

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

Date - Thursday, April 2, 2009 at the Madison Curling Club (MCC).

Board Members Present - Larry Baeder, Ericka Balgord, Mike Fonger, Mike Harried, Mark Hartman, Don Kind, Kellie Krake (President), and Kathy Vinge (Past President).

Board Members Absent - Richard Berling and Toni Swandby

Officers Present - Dae Jean Jahnke and Jeff Sailor

Guests - Mike Fraboni and Jeremy Roe

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

Jump ahead on agenda.

4) **Current Business** - Kellie Krake introduced Jeremy Roe. Jeremy and Mark Hartman presented information regarding hosting the US National Club Championships.

b) **Host US National Club Championships** - Mark Hartman said that he discovered another club was interested in hosting the US National Club Championships in 2010. He was contacted by Toni Swandby about a week ago regarding this and she suggested the MCC think about hosting a different event. Mark presented the idea to Jeremy Roe and after some deliberation, they would now like the MCC to consider hosting the US Junior National Championships in 2011 instead of hosting the US National Club Championships in 2010. Mark passed out financial reports from the 2008 US National Club Championship event, held in Mankato, Minnesota, and the 2008 US Junior National Championship event, held in Portage. Jeremy reviewed the reports with the Board. (He had tried to get the financial report from this year's host of the US National Club Championships, Utica, New York, but the final numbers were not yet available.) He noted that the Junior Championships made a profit of over \$21,000 where as the Club Championships made a profit of about \$2,000. While most of the income and expense totals were similar, there were 2 areas where the events had differences worth noting; income from advertising/sponsorships and food sales. Jeremy explained that the Juniors have a bigger support group who attend their events and this results in more food sales. He also noted that Portage had been much more

successful in acquiring sponsorships.

Mark passed out a sheet listing the pros and cons of hosting the Club Team Championships versus the Junior National Championships. Jeremy reviewed this with the Board as well. Because a host club has already been selected for the 2010 Junior Championships, Jeremy suggested the MCC host the 2011 Junior Championships. He and Mark felt that hosting the 2011 Juniors would work better for the club since it would not be an Olympic year and because it would not interfere with the Madison Mixed. Jeremy would like to see the MCC host some event and partner with the USCA. He and Mark formally suggested that the MCC submit a bid to host the 2011 US Junior National Championships.

Jeff Sailor arrived at 6:20 PM.

Kellie Krake opened the floor to questions. Don Kind emphasized that the financial reports did not include any ice costs. When adding the cost to keep the ice for the events, Mankato broke even hosting the Club Championships. Larry Baeder asked if Jeremy thought he would be able to solicit the same amount of advertising and sponsorship support that Portage achieved. Jeremy said yes given that there is more time to do this now if we host in 2011 instead of 2010. However, the current state of the economy was a concern. Larry also asked about the odds of the MCC being selected to host the Junior event and should we consider hosting the 2011 Club Championships instead? There are 2 other clubs placing bids to host the 2011 Junior Championships. However, the USCA will make their selection April 16, 2009. If we place a bid for the 2011 Junior Championships and are not selected, we could place a bid next year to host the 2011 Club Championships or the 2012 Junior Championships. Mike Harried stated that no matter which event we choose to host, it has to generate a profit worth the effort. Jeremy reiterated that it is critical to get sponsors for the event early. This was something those in Utica had stressed to him also. He feels he can do a better job of getting sponsors than Mankato did.

MOTION by Larry Baeder, Don Kind second, to submit a bid to the USCA to host the US Junior National Championships in 2011. **Motion unanimously carried.**

Jeremy Roe was excused at 6:25 PM.

Return to the agenda.

- 2) **Approval of the March 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes - MOTION** by Don Kind, Mike Fonger second, to approve the meeting minutes as presented without reading.
Motion unanimously carried with one abstention.

3) **President's Report**

- a) **Review Annual Meeting Minutes** - The complete agenda was reviewed. Changes and additions were identified so that the agenda could be finalized for the April 22 meeting. Dae Jean Jahnke will add Steve Day and Paul Beebe to the agenda so they can present a demonstration of the new MCC web site to the general membership.

Pins will be given out at the annual meeting. Some pins have already been handed out to the Mansfield league winners but these winners will be announced again at the annual meeting. Kellie Krake feels it is best to recognize all of the club winners at the annual meeting. Mark Hartman will coordinate with Mary Parker to verify pins have been acquired for all events.

