USARS Inline Hockey Committee Meeting

March 13, 2023, 8pm ET

Roll Call:

* Present: Keith, Melanie, Dave, Tim, Charlotte, Dustin, Jon, Heidi, Stephen, Charlie Jr.
* Absent: N/A

Before meeting started Melanie complained that people have questioned her ability to take the minutes and that she no longer wants to be responsible for the minutes. Tim and Keith both suggested that the zoom call be recorded. Melanie said no that she doesn't like the way her voice sounds on a recording. Tim said that this is the perfect way to keep track of all comments where no one could question what was said. Charlotte and Dave agreed. Melanie still was against it but said maybe next time. Tim agreed to take over Melanie's responsibility of taking the minutes.

Meeting:

* No conflicts of interest to disclose
* Accept agenda:
  + Motion to accept agenda
    - Keith motion, Melanie second
    - Discussion: Dave does not have information on equipment
  + Amended motion to adjust agenda to state objective discussion topics
    - Charlotte motion, Tim second
      * All agree except for Dave
    - Motion carries
* Approve minutes
  + Motion to approve minutes
    - All agree, Dave abstained, as he had not read the minutes yet as they were in his junk folder and did not see them.
    - Motion carries
* Financial Report
  + $16,478.70 in the account according to Melanie
  + Discussion:
    - Melanie: Announced that she has ordered equipment for players that have contacted her. She stated that some did not receive theirs or that they got the wrong stuff.
    - Tim, Chalie, Dave, Charlotte all voiced concern over Melanie taking it upon her self to do this.
    - Melanie: Planning to send money back to Senior Men players who were not considered in her words for the USA team. ($180 total)
    - Tim : commented that Melanie is using a play on words, that all players were considered but that those not selected were well below the standard needed for Team USA.
    - Melanie argued that the players were not below standard and it wasn't right that others were added to the team over them.
    - Tim replied that Melanie should not be commenting on the skill level of players just because she read their resume.
    - Melanie: Players were on the team that did not apply
    - Tim: Tim told everyone to apply; the only player who did not apply is Jaden Guzman. He explained that the deadline to apply for the team was too quick of a turnaround after World Games and that when players could not go (that did apply because they were asked to) we needed more time to find adequate replacements.
    - Keith: There is a rule that we can pick up a goalie after the deadline; question to Heidi; if we publish a deadline and we take someone after the deadline, USARS can get in trouble with the USOC
    - Charlie Jr.: One person set the deadline and this was not voted on by committee
    - Heidi: Have to follow processes and procedures for selecting world team members; has never heard of another sport that has changed athletes after the deadline
    - Charlie Jr.: How is the deadline normally set?
    - Heidi: There are qualifications: e.g., nationals and clinics and tryouts
    - Tim: There are no tryouts for the team so anyone can apply and information is not getting out to athletes
    - Jon: The committee put the dates together based on uniforms; did extend the deadline because teams were not filled; Charlie told Jon some athletes were not world class
    - Jon explained that the deadline was set this way because Chalie Sr and Dave expressed to him that it needed to be set then in order to get uniforms ordered.
    - Tim: The men’s team got different uniforms because of the world games team, which was primarily the same; the players who applied were not of a caliber to make the team; Melanie is unilaterally deciding to send money back
    - Jon was not aware that the uniforms for the mens team were ordered from a different place than the other teams
    - Tim agreed that this year was an unusual situation as we had World Games and then World Championships shortly after making it tough to get everyone's commitment so quickly
    - Tim, Dave, Charlotte, Chalie all had issue once again with Melanie unilaterally deciding to spend money out of the account.
    - Melanie made it known that she controlled the account that it was in her name and Jon's and she could do what she wanted to.
    - Chalie Jr asked what national bank the account was in
    - Melanie replied that it is in a local bank in Pittsburgh
    - Tim commented that Chalie Sr has said he has never signed a signature card or been given any information about this account and has never seen financials he had asked for over time.
    - Heidi: Suggest to move forward with agenda
    - Charlotte: Identify lessons learned and move forward
    - Dave: Asked Melanie for a list of individuals who did not receive equipment
    - Melanie: Already ordered equipment and the committee did not discuss
    - Dave: Spent money related to coaching four months ago and still have not received money
    - Jon: An organization looks bad if equipment is not received on time
    - Tim: The junior coaches asked for a status update on the gloves in January saying they have not yet received equipment
    - Tim read a letter from Dan Maxwell (Jr boys coach) and cc'd parents from team, in letter he thanks Chalie Sr and Dave for their help during the process and that they were the only ones helpful. He stated that Melanie was no help with the process.
    - Melanie stated that this wasn't her responsibility and that she was cleaning up Dave's mess.
    - Jon: Discussed equipment suppliers and responsibilities and asked for a paper trail
    - Dave and Melanie argued back and forth about the situation of the equipment.
    - Jon commented that he knows Dave and that Dave will not take no for an answer
    - Jon called Dave "a knucklehead"
    - Dave and Jon argued back and forth. Jon was agitated and commented something under his breath and dropped from the call.
    - Heidi: Asked for an office liaison from each sport committee so one person is contacting the office
    - Dave: Never did anything himself; Charlie was authorized to do things and asked for help from Dave or Melanie when needed
    - Heidi: Melanie to make a list of players with status of equipment
    - Heidi: Tried calling this company but did not get a response
    - Dave: Good Roller is the vendor that did all ordering, shipment, and fulfilment; Dave has the contact information
    - Heidi: Can Melanie provide Dave a list of what was ordered and what was sent
    - Tim: People mistrust this organization because individuals appear to be making unilateral decisions on how to use funds.
    - Heidi: Does not know how the non-profit is set up and who can make decisions
    - Charlie Jr.: We have not seen the bylaws; asked to see the bylaws he repeatedly asked to see the document and Melanie ignored his request
    - Melanie: The 501c3 is being dissolved
    - Heidi: Asked Melanie to send Dave the players that did not receive equipment
    - Heidi: Asked the committee to stop personal attacks
    - Melanie threatened to leave the call and did
* Melanie left and in doing so ended the call at 9:21pm ET

Tim reopened the call at 9:24pm ET:

* Present: Dave, Tim, Charlotte, Dustin

Discussion:

* Strategic plan for developing the inline hockey program
  + Team USA selection process
    - Potential for hockey committee to “scout” players at NARCh, TORHS, and State Wars (the three major US tournaments)
      * Removes the need to create an entirely new venue/event, which is difficult and time-consuming
    - Include pro divisions, womens and junior divisions
    - Select team during the world championships “off year”, including a larger roster/alternates
    - Hold camps/play in tournaments, develop training plans to prepare for World Championships the following year
    - Fundraise for the following year
  + Visibility
    - Create a website with basic information about Team USA
    - Provide information (e.g., pamphlets or QR code linking to site) to every inline rink, tournament, hockey manufacturer (e.g., Labeda, Bauer), and hockey supplier (e.g., Hockey Monkey)
      * Rinks, tournaments, manufacturers, suppliers distribute information to customers
* Continue to brainstorm strategic plan, grassroots programs, officials’/coaches’ programs

Recommendation:

* Establish a subcommittee for the 2024 World Skate Games including Dustin, Charlotte, Tim, and Dave and non-voting advisors including Charlie Sr. and Alex Morrison. Mandate is to develop the strategic plan for the 2024 games.

Meeting ended at 11:05pm ET

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2023, 8pm ET