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Niagara Falls Curling Club Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021

Call to Order

A meeting of the NFCC Board was held on Monday, October 18, 2021 in the lounge at the Niagara Falls Curling Club. The meeting began at 6:15 pm and was chaired by Board President, Jackie Lynch.

Attendees and Regrets

Directors in attendance included:

Jamie Brunaccioni, Stephen Fish, Clair Fish, Jeff Glover, Schelley Hiebert, Jackie Lynch, Spencer Maves, Rob Walters, Lori Simpson (for June Lumber) and Karen Williams

Directors not in attendance: Randy Elliott, June Lumber 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

A motion to approval the Minutes for the September 21, 2021 Board meeting was made by Steve Fish and seconded Karen Williams. Motion carried.

New Business

Welcome New Board Member:

Jackie Lynch extended a warm welcome to the Board's newest member, Claire Fish. Claire will be representing the Youth Curling League that curls Sunday mornings. This is an exciting opportunity to have this section represented as a means of learning more about the curling activity, interests and needs of the growing youth section. Expanding the Club's youth representation is aligned with the Strategic Plan. **Welcome to the Team, Claire!**

Annual General Meeting:

The Board discussed and secured the date of Monday November 22, 2021 for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Notice of the date, time and location will be sent to the membership during the last week of October. A summary of the Auditor's Report on the 2020-2021 Financial Statement will, as per Club By-laws, be provided to the membership. Members in 'good standing' may attend and cast a vote.

Board members who will not be able to attend, should provide Jackie notice.

The following Board members will be standing for election:

- Steve Fish
- Jeff Glover
- Spencer Maves

Business Arising from Minutes

Draft Financials - Jeff Glover advised that there will be small loss to the pro-shop inventory account due to last season being abbreviated. The Financials will be finalized and be ready for discussion at the AGM.

Manager's Report

Membership Registration:

Sean Ford advised that registrations continue to 'flow-in'. There is an estimated 140-145 registered. This number includes the 25 girls who have registered for the new Girls Rock Program.

Sean reports being contacted by Niagara's ProKids Program (through the local YMCA) which supports the participation of children and youth in community activities. This program is designed to support kids from low-income families to participate in community activities within their community. ProKids would like to partner with the NFCC and is asking that the Club share in the cost of identified kids/youth so they may participate in the Sunday leagues. Sean will speak to the YMCA to convey our interest to support and to set parameters as to the number of participants. This partnership presents an opportunity for fundraising and to introduce kids to the game, and is aligned with the Club's Strategic Plan.

As the Club continues to develop children and youth programs, Sean raised the need to have Vulnerable Sector Police Checks completed for all volunteers that would interact with participants. These checks can be costly and act as a barrier for volunteer recruitment. The costs of these checks are estimate to be \$45-\$50 each.

A motion was made to cover the costs of the Vulnerable Sector Police Checks by Spencer Maves and second by Rob Walters. Motion carried.

Learn to Curl:

Moving leagues to the morning will open space in the afternoon for this prospect. From the 2021 SWOT meetings and questionnaire, members indicated interest in Learn to Curl sessions.

Board will also consider using the open sheets on Thursday nights to use for membership skill development and a possible new league that draws a stronger interest such as 'Strategy Sessions for the Back End', "Skipping School" and 'Learn to Skip Sessions'.

Use of Mail Chimp:

Sean reported that feedback is positive and the platform is working well (as seen on the communication of Trivia Night and monthly newsletter). 'Free' use of the system is coming to an end. Cost to continue using will range between \$30-\$40/month, and is consider 'good value'. Jeff indicated his support of the continued use and payment of monthly fees.

Newsletter:

Newsletter is expected to be issued on Friday October 25th and will include the AGM notice to members.

Covid-19 Update:

Provincial guidelines will allow 94.5 people in the Club with social distancing (2 metres apart). Events will be possible (example bonspiels) with some modifications (example: replace evening dance with a Coffee House format where social distancing can occur and people remain at their tables).

Individuals must be masked in the non-ice areas of the Club unless seated and consuming food or beverage.

Opening of the Border:

Border is scheduled to open on November 8th. A negative PCR test and completion of the ArriveCan app are required. The cost of a PCR test will be a barrier for American members from curling on a weekly basis.

Ice-Plant:

Work on the ice-plant continues. Due to supply chain challenges, November 8th is the new expected completion date.

Ice installation is usually a 30-day process for opening. Attempts will be made to reduce this time by 1 week to a 3-week completion time).

Rob Walters suggested posting 'ice-progression' pictures (on web site, for example) to showcase progress. This would be aligned with the need for more communication to membership (as per Strategic Plan).

Recommendations to accommodate delayed start include:

- Shorter Christmas shut-down
- Host a New Year's Day Bonspiel
- Continue to run Club till May 1st/end of first week of May
- Offer other creative/fun opportunities for membership during open ice hours/days

October 19th is the inspection date for the exterior double door to the mechanical room that was installed.

Committee Reports:

Financial Report:

Cash in Club's Bank account: \$223,217

Estimated Revenue: \$50,000 (\$34,000 in membership fees and \$16,000 in government subsidy)

July 1st to present day's operating loss is estimated to be \$7,000, and considered excellent (under the current climate). Subsidies end on October 31, 2021. General operating bills (such as hydro) continue to increase. Club's membership estimated 'break-even' point is 200.

Board held a discussion regarding the use of a 'cash-less' process. Expected benefits include inventory control, bar/beverage control, simpler accounting process with automatic transfer to Quick Books. The Board had a good discussion about the proposal, the pro & cons and recognized that it might need some education and a phase-in period. Further discussions will be held once potential 'cash-less' programs are researched by Sean Ford and Jeff Glover.

Facilities

The Men's bathroom renovations are completed with excellent results. Much appreciation goes out to Dave Grimo and Doug Ireland who did the work on a budget of \$400.

Communications

Social media promoting the Club continues. Club presence in the community is increasing as community members engaging with posts on Facebook and Twitter. Efforts will need to be made to keep people engaged with a focus on Facebook and directing the audience to the Club's website.

Curling Affairs

Spencer spoke to Lynn and there was no relevant information from the last CurlOn meeting.

Preparations for the October 23rd trivia night are underway.

Leagues

Day Leagues:

Organization is coming along. The opening lunch for the Day Ladies is October 27th. New members will be assigned a buddy.

Day Ladies executive are also overseeing the poinsettia Club fundraiser

Sean is following up on interest from the local high schools to use the ice in the afternoon for an after-school league.

Tuesday Night: 36 curlers have signed up. Waiting to hear from another 20 past participants.

Wednesday Night: 18 teams are confirmed with the possibly of another 1 or 2 joining. Rules will be the same as last year.

Thursday Mixed League:

Numbers are still low. This might be the opportunity to reconsider options including whether to offer an incentive for curlers from other night leagues to curl a second night on Thursday for a reduced fee.

Girls Rock: 24 participants with 21 being brand new curlers.

Sunday Youth Curling: 11 Little Rocks curlers and 13 Junior curlers have signed up to date.

An application has been submitted to Curling Canada for funding to host a junior curling league for youth curlers from the region's 5 curling clubs to participate. We should find out by the end of the month whether the application has been approved.

Other Business: None

Acceptance of Reports

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

Adjournments

A motion to adjourn was made by Karen Williams. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for November 15, 2021 at 6 p.m.