

**Madison Curling Club  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date**—July 18, 2007 at the Madison Curling Club (MCC).

**Board Members Present**—Randy Blumer (Past-President), Mike Fonger, Mike Harried (left at 6:45 PM), Bonnie Kees, Don Kind, Hiro Kobayashi, Kellie Krake, Toni Swandby, and Kathy Vinge.

**Guests:** Kevin Thies, Bill Swanson, and Scott Reich.

**Absent:** Bill Burns, Mark Hartman, and Steven O'Connor.

- 1) **Call to Order**—The meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kathy Vinge, President.
- 2) **Approval of the June 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes**—At the June meeting, the Board took action to start service to provide for the Canadian curling telecasts and set up a donation box at the MCC to offset these costs. The minutes did not reflect that Mark Hartman agreed to set up the donation box. **MOTION** by Don Kind, Mike Fonger second, to approve the meeting minutes as presented without reading. **The motion carried with one vote to abstain (Harried).**
- 3) **Rental Income Update**—Bill Swanson indicated that rental income from the end of the season to-date is \$9,525.
- 4) **Bocce Ball/Potential Organizational Structure**—Bill Swanson and Kevin Thies presented an update following their 45-minute presentation to the McFarland Parks and Recreation Committee where they showed the draft plans and responded to questions. The Public Works Director measured the site and had an issue with water drainage. To address the concern, Kevin proposes to bring in a person he knows from the Bruce Company. The McFarland Committee cleared the proposal. Mike Harried indicated that Digger's Hotline would need to be called about moving the gas line on the building's side. Kevin indicated Alliant Energy could move the gas line for about \$200. It was noted that some use of the court would be made available to the general public.

Mike Harried asked how the organization issues were being addressed. Kevin indicated capital start up costs would be required in advance of any fees collected by teams. He shared two articles on bocce clubs, one about the Iowa City club and the second on St. Helena club. The first was started in 2006 and has 32 teams and charges \$10 per person. The second was started in 1987, it has 78 teams, and team fees bring in \$11,700. Kevin also shared a photo of the court in his back yard and included an open invite to use the court.

Kevin expressed his interest in making money for the MCC on bocce and supports a joint operation venture with the MCC, and Mike Harried responded that this would require a separate dues structure for curling and bocce. Bill Swanson indicated he has had contact with a person who expressed an interest in having sole exclusive rights to rent the curling facility from April to September for \$12,000 for the purpose of bocce.

Mike Harried attempted to answer and offer an explanation to Kevin's questions on the Foundation's 501C 3 status. Mike also provided some background on the Madison Curling Foundation. Kelley summarized the discussion and the need for a person to manage the bocce other than the Board of

Directors and indicated the Board would consider any type of contractual agreement brought before the Board. Mike Harried indicated McFarland does not have a recreation director to serve to handle the management of bocce. As no organizational material was submitted, Kellie asked that Kevin and Bill consider the business plan and liability issues and come back to the Board with solid detail to the issues compiled by Mike Harried including estimated costs to do the proposal.

- 5) **Installation of Bollards to Protect Compressor Support Columns**—At the suggestion of Bill Swanson, Mike Harried agreed that steel reinforced concrete supports would protect the compressor support columns from damage by vehicles. He recommended installing a bollard in front of the compressors that were relocated. Mike Fonger suggested concrete barriers. Mike was directed to provide costs at the August meeting for consideration.
- 6) **Future of MCC Website**—Scott Reich provided some background on ongoing problems to keep the MCC web site up and running and made a request to have the Board find a replacement to handle all aspects of managing the site. Scott supports setting up a new domain for the MCC rather than continue with the current provider. The Reichs offered to manage the web site until there is a replacement. Kathy Vinge will ask Mark Hartman, as head of the Publicity and Awards Committee, to prepare an announcement in the Hog Line for a webmaster replacement.
  - a) **Club Mailings via e-mail**—The costs to print the Hog Line and the postage costs to mail this and other materials to members will be reviewed and considered as the budget is prepared at the August meeting. It may be more economical to publish the Hog Line to the club's web site.
- 7) **Possible Profitable End of Season "Real-Ale" Beer Festival in MCC**—Scott Reich, and Bill Rogers with the Madison Homebrewers and Tasters Guild, are interested in bringing a beer festival to the MCC at the end of the season in the spring of 2009. The icehouse would be needed to keep the small batches of home brewed kegs cold. It would involve approximately 25 brewers and involve up to 100 people in planning. Rough calculations are that ticket prices could sell for \$30 and these would be sold in limited numbers tied to the capacity of the clubhouse and ice house. An estimate for profits is \$2,000 to the MCC. Mike Harried confirmed that a temporary alcohol license is needed for the festival. Scott was directed to bring a solid proposal for consideration at a future meeting.
- 8) **Other Business**
  - a) **WSCA Rep Update**—Kellie Krake reported on behalf of Rich Lepping. The WSCA made a plea of interest for new directors. The Association adopted the stick rule.
  - b) **Rotary Cam-Am Bonspiel**—Kellie Krake confirmed the bonspiel will start on January 17 and end on January 20, 2008 with three shifts running each day. A banquet will be held on Friday evening at the Monona Terrace Convention Center.
  - c) **Finance Subcommittee Meeting Update**—Randy Blumer summarized the recent Finance meeting that he attended with Kellie Krake and he highlighted the meeting notes and recommendations on the long-term financial goals for the MCC.

