



5801 Morrison Street, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2E8 (905) 358-6648

Niagara Falls Curling Club Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2021

Call to Order

A meeting of the NFCC Board was held on Monday, November 15, 2021 in the lounge at the Niagara Falls Curling Club. The meeting began at 6:06 pm and was chaired by Board President, Jackie Lynch.

Attendees and Regrets

Directors in attendance included:

Jamie Brunaccioni, Claire Fish, Stephen Fish, Jeff Glover, Jackie Lynch, Spencer Maves, Laurie Simpson (for June Lumber), Rob Walters and Karen Williams

Directors not in attendance: Randy Elliott, Schelley Hiebert 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 Karen Williams and seconded by Spencer Maves. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

October 18, 2021 Board minutes will be reviewed at the December board meeting.

New Business

- Valentine Spiel Update

Bonspiel is scheduled for February 12 and 13, 2022. An advertising email was sent out on November 8th and in just one week, 14 teams have signed up.

- Ice Schedule (November 29, 2021 to January 3, 2022)

League play is scheduled to begin on November 29th.

- Open House

An open house will be held on Saturday, December 4th to allow new curlers to come out and practice. Details are being finalized and will be emailed to members and posted on the Club's website.

- Learn to Curl events

Spencer Maves, Steve Fish and Sean Ford are looking at scheduling Learn to Curl sessions on weekends and afternoons to assist new members.

- New Year's Bonspiel

Planning is underway with details to be communicated to members by email and posted on the Club's website.

- Board Reporting Procedure

To ensure directors are prepared to discuss items and to make meetings more efficient, Jackie Lynch proposed that presenters submit a written report 5-7 days in advance of a Board meeting to the Board secretary. Exceptions would be made for pressing issues.

Board members agreed with the suggestion and it will be implemented going forward.

Business Arising from Minutes

- AGM on Monday, November 22, 2021

Preparations are ongoing for next week's Annual General Meeting. Information has been emailed to the membership along with the ability to submit an absentee ballot or proxy to the Club Manager by 5 pm on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

Manager's Report

Sean Ford advised that the new ice-making system is working and that ice preparation is proceeding to have league play start on November 29th.

The new ice-making system has two compressors which provide a safeguard if one compressor goes down. This redundancy was tested successfully over the past 72 hours due to the valves for one of the compressors failing on Thursday during start up. However, one compressor continued over the weekend to cool the ice shed while the contractor, Gordon Wright, waited for replacement valves. The new valves were installed earlier today and the system is now functioning at 100%.

So far, the system is much more efficient than the Club's old system and Sean believes that flooding can occur much quicker.

Jet Ice is scheduled to paint the ice on November 22nd so members will see white ice when they attend the AGM. That will leave 7 days to install the houses, paint the lines and complete the ice installation for the Monday morning league to begin at 10 am on November 29th.

Registration of new members and returning members continue with an expectation that several returning members will sign up before leagues begin in two weeks.

The Christmas shut down will occur on December 23rd with the Club opening back up on January 1st for the New Year's bonspiel and leagues starting up the week of January 3rd.

The intention is that the season would conclude on May 7th.

Committee Reports:

Finance Report: Jeff Glover provided an update as follows:

The Club currently has \$237,000 in its bank account from the land sale to the City and membership fees.

The Club has \$151,000 in Accounts Payable which includes the final payment on the new ice-making system.

That leaves \$86,000 in working capital. However, there are upcoming expenditures such as a \$40,000 government COVID-19 assistance loan that is due in December 2022, \$81,000 in debentures that need to be pay off over the next 14 years and \$6,000 to pay off the balance of a loan to CurlOn.

Jeff Glover and Sean Ford has done some research on a new Point of Sale (POS) system for the bar which would not only improve inventory control but also could be linked with the Club's website to allow online transactions.

Cost of a new system will likely be in the \$1,200 to \$1,500 range. Different vendors were reviewed and the recommended system is Square as it can work with our website, transaction fees are modest, there is 24/7 tech support and the system will continue if the internet/Wi-Fi system goes down.

The Board was supportive of acquiring a new POS system and approved to proceed.

A motion was made to purchase a new POS system up to \$1,500 by Karen Williams and second by Rob Walters. Motion carried.

Facilities:

Tim Williams was unable to attend so Jackie Lynch advised that Dave Grimo and Doug Ireland replaced some ceiling tiles that were water stained. Sean Ford is working with the roofer to return and complete the work over the mechanical room where the old condenser was located and recently removed by Gordon Wright in preparation of installing the new ice-making system.

Communications:

Steve Fish provide the following information on the different modes of communication that are being used including:

- The latest edition of the Burnt Rock newsletter was issued last week;
- Website continues to be updated with information;
- Posts on Facebook (31 last month) and Twitter (11 last month) continue to promote registration and profiling the different league options.
- Over the past month, the Club gained 45 Facebook followers and reached more than 12,000 accounts.

Curling Affairs:

Spencer Maves reported the following:

- Planning for Learn to Curl sessions is underway;

- The October 23rd trivia night had over 60 participants and raised \$1,300 for the Club. Good feedback has been received and we will look to organize another one in the new year;
- Looking to start a committee of members to assist with running events; and
- CurlOn has revised its recommended COVID-19 rules to allow two sweepers and skips to sweep past the T-line. The Board discussed the matter and agreed with the CurlOn recommendations along with wearing masks throughout the club unless seated to consume food or beverage or where 6 feet of distance can be maintained on the ice. Jackie Lynch will draft up the new recommendations so they can be reviewed and sent to league convenors and the membership.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Rob Walters advised that the committee is preparing to unveil the Strategic Plan at next week's AGM. It was suggested that the Plan be sent out to the membership a few days prior to the AGM so the members can review prior to the presentation.

Section Reports

Day Men's: preparing a Christmas bonspiel for December 16th. More details to follow and will be posted on the Club's website.

Day Ladies': organizing is ongoing for the poinsettia fundraising sale. To date, 50 plants have been ordered. 28 curlers have signed up for the Ladies' league and 28 for the mixed league.

Tuesday Night: 10 teams have signed up to date.

Brodie: 18 teams have signed up to date.

Thursday Night: 18 curlers have signed up to date.

There will be no Youngs Insurance Region-wide bonspiel this year.

Youth: Steve Fish and Jason Jackson were successful in securing a Curling Canada Grassroots Grant to start a youth curling league which will be open to under-18 curlers from the 5 Niagara Region curling clubs. The league will start in February and run for 10-weeks every Saturday at 10 am. There will be no team entry fee. Instead, teams will be encouraged to make a donation to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services. The grant will fund the league for the first 2 years.

Girls Rock has 24 girls between the age of 10 and 15 years of age signed up. 20 of the participants have never curled. It will run Thursday between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Due to a processing back log, police checks for all youth league instructors may take until December 31st to complete.

Other Business

None

Acceptance of Reports

A motion was made to receive all presented reports by Karen Williams and second by Steve Fish. Motion carried.

Adjournments

A motion to adjourn was made by Spencer Maves. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for December 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.