about the direction they would like to see Novice go, and provide feedback as to the implementation.

Evaluations

* Has been in contact with Joe Kazeil, Area guy for the Calgary Hitmen, has two kids in NAX. He will attend our May meeting. He has a number of people he will be able to bring in to assist with evaluations. He is willing to work within DMHA’s allowable budget of $5000 for this year’s evaluations process.
* Last year, it was determined after the evaluation process that DMHA move in a different direction from the evaluators from last year.
* Ali Whelen makes a motion to approve Joe Kaziel et al to be DMHA’s evaluation team for the 2020/21 season, Max Rupp seconds the motion. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

Covid-19

* Has there been any discussion regarding DMHA’s future plans for the upcoming season in light of the Covid-19 situation?
* At this point with not knowing how long Covid will be affecting everything, DMHA has not yet discussed future plans and what should we do if the season gets cancelled. At this point there are so many variables that are unknown at this time. DMHA will have to work with NAI and HA as more information becomes available.
* Suggestion to put a disclaimer on the registration site that as more information becomes available, DMHA will be in communication with the membership

1. **Vice President:** Marc Aromin –

* Nothing to report at this time.

1. **Past President:** Steven Kuchirka

* Nothing to report

1. **Treasurer:** Melissa Price

* Total expenses are less than last year at $211, 122.77, mostly due to no ice usage fees because of Covid-19 and not being allowed on ice. Ice rental fees were down slightly from last season 2018/29 expenses of $127, 426.49 to $125,067.90 in the 2019/20 season.
* Total income is for the 2019/20 season is $215,593.25.
* Registration fees were $174,235.00 as compared to 2018/19 season of $187, 585.00.
* Fundraiser from this season brought in $25,098.25, minus the $10,000.00 in payouts for a total profit of $15, 098.25. Last season’s fundraiser brought in $12,350.00
* Tournament profits are down from last season, total of $9,583.42; 2018/19 season was $17,605.14
* Oilers 50/50 brought in $16,260.00. The oilers 50/50 profits paid for our ToD ice users fees.
* If we did not have the 50/50 money, we would be in the red this year.
* Jersey deposit checks cannot be returned to teams yet as the jerseys will not be getting handed in at this time. Please see Equipment Manager report. Steve Benson says that if the individual teams contact Evolution Sport in Leduc, he will make the necessary arrangements to have name bars/sponsorship bars removed.
* Has not yet received
* Can registration fees payment deadline be extended over a greater period of time to be due in full by the end of December vs October.

1. **Secretary:** Joanna Parnell –

* AGM discussion surrounding format of meeting, most likely will have to occur virtually, and date selection. This year’s AGM will be on June 18th at 7:00 pm.
* Will need to submit invoice to treasurer for reimbursement.
* Due to Covid-19, the awards ceremony has been cancelled, however is DMHA planning on honouring the 3rd year Midget players and awards recipients at all? Answer is yes, we are still going to host an event. More information will come as time passes and the external situation becomes clearer. Will get Web coordinator to post a save the date on the web and facebook to announce the AGM date.

1. **Coach Director:** Rob Melnychuk

* Coach evaluations need to happen. Will collaborate with Joanna about survey monkey and access to past surveys. Keep questions the same as last year.
* Not many complaints came thru over the season, overall a positive year.

1. **Registrar:** Nicole Howatt

* Needs to know fees to charge so she can get going on getting registration set up.

