

## Bemidji Curling Club

Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2019

### Opening

The regular meeting of the Bemidji Curling club was called to order at 5:45pm on November 19, 2019 by Kirby Bahr, President

### Present

Kirby Bahr, President  
Eric Johannsen, Vice President (leaves at 6:00pm)  
Amanda Kelly, Secretary  
Steve Johnson, Treasurer (arrives 6:40pm)  
Mackenzie Ritchie, Board Member (arrives at 6:18pm)  
Josh Bahr, Board Member  
Myles McDanel, Board Member  
Lanny Cyr, Board Member  
Eileen Campbell, Board Member  
Monet Cairns, Bartender  
Cathy Thompson, Bartender  
Jeremy & Angie Berg, Guests

### Absent

Eric Fenson, General Manager

### Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Josh Bahr to approve the August meeting minutes. Second made by Amanda Kelly. Motion carried.

### Approve Agenda

Addition to original agenda to include getting watercoolers placed back on the ice, and to address a rattling heater. Motion made by Myles McDanel to approve agenda. Second made by Eric Johannsen. Motion carried.

### Financial Report

Not discussed – financial documents were received late in the day.

### GM and Ice Report

Not available – Eric Fenson not present

### Committees

## Membership

- No information available

## Marketing

- Joel Johannsen interested in chairing this committee but needs to know what exactly he would be responsible for.
- Discussion that his responsibilities would include marketing activities related to newspapers and other local marketing opportunities that the club should take advantage of. Unsure if it would include social media as Rob is currently doing this.
- He should also work to promote bonspiels and assist with promoting the Mixed Doubles Nationals event.
- A list should be made and refined at a future meeting.

## Finance

- No information available

## Paul Bunyan Bonspiel

- No information available

## Juniors

- Discussion of the junior bonspiel with the Bergs. They would like the information and registration for this bonspiel to be available on Curling Manager and were excited to hear of the capabilities that the online format would allow.
- It was also mentioned that there are name misspellings on the U18 nationals 2018 sign in the arena as well as the one for state. The club needs to correct the name spellings on the sign.
- Mackenzie mentioned that it might be nice for the club juniors to once again be able to participate in the Pines to Prairie curling program if it still exists.

## Kitchen

- Myles did an inventory of the kitchen but has not had a lot of time to clean.
- He is also exploring the possibility of grant opportunities for the club in order to assist with projects we may need to have done to enhance the food service capabilities of the club.

## Events/Club Rentals

- Lynn Baird and Lynn Johnson are arranging for a group of volunteers to deep clean the club in preparation for Mixed Doubles Nationals Event
- The board suggested looking into Kirk Saiger for carpet cleaning ahead of the event
- Eric Johannsen has reached out to the local pickleball association to see how our facility can possibly fit into their needs for all-weather locations. This may be a great opportunity for summer revenue.

## Old Business

### Pull Tabs

- No new information

### Janitorial Job Description

- No information available

### Ice Maker Job Description

- No information available

### Volunteers (Painting Home Wall)

- Kirby is looking into cold weather paint for this purpose.
- There was discussion that the entire home wall must be painted the entire height of the wall, to make it shorter will leave it looking unfinished.
- Discussion of replacing metal on inside of entire arena, cannot be painted and must be replaced.
- Lanny mentioned that once the metal is replaced we should really post that posters and other items should not be taped to the metal as this ruins the finish.

### Mixed Doubles Nationals 2020

- Kirby reported that the progress on Mixed Doubles Nationals is going well. Approximately \$13,225 has been raised from sponsors, out of our goal of \$20,000.
- Conrad Kelly is working with Randy Westhoff to chair the seating committee for the event.
- Still looking for a local title sponsor for the event. Suggested to approach the airport (Delta or Bemidji Aviation) as possibilities.
- The next meeting for mixed doubles nationals committee will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Open House/Mini Spiel (Lanny)

- Went ok. Less participants than expected due to happening on hunting opener.

### Curling Manager Progress

- The site set-up is progressing well but the service itself is currently down. Will send out invitation email once it is back up and running. It is ready to accept membership fees.
- Needs final linking to PayPal to move payments into the checking account.
- Need to meet with Eric Fenson to come up with processes for keeping the system up to date and to ensure that he understands how to use it.

