

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

Date - Sunday, December 13, 2009 at the Madison Curling Club (MCC).

Board Members Present - Larry Baeder, Ericka Balgord, Richard Berling, Janet Crnich, Tim Ebert, Mike Fonger, Kellie Krake (Past President), Steve Schally, and Toni Swandby (President).

Board Members Absent - Mark Hartman.

Officers Present - Dae Jean Jahnke and Jeff Sailor.

- 1) **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 5:00 P. M. by Toni Swandby, President.
- 2) **Approval of the November 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes - MOTION** by Richard Berling, Steve Schally second, to approve the meeting minutes as presented without reading. **Motion unanimously carried.**

Tim Ebert arrived at 5:01 P.M.

Larry Baeder arrived at 5:02 P.M.

3) Treasurer's Report -

- a) **November Month End** - Jeff Sailor reviewed the financial summary for 2009 - 2010 as of 11/30/09. The total revenue for the month was about \$73,237, mostly from dues, locker fees and key card fees. Jeff received a check from Brian Bergen for the Halloween Bonspiel in the amount of \$3,926. Mike Fonger added that he had taken inventory of the kitchen before and after the bonspiel and \$1,400 worth of supplies were used during the bonspiel. (The Board has, in the past, discussed possibly changing the way bonspiel budgets are kept to reflect the true costs incurred. Mike took inventory to give the Board information for future discussions.) There was also a small amount of income from club rentals. The total expense for the month was about \$14,296. The largest expenses were for utilities (\$4,118), repairs (\$610), beer (\$3,172), and taxes (\$4,742). Jeff noted that the fee for the Facebook advertising, used during the Open House, was \$242.

Jeff reported that 2 additional people have signed up this year as competitive members. Also, 1 member has signed up as a student but they do not qualify as such based on the MCC definition of a student. This member has been contacted several times, via e-mail and in person, and asked to pay regular dues. The skip

of the rink on which this person plays has been notified about this discrepancy as well. The full dues need to be paid by December 31, 2009 to keep the rink from having to forfeit games played with an ineligible member.

Membership is down about 2%. We have 491 members, 16 of which are honorary (complimentary) This total is less than the number of members budgeted for resulting in a drop in expected revenue of about \$5,000. The utility expenses are down though. The cost for electric is down about 7.6% from last year while the cost for gas is down about 26.5%.

There was no change worth noting in the Capital Budget.

4) **President's Report**

- a) **Bylaw Review** - Richard Berling made suggested changes to the articles reviewed at the November Board meeting. Those changes were discussed briefly. Janet Crnich researched the question of what would constitute a quorum at a meeting for a corporation when it allows voting by mail. She found if a quorum is achieved through mailed ballots, a quorum does not need to be physically present at the annual meeting. Richard will change Article 3 Section 5 to the wording suggested by Janet to reflect this. (The current sentence reads - The members holding one-tenth (1/10) of the votes which may be cast at any meeting, present in person shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. The suggested new sentence would read - The members holding one-tenth (1/10) of the votes which may be cast at any meeting, present in person or who have cast their vote pursuant to section 6, shall constitute a quorum at such meeting.)

There was a discussion on what affect the quorum by mailed ballots would have on items brought up from the floor at the annual meeting. It was concluded that other items from the floor are not considered to be referendums but instead would be regarded as an advisory vote. The Board would take the advisory vote results into consideration before taking action on these other items.

For this month's Board meeting, the Bylaw review continued with Articles 4, 5, and 6. Minor changes were made to Article 4, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 12 to clarify the text and correct spelling errors. A specific number of meetings was added to Section 4. Sections 5 and 6 were combined and condensed. The 'number of days notice' amount was increased. A suggestion was made to add 'electronic notification' to the new Section 5. Section 11 was removed. Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 were renumbered. In Article 5, Section 1, text was moved in from Section 2. Some of Sections 1 and 2 were rewritten for clarity. Minor changes were made to Sections 3 and 7. No changes were made to Sections 4, 6, 8, or 9 Section 5 was updated to include information regarding the Past President.

There were no changes to Article 6. Richard will make recommended changes to the articles reviewed this month and will send the updated text to the Board via e-mail.

The remaining articles will continue to be reviewed at subsequent Board meetings starting with Article 7 next month. Richard ultimately wants the Board to approve changes to the bylaws and have a new version ready to present to the membership 30 days in advance of the annual meeting. The membership will vote on whether or not to accept the changes at the annual meeting.

b) **Capital Expense Projection Reports** - There were no updates.

