

April 14, 2010 Elmira Jackals Youth Hockey Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM Todd Brost calls meeting to order

Present: Todd Brost (President), Rick Janowsky (Vice President), Dan Sincock (Treasurer), Mark Callahan (Secretary), Katie Lowe (Scheduler), Mike Dimon (Head of Coaches), Renee Davis (Registrar), Jere Robinson (Public Relations/Web), Michelle Fabian (Equipment Manager), Kyle Krawcczyk (Travel Rep), Scott Merrick (Snowbelt Rep.)

Absent: Michelle Sullivan (Fund Raising), Adam Gee (Legal Counsel)

Public Meeting open to guests:

Guests: Bill Beecher, Dennis Chauvin, Mike Robbins

March meeting minute approved. Mark Callahan to send draft meeting minutes for electronic approval prior to the next consecutive meeting.

JDRF fundraiser raised approximately \$10-15K, thank you to all involved.

Todd Brost and Jere Robinson attended the central section meetings. Any potential changes to the handbook need to be made by April 28th. No necessary changes suggested.

USA Hockey event, Saturday May 22nd in Buffalo – Subject: Growing the Game, Todd asked the members to check their calendars and asked for any volunteers. Rick Janowsky and Renee Davis stated they may be able to attend.

Bill Beecher, Dennis Chauvin – Bantam team – Asked the board to consider altering the Bantam team designation from Travel to Snowbelt. Coaches feel Snow Belt may be a better fit for the composition of the team. Coaches have discussed among each other and some of the parents. Coaches would like to make the decision early so parents have time to react, if necessary. The board has taken the suggestion into advisement for further discussion to insure the final decision aligns with the charter direction of the organization.

Mike Robbins leaving First Arena June 2nd. Thank you to Mike for all of his work and for building a good relationship with the association. Mike wanted to assure the board that the facility and organization would both benefit from bids for Jam and/or sectionals. Thanks again to Mike.

Board of Directors Meeting (open):

Open discussion related to the suggestion of the Bantam coaches to enter the team in the Snowbelt division:

Rick Janowsky stated Snowbelt would be a great fit for this team.

Todd Brost, followed by stating this is not a perfect situation, since the association would be losing at least 2 players developed here to other larger city organizations. Stated it should be the organizations goal to have at least two teams per level, to field both a Snowbelt and Travel team. This would be a way to retain local talent and grow the game in our region.

Michelle Fabian, need to retain enough players at each level. However, we need to recognize that top players may still be inclined to leave for opportunities to play at a higher level (even if there are both Snowbelt and Travel teams at each level). This should be viewed positively by Elmira Hockey as it shows that the organization does a good job of developing talent.

Mike Dimon, if the players mentioned were to stay in the organization versus playing or another association the team in question would be competitive at the travel level. The board needs to put more thought and solicit feedback on what happens with the older kids, how to retain them in the organization.

Todd Brost, the facilities and coaching in the organization is as good, if not better than any other organization in Upstate, NY. Retention may have more to do with parents prioritizing other sports at an older age. Stated the board should be careful to not push teams to a recreational level too early, the organization should continue to try to field teams for both travel and Snowbelt.

Katie Lowe, stated High School coaches place no value on non-sanctioned High School teams. Specialization in High School sanctioned sports taking away from program at higher level.

The discussion was set aside for future consideration. If the team were to move to Snowbelt the procedure would be for Scott Merrick to complete the application for the team to compete in the Red Division. There should be no issue if the board decides to take this course.

Katie Lowe, Scheduling – no items

Michelle Fabian, Equipment – no item, 14 jerseys still out

Rick Janowsky, Vice President: JAM, identify a group of parents willing to host, application due in August. Feeling is, if we apply we will get a JAM, we would need a team or teams to be willing to host the event.

Renee Davis, Registrar, a couple of e-mails received from Parents asking about coaching evaluations. Renee will work with Jere to get the coaches names, so we can get the evaluations out. Head coaches with assistants.

Scott Merrick, Snow Belt Representative and Rick Janowsky; the Snowbelt organization wants organizations to re-emphasize behavior and conduct issues. Any abuse of officials, asks the player to come to the board. What is our policy?

Todd Brost, response, each situation is handled each issue case by case.

Jere Robinson: Sectional meeting also mentioned, our policy has always been case by case.

Jere Robinson, Web and Public Relations, No items

Kyle Krawczyk, Travel Representative, No items

Mike Dimon, Head of Coaches: Would like to get coaching application out to start the process for next season. Mike will start the process late spring. Mike asked Mark Callahan, Secretary to send a reminder out the Monday before the meeting.