- The Bergs were excited to hear about the Curling Manager system and suggested that the club should reformat the juniors program and registration so that it is available through the club (via Curling Manager) instead of community ed, which will allow for juniors to be recognized through the United States Curling Association (USCA).
- The majority of board members were unaware that the management of the junior program currently goes through community ed and community ed receives a portion of the proceeds. This percentage is unknown but the board needs to know more about the arrangement as this is something that should be changed prior to next season.

#### Bar Area and/or arena light upgrades

- Spoke with Jeremy Berg about lighting possibilities. There is a lighting rebate available on LEDs through the rest of the calendar year.
- The board decided that we should swap out a few current lightbulbs with some LED options to see what brightness would be needed before deciding which fixtures should be replaced.
- Monet and Kathy asked if there was any way that during bonspiels they can make a minimum of \$10 per hour if they are not receiving tips equivalent to that amount. Amanda asked what their employment status is with the club as that has to determine the payment arrangement. They are employees of the club but are volunteers during bonspiels. They also stated that they have not been given options for withholding. Since this opens up a number of other legal questions, Kirby said that he will speak to Eric Fenson about the payment arrangements of the bartenders. The club must be careful to handle this issue correctly so that we meet all legal requirements.
- In the meantime, Josh Bahr made a motion to vote that the bartenders receive the difference between tips and \$10/hour if there are not enough tips made to cover. Myles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### BSU Student Participation (Mackenzie)

- Mackenzie is planning to start a Bemidji State University student curling club to promote the sport of curling within the school.
- She plans to wait to implement this until next year. The focus will be on BSU students and will utilize practice ice time with a goal to compete in the college national tournament.
- She would need to know how much it would cost for the students to participate in such a club.

#### Other

- A discussion took place regarding how the club should police bonspiels as certain bonspiels tend to have participants who bring their own alcohol and become unruly.

- A couple of thoughts presented include requiring the chair of the bonspiel to make arrangements to supervise the facility themselves, or perhaps require that they submit a damage deposit. They should also be responsible for asking participants to leave the facility if they are breaking the rules.
- Bonspiel chairs should be notified of these rules ahead of time.

## New Business

### Liz Johnson Query

- Liz Johnson submitted several questions via email that she would like to have the board answer:
  - o What is the protocol for league if schools are closed?
    - The league chair makes the decision. Arena is still open for practice if the chair decides to cancel.
  - o When is the last week of curling for club play?
    - The last day available for league curling is April 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - o When is the playoff for the club league championship?
    - There will be a meeting upcoming to determine when this will take place
  - o How much money will be allocated for end of the year league championships?
    - Kirby will check with Eric Fenson for this to see what has been done in the past.

### Watercoolers back on the ice

- Members are requesting that the watercoolers once again be placed down on the ice.
- The coolers themselves are downstairs in storage.
- The club has used Coke in the past so Kirby will contact them for pricing.

### Strategic Plan Committee

- Conrad and Amanda Kelly have volunteered to chair a Strategic Plan Committee to help the club create a Strategic Plan as a shared vision for the future and as a tool to guide future board decisions. The Strategic Plan committee would consist of board members, club employees, club members, and community leaders.
- The board has received some basic information on the process and will vote at the next meeting if we should proceed with the process. It will be an intensive process with a goal to have the Strategic Plan completed before the next BCC Annual Meeting in May.

### CPR/AED Training

- Lanny Cyr has arranged for a safety training class to take place at the club on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. This class will cover the basics of CPR and AED training for participants and will be free to all members.

### Curling Supply Sales

- The club's current equipment sales company has been sold. We will be using a new company based out of Fargo.
- Josh Bahr also mentioned that Steve's Curling Supply out of Wisconsin is very good to work with, Amanda agreed with this statement.

### 2021 USCA Event Hosting

- Kirby emailed out a list of 2021 USCA Events and encouraged board members to consider volunteering to chair an event. Hosting an event helps the club make its rock payment each year and promote the club. He stated that although it is a lot of work, there are many great people that will come forward to help with the process.

### **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Josh Bahr. Second made by Amanda Kelly at 7:46pm. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is at 5:30 pm on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, at BCC.