



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019 @ Chicago Curling Club

David Jamros called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM at Chicago Curling Club. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, motion made by Russ Brown, seconded by Mark Striblen.

Treasurer's Report by Mark Striblen

A \$100 down payment on the new MCA logo was made. Currently, we have cash in CD's, and there was no discussion about changing this. Our legal name is still the Illinois Curling Association, so a discussion about changing bank accounts and doing business as the Midwest Curling Association ensued. Further discussion was tabled.

MCA Report by David Jamros

Exmoor Country Club's Team Wright won the playdowns in our area and will move onto Club Nationals. The Dar Curtis, held at Waltham CC from February 23-24, will have 16 teams. So far, nine teams have signed up, including two juniors teams. Junior fees were discussed, and it was agreed that instead of two separate fees, the MCA will have one \$5 annual fee for juniors that gives them access to all MCA events. The motion for this to be effective for the 2018-19 season was made by Dave Jamros and seconded by Jeff Wright. It passed. Currently, Chicago CC and Exmoor CC alternate hosting a mixed bonspiel each year, and it was agreed upon that any MCA club with a dedicated facility could host a mixed bonspiel annually.

USCA Report by Russ Brown

The USCA board is attempting to reduce the number of local representatives from 21 to 11, but it's expected they will settle on 13-15.

MCA Event/Club Reports

The local community college has resulted in a membership growth at Cedar Rapids Curling Club, and now the club has 16 teams. Due to the increase in demand, Cedar Rapids CC will curl into April. The USWCA Bonspiel will be held from February 15-17 at Chicago CC, and this year the games will be eight ends verse 10. Each game will be timed, so timers are needed. There is interest in having a USCA instructional clinic for Level I or II at Exmoor CC, Chicago CC, or possibly Windy City CC. Exmoor CC still has strong evening attendance, and Wednesday open league will continue in an open format with nine teams already signed up. Sunday afternoons at Exmoor CC continue to be for juniors. St. Louis CC now has 88 members, the most in its existence. They play on Saturday evenings and in March will pick up time on Tuesday nights. St. Louis CC is hosting their bonspiel(s) at Waltham CC. Currently, they are looking at three sites for building a permanent curling center. Wilmette CC still uses Chicago CC ice with two teams participating in Wednesday evening open nights at Exmoor CC. Wilmette CC has offered to let Northwestern Curling join them as NU has lost their funding. Windy City CC's new location is

currently under construction (i.e., being torn down). They are expecting an April or May completion and are considering summer leagues. Their current member total is 75.

Old Business

The vote for the new association logo was the one with a blue background and red rock handle (#3).

New Business

We are trying to get more stones, and Jeff Wright indicated he has a lead on 64. There are potentially new clubs being developed, Naperville and Bloomington. Dave Jamros noted that Wisconsin now has high school curling and asked if there was interest in the MCA region, how would we get that going. Thoughts included starting with one school as long as a teacher was directly involved in the supervision. The MCA is struggling to get women's teams involved in playdown events; it's a big deal. The MCA is looking for advertisers on the website, and Russ Armstrong has indicated interest. We are working on getting member names and email addresses uploaded, which is the minimum information requested. We also recognize that social media/technology are essential in other curling associations and clubs for member recruitment. The recent blog about Windy City CC, written by Shannon Brown, received 1700 hits and was shared by the USCA. All MCA board members are expected to become Safe Sport Certified by the end of February. The USCA wants our list, and we want to have it delivered before the next MCA meeting March 11, 2019, at Chicago Curling Club, 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM Jamros/Burns.