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Niagara Falls Curling Club Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022

Call to Order

A meeting of the NFCC Board was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 through a Zoom format with Jackie Lynch, Jeff Glover and Sean Ford joining from the Club lounge. The meeting began at 5:38 pm and was chaired by Board President, Jackie Lynch.

Attendees and Regrets

Directors in attendance included:

Randy Elliott, Claire Fish, Stephen Fish, Jeff Glover, Schelley Hiebert, Jackie Lynch, June Lumber, Spencer Maves, Rob Walters and Karen Willams.

Regrets: Jamie Brunaccioni and Tim Williams

Staff in Attendance

Sean Ford

Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting was made by Spencer Maves and seconded by Stephen Fish. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes for the December 21, 2021 Board meeting were distributed prior to meeting.

A motion to accept the December 21, 2021 Minutes was made by Karen Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

New Business

Board Executive Elections:

Jackie Lynch advised that the following slate of proposed directors was being presented:

- Past President: Jackie Lynch
- President & Chair: Rob Walters
- Vice President: Schelley Hiebert
- Treasurer: Jeff Glover
- Secretary: Spencer Maves
- Executive Director: Tim Williams
- Executive Director: Stephen Fish

A motion to adopt the proposed slate of directors was made by Stephen Fish and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

Jackie congratulated the new directors and looks forward to working with them as past president.

Incoming president, Rob Walters, thanked Jackie for her amazing leadership over the past 4 years and acknowledged he has big shoes to fill. Once the Club has re-opened, we will be able to thank Jackie in person for all that she has done.

Rob asked Jackie to continue chairing the meeting.

Business Arising from Minutes (Via Jackie Lynch)

Jackie Lynch led the discussion on the following items:

Valentine's Bonspiel:

Looking to reschedule on the last weekend of March. However, 8 teams have advised that they cannot participate due to conflicting events/playoffs at their clubs. Jackie is looking at other options including other weekends to hold the bonspiel.

OCA loan and membership payment:

The Club has one remaining \$6,000 loan payment to the OCA/CurlOn along with the membership fees for the 2021-22 season.

Given the continuing closure of the Club due to provincial COVID-19 restrictions, it was decided to defer the matter until the next Board meeting when we hope to have a better understanding of Club operations for the remainder of the season.

A motion to defer the matter to the next Board meeting was made by Randy Elliott and seconded by Spencer Maves. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

Club Manager, Sean Ford, provided the following updates:

The Club is closed until at least January 26th in accordance with the Province's move on January 5th into Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen.

The ice is currently in hibernation. However, Sean is preparing a start-up schedule so we will be ready to prepare the ice once we have a better understanding on when the Club will re-open. Sean believes that with our new ice-making system that the ice should be ready within 72 hours of getting notice we can resume operations.

During the shut down, Sean has been busy on several projects including the installation of the Point-of-Sale (POS) system, a new internet/Wi-Fi system, cleaning and reorganizing the Pro-Shop display area. A special thank you to Andrew Stoakley and Jackie Lynch for their assistance.

There is \$680 in the Scholarship fund. Sean is suggesting that a \$200 bursary be presented this year to a male and female high school curler.

Sean and Jeff Glover have been communicating with the Club's accountant about options to apply for government COVID-19 financial relief programs.

Committee Reports:

*Finance Report: Jeff Glover provided an update as follows:

Cash - \$107440

Income:

Membership - \$74,282

Subsidies - \$11,878

Bar Sales - \$13,495

Valentines - \$6,600

Other - \$4,603

Total - \$110,858

Expenses:

Salaries - \$35,813

Taxes - \$6,187

Insurance - \$13,082

Legal & acc. - \$6,608

BLDG Maint. - \$4,015

Utilities - \$11,655

Other -\$21,654

Total- \$99,014

Profit YTD- \$11,844

Short term debt –

OCA loan - \$6,000

OCA Fees - \$2,500

Total \$8,500

Long term debt - Gov't COVID-19 Relief Loan - \$40,000 (payable December 31, 2023)

Debentures - \$81,000 (to be paid out over 14 years)

Total \$121,000

We have minimized expenses during the shutdown and early indications are that the new ice-making system is much more energy efficient than the old system and should be reflected by reduced electricity usage.

Jeff is recommending a budget of \$2,000 to replace the carpet at both of ends of the ice surface and \$1,000 for the column support project. Sean will get quotes. The funds can come from the \$3,500 that is in the National Sports Trust Fund.

A motion to proceed with a budget of \$2,000 for new carpet and \$1,000 for the column support project was made by Jeff Glover and seconded by Spencer Maves. Motion carried.

Jeff, Sean and Jackie will meet January 14th to draw the 7 names for debenture payouts scheduled for January, 2022.

Facilities: Jackie Lynn read Tim Williams update as follows:

As the short-term focus will be on the carpet replacement and column support work, the replacement of the street sign project will be deferred until the spring.

Communications: Stephen Fish provided an update as follows:

- We continue to use the Club's social media channels to provide updates about the Club. Since the last update on December 10th, we have had 12 Facebook posts ranging from 200-300 views per post.
- We have started to share information about James Cutriss, the chef that is working out of the Club's kitchen and the specials offered through his business, [Jimmy Donairs](#) including a Friday Night Fish Fry.

Curling Affairs: Spencer Maves reported the following:

Lynne Coull provided Spencer with the following information from the last CurlOn meeting:

All clubs must be closed for recreational use due to provincial guidelines. Only high-performance athletes/ athletes training for Olympics/Paralympics are allowed to continue to use facilities.

Spencer suggested that we postpone setting dates for the Learn-to-Curl program until we learn when we can safely reopen and host these events.

Our next Trivia night will be scheduled once provincial guidelines permit holding the event in the Club's lounge.

Bonspiels: Most events up in the air and on the verge of being rescheduled due to provincial restrictions.

Discussions are currently on hold with the City of Niagara Falls to host a profession curling competition. Spencer will keep in contact to continue discussions once the provincial restrictions are lifted.

A new Club logo concept was shown to the Board and was well-received.

Strategic Planning Committee: Rob Walters explained that once the Club has reopened, we will look to form member committees to work on the Plan's objective.

Section Reports

Day Men's: Randy Elliott asked about whether there could be markers placed at the ends to designate where the red and yellow rocks should be placed. There have been some incidents of the wrong sheet's rocks being thrown. Sean will look into placing markers.

Day Ladies': June Lumber reported that after the success of the Poinsettia sale, the Day Ladies are interested in organizing a Spring flower sale. Rob Walters will follow up with the Niagara College Greenhouse about plant options.

Brodie: Jamie Brunaccioni stated that there have been comments about the pebble breaking down.

Youth Curling: Claire Fish provided the following update:

We have completed our three weeks of Girls Rock and have had many great presentations on Fitness, Conflict Resolution, and Positive self talk. We also continue to get great responses from the girls that participated.

On January 24th, Stephen Fish is presenting at the Women in Leadership virtual conference for Curling Canada.

Little Rocks and Junior curling closed a week early due to Covid-19 cases rising. Both of the Youth Curling programs are going well. We are trying to get more High school kids to play and are excited to get back to curling and skill developing.

Junior League:

With the provincial restrictions, the February start date might need to be changed. Stephen Fish has reached out to the other area curling clubs.

Other Business

None

Acceptance of Reports

A motion was made to receive all presented reports by Schelley Hiebert and second by Spencer Maves. Motion carried.

Adjournments

A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Elliott

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for February 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Zoom/location TBD.