5) **Current Business**

a) **Vision Committee** - Larry Baeder and Sandy Gordon will be making an informal presentation to the membership during the second week of January. At that time, Sandy will display conceptual art work around the club. Larry will write up an outline with talking points. He will send out an e-mail to the membership shortly before the art work goes up to give the membership some information about what is coming and to pique their curiosity. There will be someone at the club on Monday, January 11, 2010 to answer questions. They will be available to all 3 league shifts.

i) **Fund Raising** - Janet Crnich reported that there are 3 members willing to donate at least \$1,000 each to the Vision Committee project. She is talking with 2 other potential donors. She would like to have a commitment of \$5,000 to \$10,000 in donations before asking for funds from the rest of the club members.

Janet and Larry will be rolling out the fund raising effort in phases to correspond with the phases of the project. Raising smaller amounts several times will allow for dollar totals that are less overwhelming. The first phase will focus on building/expanding walls and installing new lighting. The entire campaign is scheduled to last 2 years, postponing floor upgrades again, much to Toni Swandby's dismay. Donations are expected to taper off in March so additional requests for funds will be made during the summer.

b) **Host US National Club Championships 2010** - The treasurer for the event, Diana Gettinger, informed Jeff Sailor that she has been unable to open a checking account for the event as she does not have the correct paperwork. Jeff will write checks and make deposits for Diana through the existing club account.

Toni Swandby reported for Mark Hartman in his absence. The committee met on

November 18, 2009. The schedule for the event is set. Patrice Gabower, who is in charge of merchandising, presented several options at the November meeting, and is moving ahead. The Hospitality Committee has visited 30 businesses around The Crowne Plaza and is getting coupons from the businesses to give to the competitors in their welcome packets. Joel Dietz was able to get permission to web cast the event on local television. Charter Communications is interested in broadcasting the web cast on a community channel.

Dave Davidson, Jeremy Roe, and Mark Hartman met with the state director of the 4/H organization. 4/H agreed to partner with the MCC as their charitable organization and will provide volunteers to help at the event. They will also be promoting curling as a family event throughout the state which will create a pool of potential new curlers.

The next general meeting will be held December 16, 2009. The focus of the meeting will be scheduling volunteers and determining the number of volunteers needed for the event. Jeremy Roe will use the information to create a spreadsheet for volunteer sign up. He hopes to have the sign up board ready to post by the end of the week.

- c) **Club Calendar, 2009 - 2010** - Mark Hartman was not present to report and no one knew of any updates since the last Board meeting.
- d) **Web Site** - Toni Swandby suggested that all Board members take a look at the web site if you have not done so lately. Steve Day has added quite a bit of new information. Toni had asked Steve if he needed more help. He requested that when someone writes something for the site, they keep in mind it should be written for people who do not have any exposure to curling. Jennifer Rhude Krug sent an e-mail about the Curl vs. Cancer bonspiel to the club and Steve told Toni it was a good example of what he wants to see.

There is a project in progress to allow password protection for sensitive information. Nick Schleicher is working on this. Toni commented that it is probably time to convene another Technology Committee meeting.

- e) **Rating Committee Report** - Tim Ebert said there are a few glitches yet to be worked out in the new system. Thinking of how to rate the members of both teams while playing does add another thing to which the skips must pay attention. However, some skips are finding that thinking about this information helps them with their strategy during the game. The majority of skips are in favor of the new system but it is not a habit yet to fill out and turn in the paperwork. Bill Buckingham is loading the information into a Google sharable spreadsheet.

- f) **Rental Agent** - Kris Lee found a candidate to be the new rental agent. Mike Fonger said her name is Carolyn Ninedorf, she once rented the club house, she is a McFarland resident, but she is not a curler. Carolyn is very interested in becoming our rental agent and ready to commit to doing the job for 3 years.. Toni Swandby and Mike have interviewed her. Toni was very impressed with Carolyn's ideas for increasing the pool of renters. Because she has rented the club, she knows the rules and restrictions and can make suggestions for changes that might attract more renters. She also speaks fluent Spanish.

The rental contract will be updated to reflect the requirement of using a money order for the down payment and the addition of a third security guard before the new rental agent needs to use it.