- b) **Service Award** - Kellie Krake presented her decision on the Cottrell Service Award for 2008 - 2009. She recommended Don Kind for the honor. She gave a synopsis of the contributions and services provided by Don Kind since he has been a member of the club. Don protested saying he has not been a member of the club for long enough. However, Kellie assured him he did qualify. The Cottrell Service Award is given to a former Board member that has demonstrated outstanding service to the club. Kellie reminded Don that he will be a 'former' Board member very soon. The Board members congratulated him. Her decision will be announced to the members of the MCC at the Annual Meeting.

Kellie also recommended 2 club members for special recognition. Kevin Thies and Mark McDermid will be recognized at the annual meeting for their outstanding service to the club and will be presented with certificates stating such at that time.

- c) **Technical Committee Update** - No update.
- d) **Capital Improvement Projects** - Kellie reported that since the last meeting, she has not had time to update the spreadsheets with the information she was given at the March Board meeting. She will have something prepared for the May Board meeting.

Kellie introduced Mike Fraboni. Mike wanted to give the Board information regarding the scraper blades and rocks, so costs associated with them can be included in the capital budget. First he discussed getting 4 scraper and 2 nipper blades sharpened. Up until 2 years ago, he sent our blades to Canada for sharpening. Since then, in an effort to reduce costs, the blades were sent to a place in Wisconsin instead. However, the results of the work done in Wisconsin is not of the same quality as the results from Canada and Mike would like to start sending the blades back to Canada. It will cost \$120 per blade for sharpening, plus shipping and customs. Kellie told Mike to go ahead and send the blades to Canada.

Mike then told the Board that we have 4 scraper blades for the Ice King machine. Two of the blades are wearing out. The other two blades are fairly new and in good shape. He will continue to maintain the 4 blades we have. However, Mike is interested in purchasing 1 newly designed blade, which costs \$1,800, to be used for special events. The blade is called the Flex Beam or Ever Sharp, depending on the manufacturer, and is new to the market. It is made of a higher quality steel which holds an edge better and lasts longer. It also has better temper which keeps it from flexing as much when exposed to the temperature variations of cold ice versus warm storage room. Kellie asked if Mike could wait until May for a decision and he said yes. The decision to purchase a new blade for the ice scraper will be tabled until the May Board meeting.

Mike also talked about the rocks. He feels the rocks will not need to be replaced for another 20 to 40 years. However, they will need to be reconditioned in about another 5 years to restore the striking band and the Board should plan accordingly. At the beginning of 2002, 98 rocks were purchased; 96 for the sheets and 2 spare. Mike brought one of the spare rocks to the Board meeting along with one of the rocks that has been used over the past 7 1/2 years. He showed us the difference in the striking band. The unused rock has a striking band of about 1/8th inch. You could see how the rock is shaped so that the striking band almost comes to a point around the center of the rock. The other rock has a striking band about 1 inch wide. As the rocks are used and collide, the striking band wears down. Mike said that the striking surface can get to 1 1/2 inches wide before the rocks start to chip or sustain some other kind of damage. He estimates it will be another 5 years before the striking bands wear down to this width. At that point, the rocks can be reconditioned to return the striking band width to 1/8th inch. This process will take some weight off of the rock and can be done once, sometimes twice, during the life of the rock. The running surface of the rock, which wears down too, can also be reconditioned at the same time.

Mike stated that he will be sanding the rocks this season before he puts them away. This was done 1 1/2 seasons ago and it improved the amount of curl the rocks took on the ice. Mark Hartman commented that he was very pleased with the amount of curl in the rocks. Mike will also rotate the rocks to different sheets for next season. The center sheets are used more than the outside sheets so, to distribute the wear on the rocks evenly, the outside sheets' rocks will move to the inside sheets. Mike also reminded all of us that the squeegee party will be held April 15.

4) **Current Business**

- a) **Vision Committee** Larry Baeder reported that Sandy Gordon was meeting with someone currently to review the drawings of the new club space that have been created to present to the Board at their next meeting. After that, the drawings can be presented to the general membership for feedback. Joe Sokal, a member of the MCC, is an architect and will help by reviewing the blue prints for the club house to make sure the designs in the drawings are sound. A vision of how the club house space will evolve needs to be in place before flooring materials and colors can be selected. The current plan is to replace the flooring this fall, as the first step in the on going maintenance and improvement to the club house facility.

Jump ahead on agenda.

- c) **Host 2010 High School Bonspiel** - Mark Hartman reported that Greg Schaffer is anxious to get an answer as to whether the Board will consider hosting the state High School Bonspiel in 2010. He passed out a copy of the MCC calendar for February 2010. If the High School Bonspiel is held over the Valentine's Day weekend, on Friday and Saturday, as is typical, it will interfere with the Madison Mixed. The weekend of February 19 and 20 is now available since we are no longer considering hosting the Club Championships in 2010. Or, the weekend of February 5 and 6 is open. Someone from the MCC would be responsible for scraping the ice but the cleaning, pebbling, and nipping would be handled by the coaches, parents, and participants. There would be between 12 to 14 teams of boys and 12 to 14 teams of girls from Wisconsin. This is not a money making event.

