



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2017 @ Chicago Curling Club

David Jamros called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. Attending were Walter Burns, Paul Lange, Mark Striblen, Russ Brown, David Jamros, Christopher Neseman, Michele Rittgers, Colin Rittgers, and Everett Wilson. A motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented was made by Michele Rittgers and seconded by Jamros.

Treasurer's Report by Mark Striblen

All details in the memo from May 18, distributed to board.

USCA Report by Russ Brown

There was a meeting in Chicago from April 21-22. Curling Night in America was a huge success again, and next year they will begin in fall to lead into the Olympics. Over 100 hours of World Championship curling was on TV or web streamed, and the cost was absorbed by NBC or the World Curling Federation. USA's Men's, Women's, and Mixed Team qualified for the Olympics. There was a 4% increase in curling membership over the last season (172 clubs), and the members' assembly will be held in St. Paul from September 30 – October 1. The World Curling Federation gave the USCA a \$200,000 loan to loan to St. Louis CC for dedicated ice at a 0% interest but with collateral backing.

USWCA Report by Michele Rittgers

Senior Women's Bonspiel registration is open. Deadline is before many clubs have begun curling so spread the word.

Board meeting suspended at 7:13 PM and annual meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by Jamros.

There is no slate for board member nominations. Slate proposed by Russ Brown as follows: D. Jamros (President), C. Rittgers (VP), M. Rittgers (Secretary), and M. Striblen (Treasurer). Discussion ensued about whether Michele can be secretary thereby giving Chicago CC three representatives. Michele Rittgers qualifies because she is the USWCA representative to the ICA. Paul Lange moved to approved slate, seconded by Chris Neseman. Slate as above has been approved.

The annual meeting concluded at 7:28 PM. ICA meeting recommenced at 7:28 PM.

ICA Event/Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC will host their annual meeting and picnic on June 11. They are hosting a Level 1 Instructor class, and the cedar spiel is ½ full. They are working with United Way to promote curling; in addition, the Cedar Valley Curling Association formed to create a curling facility in Waterloo. Waterloo development corporation received \$1M, which they are hoping to tap. The

Waterloo waterpark opens in 2018; Cedar Rapids CC hopes to piggyback on that project. Chicago CC is looking at a lot of building improvements, and membership will have to be assessed (e.g., compressors, roof, etc.). They are evaluation immediate and long-term viability, and Chicago CC has discussed renting out the facility more, which would require A/C, etc. Exmoor CC has had a good, stable year. New members appreciate the Oakhouse, but getting members to curl as opposed to playing paddle has been a challenge. Paddle players feel that by supporting curling they are hurting the paddle membership. St. Louis CC has received the approved \$200k loan from WCF/USCA. Waltham CC would like to be more involved with hosting events, and they plan to host the 5 Year & Under this season. The club has a new president, Mike Sundberg, and has had great success with their juniors program. Four of their juniors will be attending a curling camp. Waltham CC also plans to host a junior bonspiel this December. Wilmette CC is alive and well. They are integrating with Chicago CC and are pursuing the Dar Curtis money. To stay alive, Wilmette CC needs support from other clubs. Windy City CC's bonspiel went well, and the Rittgers rink won again. They are looking to move to a dedicated facility and are putting out RFP to lease property in Burr Ridge. The warehouse facility would be converted to a four sheet facility.

Old Business

A simple draft of the website will be up by June 1, but it is just not dynamic. The Wilmette CC are pursuing Dar Curtis funds and would like ICA support. They are challenging the will itself, and they need a committee of sophisticated individuals to petition Chicago Community Trust. If the effort is put in, they should be able to get at least half of the funds in the next three years. Waltham would be happy to host the Illinae but needs more information. Chris Neseman is working on ICA pin log which will be developed by July meeting.

New Business

Jamros created a virtual warm room Facebook page for the ICA, which provides another social media outlet. Michele Rittgers proposed to have all ICA board members post and share the new Facebook page. Upcoming memorial for Carol Tyler (Northshore member) and Tom Kendall. Russ Brown presented the 2017-2018 tentative calendar. At first glance, January will be an issue as the Milwaukee Kiltie will be held the same weekend as Chicago CC's Men's Bonspiel which means one needs to be pushed back. Waltham CC has volunteered to host the 5 Year and Under in November. They are checking whether the ICA will host a U18 Championship. The ICA is looking to have an instructors clinic, and Exmoor CC is willing to host. This is an excellent idea as we are approaching an Olympic year. Exmoor CC will be hosting an interleague (either weekly or monthly) where the clubs play each other. R. Brown, C. Neseman, D. Jamros, and E. Wilson to collaborate and present a proposal at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM by Chris Neseman.