

Madison Curling Club
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Date - Sunday, January 18, 2009 at the Madison Curling Club (MCC).

Board Members Present - Larry Baeder, Ericka Balgord, Richard Berling, Mike Fonger, Mike Harried, Mark Hartman, Don Kind, Toni Swandby (Vice President), and Kathy Vinge (Past President).

Board Members Absent - Kellie Krake (President)

Officers Present - Dae Jean Jahnke and Jeff Sailor

- 1) **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 6:02 P. M. by Toni Swandby, Vice President.

- 2) **Approval of the December 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes - MOTION** by Mike Harried, Ericka Balgord second, to approve the meeting minutes as presented without reading. **Motion unanimously carried.**

Jump ahead on agenda.

- 4) **President's Report** - Vice President Toni Swandby filled in for the absent Kellie Krake.

a) Technical Committee

- i. **Wireless Connection** - Toni reminded everyone of the e-mail Kellie had sent asking for feedback regarding whether the club should continue to provide WiFi access at a cost of about \$600 per year. Approximately 10 - 12 responses to the e-mail were received and all were in favor of continuing to provide the service. Jeff Sailor mentioned he had 2 - 3 people who were against continuing WiFi access because of the cost. Others noted that the WiFi service was popular and used by many during the Cash Spiel and the Junior Bonspiel. Also, WiFi access makes the club more attractive to potential renters.

The Board was concerned with the cost of the service and discussed whether we were getting the best deal. A consensus was reached that the current cost

was reasonable and could be reviewed again before the start of the next season

MOTION by Larry Baeder, Richard Berling second, to continue to provide WiFi access at the club. **Motion unanimously carried.**

Kathy Vinge arrived at 6:12 PM.

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3) Treasurer's Report

- a) **December Month End** - Jeff Sailor distributed a financial summary for 2008 - 2009 as of 12/31/08. Revenue was generated from the collection of member dues, locker fees, clothing sales, and a club rental. The total revenue for the month was about \$3,500. The total expense for the month was about \$51,500. The largest expenses included the mortgage payment money (\$31,200) sent to the Madison Curling Foundation, sales and use taxes (\$6,357), utilities (\$6,600 +) , and beer (\$2,500). Dues are taxable at 5.5% which is why that expense is so high.

The lighting rebate was received bringing in \$2,300 in revenue to the capital budget.

Jump ahead on agenda.

5) Current Business

- a) **Vision Committee** - Larry Baeder reported that the Vision Committee met on January 11, 2009. There were 5 men and 4 women at this meeting as well as Sandy Gordon and Larry. The people in attendance were first asked to list their thoughts about the club. Next, they were asked to look at several photos of different kinds of group spaces, from cozy spaces filled with overstuffed chairs and a fireplace to modern open glass and metal areas, and write down their emotional reactions to the photos and why they reacted that way. The comments received were not what Sandy and Larry were expecting and varied by age. Sandy will use the comments to draw several club house concepts. When these are ready, Larry will gather the group from the November and January meetings to review the drawings for feedback.

Larry was asked to explain the purpose of the committee again. The committee

has been set up to unify remodeling projects with regular repairs and maintenance, to plan these things with the aesthetics of the club house in mind, and to centralize these activities. The need for a central committee came to light when plans were being made to install a 'Wall of Champions'.

The Board was curious as to what kinds of comments had been received. Larry said the main comment was that the club was messy. The Board is aware that the carpet needs to be replaced but there were also comments regarding the tables and chairs. The impression one gets when you first walk into the club is that the members take no pride in it.

Discussion continued off agenda.

Much too often, members do not clean up after themselves. Members not cleaning up after themselves is an ongoing problem. In fact during our meeting, one Board member watched as a group got up from their table and exited the club leaving used cups and napkins behind. Ideas on how to fix this problem have been discussed in the past and several of the suggestions were expressed again. The Board needs to constantly educate the 500 members of the club on how to keep things clean. Also, Toni Swandby told us that on 2 consecutive mornings, she came in and found the oven(s) still turned on. She will send an e-mail to the membership reminding them to check the ovens before you leave as we don't want the club to burn down.

Mike Fonger was asked to clarify the date of the club house cleanup. It is listed in the directory as April 18 but was on the Board's calendar as April 25. The club house clean up will take place April 18.

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b) **Capital Improvement Projects** - Toni reminded each Board member to review the spreadsheets that Kellie Krake sent out listing items that need to be repaired or replaced and a list of ongoing issues. The spreadsheets need to be updated with cost estimates for repairs, priorities of projects, dates when items need to be repaired or replaced, etc. Kellie will take the information and compile a list for the new Board to use to prioritize projects and establish a more detailed capital budget.

Mike Fonger, Mike Harried, and Kathy Vinge were unable to open the spreadsheets attached to the e-mail they received. Dae Jean Jahnke will print and send copies of the spreadsheets to them.

- c) **Host US National Club Championships 2010** - Mark Hartman commented that the U.S. Curling Association (USCA) wanted the MCC to submit a bid for hosting the U.S. National Club Championships but no officer was willing to sign the document. The USCA's process is to secure a site by accepting a bid, which would be binding, followed by a contract, the details of which could be worked out with the host club. The Board expressed its intent at the November 23 meeting to discuss both the terms of the bid and contract before making the decision to host the event. Mark passed out copies of the contract that Utica signed when they agreed to host the 2009 US National Club Championships. He expects that the MCC would receive the same contract for hosting the 2010 US National Club Championships. Mark asked that the Board members read the contract and send questions, concerns, and comments to Kellie Krake and him before the February Board meeting. These items will be discussed at that Board meeting in preparation to make a decision in March as to whether to pursue hosting the event.

