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Niagara Falls Curling Club Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2022

Call to Order

A meeting of the NFCC Board was held on Monday, July 18th, 2022 on Zoom. The meeting began at 7:07pm and was chaired by Board President, Rob Walters.

Attendees and Regrets

Directors in attendance: Rob Walters, Spencer Maves, Schelley Hiebert, Randy Elliott, Jackie Lynch, Jeff Glover, Laurie Simpson and Tim Williams

Regrets: Karen Williams, Jamie Brunaccioni, Stephen Fish, Claire Fish

Staff in Attendance

Sean Ford

Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting was made by Randy Elliott and seconded by Jackie Lynch. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes for the June 20th board meeting were distributed prior to meeting.

A motion to accept the June 20, 2022 Board meeting minutes was made by Tim Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

Sean provided an update on the summer maintenance schedule including:

- A/C unit will be mounted and wired next week so it is ready for the Great Wolf Lodge job fair on August 2nd
- Board agreed that the lounge rental rate should remain at \$350 for members and \$400 for non-members. Motion made by Tim Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.
- Quotes to replace front door and carpet total \$5700. There is \$4000 in the National Sports Trust Fund. Motion to approve the additional expenditure of \$1700 was made by Laurie Simpson and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

James the Caterer has left the kitchen but still owes 2 months' rent. Board agreed with Sean's recommendation that we strike a Kitchen Committee with 3 or 4 members to oversee its operation and approve a list of 3 or 4 preferred caterers. Motion to create a kitchen committee was made by Laurie Simpson and seconded by Tim Williams. Motion carried.

OCA is offering two events for the Club to host. First is a Club Champions Qualifier on October 14-16th. The qualifier would end on Sunday, October 16th at noon so the Little Rocks and Youth Curling would be held Sunday afternoon. Would be similar to a Brodie Night and we would be required to have bartenders and ice techs. Board agreed that Sean should confirm with OCA that we would host. Motion made by Tim Williams and seconded by Schelley Hiebert. Motion carried.

Second event is a U21 qualifier on January 27th to 29th. Sean believes with the likely small turnout of teams that the event would conclude on Saturday, January 28th. Board agreed to host on the condition that it did not conflict with Sunday morning Little Rocks and Youth Curling. Motion made by Tim Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott Hiebert. Motion carried.

Sean explained the proposed season schedule which would see the ice ready by October 2nd and League play begin the week of October 9th. It would provide 26 weeks of curling with the ice coming out on April 16th. The Board approved the schedule recommended by Sean. Motion to put ice in for October 2nd. Motion made by Jeff Glover and seconded by Tim Williams. Motion carried.

Sean provided an overview of the proposed summer maintenance schedule including the replacement of the puck boards, installation of an additional humidity sensor in the ice, ceiling fans and carpet runners. Given that there may be unexpected repairs or need for addition paint during summer maintenance, the Board approved Sean with the discretion to spend up to \$500 on supplies so time is not lost. He will advise Jeff Glover of any purchases. Motion to allow a \$2000 construction fund for Sean's discretion up to \$500 per spend with quick approval by Jeff Glover, to be used by expenses. Motion made by Tim Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

Sean outlined the proposed league schedule. Board agreed with Sean's recommendation to have a full-year Learn-to-Curl league. Using the format developed by Curling Canada, the first 10 weeks will be on ice and off ice training followed by a league that team with 3 or less years of experience can play in. One team member can have more than 3 years of curling experience. The Learn to Curl league will run on Thursday evenings. The fee to participate in the Learn to Curl league will be a bit more than the trial membership given the amount of training and support: \$255 compared to \$175. Motion to add a Learn-to-Curl league to the Thursday night schedule with specific programming made by Tim Williams and seconded by Laurie Simpson. Motion carried

The interruption to the Youth League and Sunday morning Little Rocks and Youth curling were discussed. Sean will speak to Steve Fish and Jason Jackson about options to limit the scheduling conflicts between weekend bonspiels/rentals and the youth curling.

Sean discussed the proposed fee schedule options for the 2022-23 season with a Team option of \$1700 to encourage corporate and work teams (e.g., firefighters) of 5 or 6 members to sign up; dedicate \$55 or \$125 to a base membership fee (building, OCA, CCA fees, etc.), a Snowbird fee to cover October 9th to December 4th and an installment payment plan. After a good discussion, the Board approved a fee schedule that would see a 10% increase from last year's rates including a base membership fee of \$175. There will not be a spare fee if a club member has paid the base membership fee of \$175 and would be able to spare for any team which has 4 paid up members. Sean will update the schedule and send to everyone to see the breakdown. If we can get 300 members this year, the building fund could hit \$9,300 - \$31.02 x 300 which could be saved up for big projects such as ice shed roof replacement. Motion to move forward with proposed fee structure, reduce late fee and increase base fee by \$50, and increasing all rates by 10%, made by Jackie Lynch and seconded by Schelley Hiebert. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finances:

From June 1st to July 18th, \$1,017 in revenue with \$8,698 in expenses with \$76,663.00 in cash.

Jeff Glover provided an overview of the draft Budget he has developed. The key is that we need 300 and ideally 400 members. Jeff asked Board members to review the budget and ask any questions. We will also have the Finance Committee, once it is operational to review and provided comments.

Facilities:

Nothing to report beyond Sean's report on summer maintenance projects.

Communications: Stephen Fish provided a written report with following information:
233 -256 on Instagram
896 – 907 Facebook Likes
995 -1012 Facebook follow

Many great responses to post about the Grand Slam of Curling bid: 75 likes and 8 comments

Curling Affairs:

Spencer Maves provided the following update:

Grand Slam of Curling (GSOC):

- Sean Ford, a rep from Sportsnet and he went to City Council on Tuesday, July 12th, where City Council unanimously approved their decision to be the financial guarantor for the event. Next steps include signing a contract with Sportsnet formalizing the NFCC as the official host committee of the 2023 event.

Social Planning: There is a social summer event scheduled for August 25th and the Open House BBQ will be September 21st.

Section Reports

Juniors:

Jason and Stephen are planning a mid-august meeting to plan for youth curling for the fall. They are both excited about the opportunities associated with youth curling and the GSOC and will endeavour to reach out to parents to find volunteers.

Other Business

President's Report, by Rob Walters:

We have been approached by the Canada Summer Games committee to use the Club's parking lot as staff and overflow parking for the baseball games at Oakes Park for the week of August 6th.

Sean has contacted our insurance broker and we need the Canada Summer Games to add the Club to their Certificate of Insurance and indemnify the Club from any liability for damages.

Motion to allow the Canada Summer Games to use the NFCC parking lot subject to agreement on indemnity made by Tim Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

Vice President for the Buffalo Curling Club has reached out to confirm date for the Battle of the Bridge. Sean and Rob will review the calendar for possible dates.

Acknowledgement to Dave Grimo and his painting crew for updating the lockers in the men's changeroom.

Sean and Rob met with Dino Pozzobon, Jason Jackson and Jordan Doan about their interest in being members on the Finance Committee and provided some background information on the Club and its finances. A follow up meeting will likely occur next week with hopes that Dino, Jason and Jordan will agree to participate and have a first meeting in the next few weeks.

Acceptance of Reports

Motion by Tim Williams and seconded by Randy Elliott. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tim. Seconded by Schelley Hiebert. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Next meeting: August 15, 2022 at 7 pm.