The Madison Curling Foundation has a cash balance of \$16,000. The funds were generated by the steak fries and the golf outing receipts and will be used to reduce the principal at the request of the donors. The remaining monies from the Olympic Qualifying Competition were earmarked by previous Boards for club improvements. The March 15, 2007 mortgage principal balance is \$365,000 and the next opportunity to make an additional principal payment is March 15, 2008.

The financial condition of the MCC was provided in a report submitted by the Treasurer to the Finance group and this included a reference that account balances from the individual dinner leagues were not available.

The Subcommittee recommended: 1) investing funds, rather than reducing the principal immediately, with the amounts directed to reduce the mortgage principal into a CD earning a higher rate of interest than the current 4.75% mortgage; the final mortgage note is due in April 2016; 2) establishing a 2016 target principal balance for the mortgage of \$100,000 to \$150,000 by the Board of Directors; 3) making regular pleas for new contributions to the Foundation by the Club and Foundation membership since a new generation of curlers has not been involved in any fund raising efforts at the present facility; and 4) developing specific fund raising programs with the sole purpose of reducing the mortgage principal, building a reserve of funds for maintenance and repair, and expanding ice and facility space.

Toni Swandby identified with the recommendation that there have been no large-scale fundraiser since 1999, and at that time, the donors were recognized with plaques. The Board will need to address whether any funds would be directed to the CRF for maintenance and repair, or if these monies would be directed to the mortgage principal to reduce the final balloon payment.

Mike Fonger asked for some background on the Madison Curling Foundation. Since many members may not be familiar with the role of the Foundation, Randy Blumer agreed to prepare a feature for the Hog Line and give details about the Foundation. There was discussion to include a letter signed by the President in the next Hog Line mailing and include a reference that donations can be made to the Foundation.

- d) **Men's Rating Committee Update**—Randy Blumer referenced the details by Steven O'Connor on the men's ratings. If the team point maximum remains the same, 41% of the Mansfield teams will need to be reconfigured next season. The Men's Games Committee is charged with resolving issues raised by the raters.

## 9) **President's Report**

- a) **WCF/USCA Stick Rule**—Kathy Vinge referenced the communication by Steven O'Connor on the proposed WFC rule, which noted that he would vote against enforcing the rule at MCC events. The proposed rule places several restrictions on the use of a delivery stick and include using the device to: deliver all stones played in the game, deliver the stone in a straight line from the hack to the target, release of the stone before the hog line, and prohibit the use of sticks in any WCF competition or qualifying event, except for wheel chair events.

Communication from the USCA indicates that comments on the rule should be made to the WCF by February 2008. The USCA adopted the new rule. Kathy reported that Columbia Co. does not plan to adopt the new rule.

Mike Fonger raised the concern that if the rule is not adopted, the game of curling would not be standard, and it could put curlers at a disadvantage at the clubs that adopted the rule. Toni Swandby supports adopting the rule for one season and review the rule at the end of the season. Kellie Krake suggested that chairs might have the option to implement the rule for a specific league or bonspiel. Randy Blumer suggested the club not adopt the rule and allow a specific

league, such as the Solheim, to come back to the Board for approval to adopt the rule for that league.

**MOTION** by Kellie Krake, Don Kind second that the MCC does not adopt the stick rule as proposed but encourage members to use the proposed stick rule.

There was additional discussion to not add additional wording to the motion to allow a league chair to address the Board for approval to use the stick for a league. It was questioned whether or not the MCC would want to have a league chair make that decision. Kellie Krake supports allowing some flexibility in making it possible for the league chair to make a decision to use the rule. Mike Fonger raised the point that a league could have differing opinions and be split on the decision to use the rule. Toni Swandby questioned how the club could get feedback, and Mike Fonger suggested asking for feedback at the end of the season. **The motion carried with one opposed and one vote to abstain.**

- b) **Approve New Treasurer**—No action was taken since there has been no official notice of acceptance by the tentative new treasurer and he was not present at the meeting.
  - c) **Review Draft of 2007-08 Budget**—No preliminary figures were available on the 2007-08 budget other than the financial reports showing revenues and expenditures as of July 17, 2007. Kathy Vinge will contact the Treasurer, and the tentative new Treasurer, and request that they work together to provide a draft budget to the Directors by Sunday, August 5 so that the material can be reviewed in advance as well as discussed at the next meeting. The Treasurer had previously requested the Board provide comments to the operating budget or the CRF.
  - d) **USCA Early Ice Application**—No early ice application, due July 6, will be made to the USCA.
  - e) **September and October Meeting Dates**—Future meetings were set for Thursday, September 13 at 6 PM and Thursday, October 4 at 6 PM at the MCC.
- 10) **Updates to Board Committee Assignments**—Kathy Vinge requested that changes to the Committee list be forwarded directly to the Secretary so that an updated list can be available at the August 15 meeting. Final assignments under all areas are expected by the start of the curling season.
- 11) **Calendar for 2007-08**—Kellie Krake reported on behalf of Mark Hartman who made the following changes to the bonspiel schedule: Cashspiel is November 30 to December 2 (Roe/Hartman); Junior Bonspiel is December 7-9 (TBD); Fowler Mansfield is February 29 to March 2 (Scott Reich); and Curl for a Cure is March 8-9 (Jennifer Rhude). Bill Swanson indicated earlier in the meeting that the 3-day Lion's Club bonspiel is scheduled for January 9 to 11, 2009.
- 12) **Adjournment**—**MOTION** by Kellie Krake, Mike Fonger second, to adjourn. Adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by Bonnie Kees, Secretary