Jeremy Roe and Mark are also concerned that they may not be able to recruit the members to volunteer in the numbers needed to put on such an event. There will be fewer invitational events at the club next season which will help draw volunteers to this event. However, the US National Club Championships will be held during the same time as the Winter Olympics and we will have many key volunteer members missing from Madison to attend them, reducing the number of available volunteers. Jeremy and Mark will be seeking commitments to volunteer from our members in the next few weeks and that information can also be used to help determine if we should host.

Toni Swandby reminded the Board members that one of the reasons the design for the new club was chosen was to allow us to host large events. This is the only large event still available for a club to host. It is a huge undertaking but can generate large revenues, the kind of revenue that can make a big difference in reducing the remaining mortgage debt.

6) **New Business**

- a) **Curling Researchers Meeting** - For your information, Toni Swandby and several others met on January 10, at the club, with 2 students from Hamilton College in Utica who curl. Hamilton College provides a \$4,000 grant to students to do research on a subject of their choice. These 2 guys decided to use their grant money to research how curling clubs promote college curling programs. So, they

have been driving to curling clubs all over the U.S. to gather information. They will present their findings to the USCA when they are done.

- b) **Nominating Committee** - Kathy Vinge reported that, in addition to herself, the following people are on the committee to nominate potential Board members for the 2009 - 2010 season: Mary Ann Jerred, Lori Karst, Ken Niedhart, Steven O'Connor, and Mark Swandby. She is also hoping to convince another female member to join the committee as Kathy would like to have 3 men and 3 women on the committee plus herself. The first meeting of the committee will take place next week and the committee members have assured Kathy they are prepared to come with names of members they would like to see on the Board. Kathy will bring the list of nominees to the Board for consideration at the February Board meeting.

7) Other Business

- a) **New Year's Eve Recap** - Kathy Vinge reported that the formal New Year's Eve party was cancelled. The disk jockey she hired for the event very kindly agreed to hold the deposit for up to one year to be used for some other event. Kathy suggested using him for the 2009 Halloween Bonspiel or putting something in the Hogline to let others know he is available.

The event was changed to a pot luck. 16 people attended and had a blast. There was plenty of food for everyone. People played games and talked. Many left at 2 A.M. Someone suggested that next year's event include a mini bonspiel. Beth Lepping showed an interest in helping out next year. Kathy will provide information and answer questions for next year's chair.

- b) **MSCR Wheelchair Curling Begins** - Richard Berling reported that no one registered for the Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR) class. The primary contact person for this event is no longer with MSCR. Richard suggested we encourage anyone interested in curling to come to a curling clinic, one of the Open Houses, or the UW mini course.
- c) **Lion's Club Recap** - Mike Fonger reported that 40 teams participated in the event and that it was a huge success. The Lion's had about 30 volunteers on hand at all times to help keep everything running smoothly. They were able to serve dinner to 190 people in 30 minutes. The club and ice houses were immaculate at the end of the event. The only evidence that a bonspiel had taken place were the empty kegs and trash dumpster which was filled beyond its limit. The only complaint registered during the entire weekend was the lack of hot water for

washing dishes. The water heater does not have the capacity to keep up with the kind of demand that was generated. The event raised \$740 for the Lion's. Mike presented a check for \$1,569 to Jeff Sailor which paid for the rental of the club plus beer, soda, and popcorn consumed.

Mike thanked Mark Hartman for creating the draw sheets for the event. He also praised the Village of McFarland for their hospitality to the out of town guests. The Lions would be receptive to holding an event like this again in 3 or 4 years. Mike also mentioned that the Junior Men's team from the MCC, going to Nationals this year, was on hand to help prepare and clean the ice before and between draws. They put out a jar for donations to raise money to help pay for their trip to U.S. Junior Nationals and the Lions generously contributed toward their cause.

Mike estimates the MCC will get 10 new curlers joining next fall because of their exposure to the sport from this event. And when asked, Mike told the Board that his team had won the bonspiel.

- d) **Madison Mixed** - Richard Berling reported that he had received payment from only 3 teams so far and that he had of total of only 8 teams interested in participating in the Madison Mixed. Twenty teams participated last year. He needed at least 16 teams to play in order to cover costs and generate \$1,000 in revenue. Revenue from the event was budgeted at \$3,000. He thought the lack of interest was due in part to conflicts with other events being held the same weekend including the U.S. Women's Curling Association and Men's Senior Nationals tournaments. He asked for the Board's support to cancel the event. **MOTION** - by Mike Fonger, Mark Hartman second, to authorize the chair of the Madison Mixed to cancel the event. **Motion unanimously carried.**

Richard will pick a date closer to the beginning of February for next year's Madison Mixed and will coordinate dates with the Janesville and Chicago clubs. He also intends to survey the membership regarding recommendations for next year's event.

- 8) **Adjournment - MOTION** by Larry Baeder, Mike Fonger and Ericka Balgord second, to adjourn. **Motion unanimously carried.** Adjournment at 7:25 P.M.

Submitted by Dae Jean Jahnke, Secretary