6) **New Business**

- a) **Membership Directory** - Steve Schally reported that the directory is out. Several Board members commented on how much they liked the cover. The advertising revenue was down \$75 from last year. However, 12 pages of old information were cut from the directory, reducing the cost of printing this year. The cost to print this year's directory was \$1,044 which is about \$350 less than last year. Steve recognized Tim Funk and Joel Dietz for their work selling ads and gathering and organizing the member information for the directory.

Steve did note one error. Mike Fonger's name appears on the page of MCC Directors and Officers however the picture associated with it is Mike Harried's. Mike Fonger actually preferred the mistake and hoped members would seek out Mike Harried with any complaints they might have.

- b) **Donor Recognition Dinner** - Richard Berling sent an e-mail to the club members broaching the subject of the Board hosting a dinner to thank those who donated toward the dehumidification system. He received responses from only a third of the donors. The e-mail also had the unintended consequence of upsetting some of those who volunteer their time in lieu of money. After much discussion, it was decided to remove the Donor Recognition Dinner from the club calendar.

Ericka Balgord was excused at 6:30 P.M.

The Board of Directors has, in the past, talked about ways to celebrate the volunteers in our club and this dinner was intended to be the first of many recognitions. It was not the intent of the Board to indicate that monetary contributions are more important than the donation of time. Toni Swandby asked the Board members for suggestions on how to recognize the efforts of our club members. Some ideas presented included hosting an hors d'oeuvre party, setting

up a easel in the club house with a board presenting the names of volunteers, listing volunteers on the web site, recognizing more volunteers in the Hogline, and naming volunteers at the annual meeting. It was also suggested that more emphasis be placed on educating the club membership on what our volunteers do and how important their efforts are. The club can not run without volunteers. Many members would be surprised to find out what it takes to keep the club running and who is doing the work.

- c) **Madison Mixed** - Richard Berling reported he has 13 teams signed up for the Madison Mixed including 3 from Madison. He would like to have a minimum of 16 teams although 24 would be ideal. He has recruited Todd Dukes to prepare breakfast, Rich Lepping to prepare lunch, and Lester Boles to prepare dinner. He is trying to find the disc jockey (DJ) that was hired for the New Year's Eve Party last year who was not used. (The DJ said he would apply the deposit he received to another booking. However, he was paid through a booking agent and no one is sure who the DJ was.) Richard is hiring a string quartet to play during dinner and has recruited a dance club to provide some ballroom dance demonstrations as entertainment.

Richard talked to Steven O'Connor about pins for the event and Steven suggested reconditioning some old pins that we have available. The Board agreed this was a good idea. Richard will research the cost to recondition the pins. He may decide to give out prizes instead of pins.

- d) **Substitution Policy/Mixed Only Members** - In November, Richard Berling received an e-mail from a club member asking if a mixed only curler was eligible to substitute in a regular league. Because a mixed only member pays dues at a reduced rate, Richard was not sure how to respond to the question. Toni Swandby said that, historically, the mixed only curler is usually female and they have been allowed to substitute in the hopes of enticing them to become full members. The policy does not appear to have been abused in the past. If the policy is abused in the future, the topic will be revisited. For now, a mixed only member may substitute for a player in a regular league.

7) **Other Business**

The MCC Board of Directors went into Executive Closed Session

Agenda Continued following Closed Session

- a) **Kitchen Cleanup** - Mike Fonger reported that the ovens were left on Tuesday night and, because of the snow storm, stayed on until Thursday. He estimated this cost the club about \$60 in gas. There have been complaints made this year

against leagues that leave the kitchen a mess forcing the next league to clean up after them. Kitchen rules need to be reviewed again.

b) **Snow Removal** - The Madison area received about 18 inches of snow between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, December 7 and 8. Someone shoveled the walks and the entrance to the club after the storm. The unknown or unnamed person (or persons) was thanked. The Village of McFarland was unable to plow the club's parking lot until Thursday so Wednesday night's leagues were cancelled as there was no place to park cars. As of the Board meeting, there were still places where snow removal was needed to maintain safety standards. Larry Baeder was given permission to hire someone, this one time only, to remove snow away from the MCC building. However, the club needs to have a snow removal crew available. A team of club volunteers needs to be set up or bids need to be taken so a crew can be hired.

8) **Adjournment - MOTION** by Tim Ebert, Mike Fonger second, to adjourn. **Motion unanimously carried.** Adjournment at 7:04 P.M.

Submitted by Dae Jean Jahnke, Secretary