The Board was concerned with the timing of the event. We must balance our hosting of events with the needs of our leagues for ice time. A Saturday would be lost for pick up curling. And several Friday nights are already unavailable for the

Woody league because of bonspiels scheduled to begin on Fridays. However, participation in the Woody league was minimal this year. Mark Hartman noted that this event is not a money maker but it is important to extend our hospitality to the rest of the state.

MOTION by Larry Baeder, Mark Hartman second, to host the High School Bonspiel on February 5 and 6, 2010. **Motion unanimously carried.**

- d) **Club Calendar, 2009 - 2010/Summer Rentals** - Mark Hartman said that he has added the 2009 summer rentals to the club calendar. He will keep in touch with the rental agent, Kris Lee, to get additional rental dates as they are booked and will update the calendar as needed. He noted that September 5 is listed as the last day for summer rentals. This is to allow time in the fall to replace the club house flooring.

The MCC hosts the High School bonspiel February 5 and 6. The Madison Mixed will have February 14 and 15 available. The Fowler Event is scheduled for February 26 to 28. The Curl vs. Cancer bonspiel will be held March 3 to 5.

- e) **Grant Recommendation for MSCR** - Kellie Krake, referring to the e-mail that Richard Berling sent to the Board, stated that Richard was recommending that we not pursue participating with Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR) in their attempt to obtain a federal grant. The amount of effort required to submit the grant request would not be worth the amount of funds received. MCC can still work with MSCR to offer wheelchair curling in the future.

5) **New Business**

- a) **Rental Agent Salary Increase** - Mike Harried recommended an increase in salary for Kris Lee from \$16.50 to \$17.00 per hour. He believes she deserves this increase due to the outstanding job she did for us last year. It is hard to find someone to fill this position and she does have a year of experience now to draw on. Jeff Sailor was asked her salary for last year and he reported that the club paid her about \$2,000. An increase of 50 cents an hour would not create a hardship for the club.

MOTION by Mike Fonger, Mike Harried second, to increase the rental agent's salary to \$17.00 per hour starting May 1, 2009. **Motion unanimously carried.**

Mike Harried generously offered to continue to be available to help resolve issues

that arise with renters during their events.

- b) **Member Volunteer Recognition** - Ericka Balgord has been researching the level of member volunteer activity at the club for about 2 months. She is still collecting information and hopes to finish her project this summer. She stated that her initial findings indicate that about 40% of the MCC membership volunteer at some point during the year. She is working on compiling a list of all members who volunteered sometime during the 2008 - 2009 season with the intent of recognizing and thanking them in the near future. She encouraged the Board to think of ways the volunteers could be recognized and to give her suggestions.

6) **Treasurer's Report**

- a) **March Month End** - Jeff Sailor reviewed the financial summary for 2008 - 2009 as of 3/31/09. Revenue was generated from bonspiels, club rentals, 2 of the dinner leagues, and advertising revenues. The total revenue for the month was \$5,304. The total expense for the month was \$15,489. The largest expenses included utilities (\$6,300), beer and soda (\$2,000), furnace repair (\$1,333), and ice contract (\$2,400).

Al Hafeman is going to contact ERA to discuss what kinds of preventative maintenance can be done regarding our furnaces. Jeff pointed out that every time a furnace needs repair, it costs the club about \$1,500 to get it fixed.

Jeff also mentioned that he extrapolated the budget numbers out to the end of April and it looks like the MCC will end its year with a budget surplus. He attributes this to the fact that we received a tax credit against our gas bills. Without this credit, the budget would have ended up at a break even point.

There was no change to the capital budget.

Finally, Jeff told the Board that Rob Wixson has paid \$9,500 in additional principle against the mortgage. This brings the balloon payment, due in 2016, down to \$215,000. If Rob continues to apply \$9,500 in additional principle against the mortgage annually, the balloon payment due in 2016 will be down to \$150,000.

- 7) **Other Business and Miscellaneous Information** - Don Kind did some research into having a dehumidification and heat exchange process installed at the same time and discovered the cost would be approximately \$176,000. So much for that idea. He did

point out that all the things that have been done so far to improve the ice conditions have been successful.

- 8) **Adjournment - MOTION** by Mike Fonger, Don Kind second, to adjourn. **Motion unanimously carried.** Adjournment at 7:26 P.M.

Submitted by Dae Jean Jahnke, Secretary