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Niagara Falls Curling Club Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2022

Call to Order

A meeting of the NFCC Board was held on Monday, June 20th, 2022 in the Club lounge. The meeting began at 7:04pm and was chaired by Board President, Rob Walters.

Attendees and Regrets

Directors in attendance included: Jamie Brunaccioni, Claire Fish, Stephen Fish, Jeff Glover, Laurie Simpson, Spencer Maves (by Zoom), Rob Walters and Tim Williams.

Regrets: Jackie Lynch, Randy Elliott, Schelley Hiebert and Karen Williams.

Staff in Attendance

Sean Ford

Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting was made by Tim Williams and seconded by Jeff Glover. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes for the May 30, 2022 board meeting were distributed prior to meeting.

A motion to accept the May 30, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Tim Williams and seconded by Laurie Simpson. Motion carried.

New Business

June Lumber has advised she will be resigning from the board. However, June is interested in assist with events. Thank you June for all your assistance and guidance!

Manager's Report

Sean Ford provided the following updates:

- The kitchen contractor (James) has been clearing out stuff and finishing up his operation in our facility. He should be gone in just over a week.
- Dave Grimo has started prep work on the lockers in the Men's Change room.
- The renovations already approved by the Board in the Icehouse have not been scheduled yet. More to come at the July 18th Board meeting or by email.
- Scholarship – the Club currently has \$680 in a scholarship fund and the Murray Endicott fund is sitting at \$4,437.19. We should put together a plan for this including speaking to Brian Moore about the possibly contacting Mrs. Endicott to discuss the issuance of scholarship funds.
- The replacement leased printer/copier has been delivered and configured.
- Quotes in for the replacement of the front door
- Carpet quote for the front entrance is expected to come in on Thursday
- In the process of getting additional quotes for the carpet runners for the ice shed and will be coming back with a proposal to install the infrastructure for the far end cameras.

Jeff Glover suggested we proceed with renovating the front entrance.

Motion to allocate the funds (approximately \$4,000) in National Sports Trust Fund for the front hall renovations was made by Stephen Fish and seconded by Claire Fish. Motion carried.

Sean will keep the Board up-to-date on the project costs and timing.

Committee Reports:

Finances:

Jeff Glover provided the following updates:

We have \$91,000 in the bank account. We ended up with approximately 240 members and estimated year-end loss of \$26,000 which is very good considering the challenges of the past year.

An inventory of the bar was completed last week and Jeff, Sean and Brenda are working on providing the necessary information to the accountants so they can complete the year-end financial reports.

Jeff believes we need to have at least 300 members next year but would love to see it around 400. Therefore, we need to start thinking about night league formats and the options for Learn to Curl and possibly a beginners' league. We also need to develop our marketing strategy.

The Board discussed re-commencing a Finance Committee which was discontinued approximately 15 years to assist the Treasurer with financial reporting and planning. Attached are draft Terms of Reference.

Motion to re-commence a Finance Committee and approve the draft Terms of Reference was made by Tim Williams and seconded by Laurie Simpson.

Jeff can acquire an A/C unit to cover the main lounge area and can speak to Gerry from Gordon Wright to install. This will allow the Club to have indoor events during the summer and early fall including rentals.

Motion to approve the purchase of an A/C unit and installation costs of \$2,200 was made by Tim Williams and seconded by Claire Fish. Motion carried.

Facilities:

Issues were covered in the Manager's and Finance Reports above.

Communications: Stephen Fish reported the following:

5 Facebook posts since May 29

Curling Canada [published an article](#) about Spanish exchange student and NFCC Youth member Felix Encinas on June 2nd that was shared on their Facebook feed and resulted in 231 likes.

And the post by Kerri Einarson resulted in 352 likes about meeting our youth curlers!

Update on followers since May 29 board meetings:

211-233 on Instagram

891 -896 Facebook Like

985 -995 Facebook follow

Curling Affairs:

Sean and Spencer took us through a powerpoint presentation on the Grand Slam of Curling hosting opportunity.

It is a great opportunity for the Club and we discussed the following:

Key that the NFCC does not lose money. Therefore, Sean will confirm that the City of Niagara Falls are prepared to cover any amount owing for the \$145,000 bid fee that is due to Sportsnet at the end of the event.