Fee structure for 2020/21 season

U7 - $400 no early bird pricing + $150 fundraising fee

U9 - $970/$670 EB “

U11 - $1060/$760 EB “

U13 - $1150/$850 EB “

U15 - $1255/$955 EB “

U18 - $1265/$965 EB “

* Are we going to cap registration numbers going into next season for any teams? Last season, DMHA encountered many challenges at the U9 level (Novice) and the decision to cap registrations. Based on last years’ experience, capping numbers was not favorable, going forward, DMHA will just keep a close watch on numbers vs capping U9. Plan for two teams of 18, and should we get more than 36 U9 players, can the ice allow for 20 on ice at a time, 10 per side.
* Question for the U15 level (Bantam). Is there an option for a non-contact team at this level? Can DMHA collaborate with surrounding leagues such as Calmar or Thorsby to create a non-contact team? Right now, as it stands, there is not enough ice to create a third U15 and U18 team. If players wish to play on a non-contact team, releases will be signed for them to join a different team.
* Comments from a parent member: he feels that there needs to be a clear direction from DMHA regarding a non-contact option at the time of registration. If there is, then they will register the player, if not, then a release will be sought for immediately. The choice needs to be made clear.
* There is talk from NAI regarding the creation of non-contact play, however there does not seem to be much support at that level nor do they feel there is enough players for a team.
* Last season, DMHA asked for parent feedback for a noncontact team. We did not have enough support from the U15 level parents to petition NAI to create this.
* **Action plan:** Max will reach out to our members about interest for a non-contact team to then approach NAI about our interest in the creation of the non-contact team; reach out to the families who have left due to not being able to play in Devon, to see if they would return IF we can create a non-contact team.

1. **Referee in Chief:** Joe Reynolds

* Nothing much to report. HA would like to see the north zone have few numbers for clinics. We need to provide three dates Oct 3, 17, 31 as potential dates. They did ask if the surrounding areas could combine clinics. Calmar, Thorsby, Enoch have been asked if there is interest to combine. Thorsby and Enoch have mentioned they would consider joining.

1. **Referee Assignor:** Brandy Fisher

* Nothing to report

1. **Level Director:**  Steve Benson

* Spoke to Donny about sponsorship

1. **Fundraising Director:** Peggie Melnychuk

* **Tabled discussion about mandatory fundraising amount for the 2020/21 season**– In March the executive voted on adding a mandatory fundraising fee. The decision at hand is for the monetary value placed as the fundraising fee.
* DMHA is adding a mandatory fundraising fee, the members have the opportunity to sell a product/item and potentially make back the money that is prepaid during the registration process. Different fundraising ideas were discussed; no specific fundraisers were decided upon.
* Will the fundraising fee be a per family fee, or per player fee? The extra charge may be a lot for families to pay at this time that have multiple players in DMHA. Discussion about why each player will have to pay the fee.
* Treasurer states that if we want to get rid of fundraising across the board, we would need to raise our registration fees by $120 per player in order to remain in the black.

If our profits need to be $200, we need to determine how much of anyone item the members need to sell.

* Team Snap will not allow the registrar to apply the fee as a per family fee, it can ONLY be applied per player. Each DMHA PLAYER will have a mandatory fee of $150 applied at the time of registration.
* Joanna Parnell makes the motion to approve the mandatory fundraising fee of $150 to be applied at the time of registration. Peggie Melnychuk seconds the motion. All in favour, motion approved.
* Need to figure out 50/50 or raffles and fundraising items. Discussion will be tabled for a future meeting.

1. **League Representative:** Max Rupp

* Max to reach out to NAI about non-contact league play for U15/U18 levels.
* Nothing to report

1. **Ice Coordinator:** Kathy Morton

* Nothing to report at this time.

1. **AA/AAA Representative**: Jon Morton – not in attendance
2. **Equipment Manager:** Trish Way
   * Would prefer not to take jersey returns right now, as it places her in danger of coming into contact with Covid-19; she also does not want to have to store/launder jerseys as she cannot get into the arena storage room.
   * Jersey organization can happen later in the year once allowed back in to the arena.
3. **Evaluations Co-ordinator:**
4. **Website Coordinator:**
5. **IP Level Coordinator:**
6. **Novice Level Coordinator:**
7. **Atom Level Coordinator:**
8. **PeeWee Level Coordinator:**
9. **Bantam Level Coordinator:**
10. **Midget Level Coordinator:**

**Closing Discussion:**

**Next Meeting Date: May 21, 2020, 6:30 PM**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:49 PM**