Subject to confirming that the City will cover any outstanding amount for the bid fee, the plan is to submit a proposal by June 30th for Niagara Falls City Council to consider at its July 12th Council meeting. If they approve our proposal, the next step is to enter into a contract with Sportsnet.

Sean will provide an update by email and will be available next Monday at 7 pm for a Zoom call to discuss the proposal and any last details that are required for submission.

The Board recognizes that any agreements regarding the event should be reviewed by a lawyer.

Spencer Maves will be the main organizer. Sean will provide technical assistance but he is going to be busy with managing the Club so Spencer will need Club members to assist with the planning for the event along with Club members and friends volunteering during the week-long event.

Motion to proceed with a proposal to the City of Niagara Falls with a guarantee of no financial liability to the NFCC if we do not reach the \$145,000 net bid fee was made by Tim Williams and seconded by Jeff Glover. Motion passed.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Social Planning:

Committee Chair Laurie Simpson provided the following update:

Plans for two selected summer events are well underway

One member (Gary Torrville) has resigned from the committee due to conflicting commitments, so we are looking for a replacement.

- Welland Jack Fish Game – Thursday, 14 July 2022
 - a. SCP Leads – Joan Hawks and Laurie Simpson
 - b. Communications to members and on social media

- c. 20 Tickets sold (box capacity is 24)
- Corn Hole Tournament – August/September timeframe (date TBD)
 - a. SPC Lead – Maia Greig (replacing Gary Torraville)
 - b. Spencer Maves has volunteered to support us – sharing his expertise from organizing prior tournaments
 - c. We will need additional volunteers
 - d. Plan to provide snacks/soft drinks
 - e. Need bartender and access to the bar for beverages
 - f. Next Steps – select date and draft communications

Section Reports

Day Men's:

- Meeting soon to set up season schedule

Day Ladies':

First Ladies Executive Meeting with the new group was held May 25, 2022
Reviewed 2022-2023 Calendar to determine dates for events, as follows:

- Ladies Section Opening Luncheon – September 28, 2022
- Strategy Session – October 5, 2022
- Fall Card Party – November 4, 2022
- Festival of Lights Bonspiel – November 23-24, 2022
- Ladies Section AGM (Winterfest) – February 15, 2023
- Kerrio Bonspiel – February 23, 2023
- Spring Card Party – March 3, 2023
- Ladies Closing Luncheon – April 12, 2023
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All of these dates are tentative and need to be confirmed with Sean.

Open:

Nothing to report.

Thursday Open:

Nothing to report.

Brodie:

Nothing to report.

Juniors:

Looking for a sponsor for Girls Rock as the grant from Curling Canada was only for one year. Alana Coull (Westlane) and Ashton Butt (Myer) were both female and male curlers of the year in their respective schools.

Other Business

Membership Fee Discussion

The Board continued the discussion from the May Board meeting on the appropriate membership fees for the 2022-23.

There was agreement that an increase is required given that costs are going up. Jeff advised that inflation has been trending at about 8.6% and natural gas rates will be increasing by 15-20%. We also have not received our insurance premium for next year. It increased 30% last year so it could be a similar hike.

Different percentage increases were reviewed and a discussion occurred on ensuring sufficient revenue is raised but also being competitive with area clubs.

A motion was made to provisionally approve a 7% increase for membership fees by Tim Williams and Laurie Simpson. Motion carried.

The Board also spent time discussing the different membership fee options including Randy Elliott's great suggestion to have a rate for members who head south after the Christmas holidays. Considered revisions to the Spare Fee and Fifth person fees.

The Board also discussed different options including whether to have an early bird/late fee option, payment options throughout the season and support for members who may be finding it financially difficult to pay the increased fees.

It was suggested that the Club allocate a portion of membership fees to a building fund to prepare for future large projects and building/equipment emergency repairs.

The plan is to review the proposed increase at our next Board meeting that is scheduled for Monday, July 18th at 7 pm. The Board can determine whether 7% is an appropriate increase or whether a further increase is required.

With June Lumber's resignation, a new rep for Thursday Open is needed.

Acceptance of Reports

Motion to accept all reports was made by Stephen Fish and seconded by Tim Williams.
Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tim Williams and seconded by Claire Fish.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm

Next meeting: July 18, 2022 at 7 pm.