Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

March 23 via Phone Conference

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm on Monday, March 23, 2020, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance were: Jeff Wright (President), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Russ Brown (USCA), Jim Wilson (Vice President), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Phil Burian (Cedar Rapids), Sara Gaum (USWCA), Steve Parke (Waltham), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), David Jamros (Past President)

January Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved.
(1st Russ Brown / 2nd Jim Wilson)

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

. All rental fees for stones have been received.

MCA Event Reports

- All upcoming USCA events scheduled from March and April were canceled
- 2020 MCA Men's Regional Club Playdowns were hosted by Exmoor CC in January. Winners (Exmoor CC): Jeff Wright, Russ Brown, Steve Wright, Ken Brown
- Dar Curtis Bonspiel was successfully hosted at Chicago CC from Feb 15-16
  - Winners (Exmoor CC): Jim Millspaugh, Anthony Fowler, Gloria Chao, Jack Manierre

USCA Report by Russ Brown

- Jeff Plush was hired as the new CEO, and he attended the USCA Curling Nationals from Feb 8-15. The next USCA meeting was scheduled for Minneapolis in April but has been moved to Zoom.
- Final follow-up on the submission of dues and club roosters

USWCA Report

- USWCA 5 & Under Challenge was successfully held at Exmoor CC from Feb 29-March 1. In total, 16 teams participated, including curlers from Chicago CC, Exmoor CC, and Windy City CC.

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian

- Leagues officially canceled due to COVID-19. Summer officiating clinic canceled.
- Club members are participating in Zoomstacking (drinks and Jackbox TV games over Zoom) on previously scheduled league nights
- Outdoor 5-sheet promotional event Feb 1 in North Liberty at their festival was successful
- Requesting feedback on their survey (distributed to the MCA Board via email)
- Investigating opening a branch in Coralville, and if successful, the MCA will provide two sheets of arena-quality stones

Chicago CC Report by Sara Guam and Jim Wilson

- Closed due to COVID-19. Ice is being melted.
- The capital campaign saw 60% participation and 50% funding pledges
- Social events, such as Heather's Mad Hatter Closing Dinner, have been moved to Zoom.
- All learn2curls and corporate events have been canceled and refunded; estimate a $25k loss

Des Moines CC - No Report

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Curling season ended early due to COVID-19. Plan to open in early October
- 2021 Senior Nationals bid submitted by the club which is awaiting a response from the USCA
- New scrapper to be purchased and web streaming is being reviewed for the upcoming season

Northwestern CC Report by Andrew Wolek

- Curling is suspended due to COVID-19, and Northwestern University has sent students home
- Held successful practices in Jan and Feb with a consistent turn out even after a year of inactivity
- Working with Northwestern to restore normal club operations, including financial

St. Louis CC Report by Becca Walters

- Curling is closed due to COVID-19
- Winter Classic Bonspiel went well in mid-January
- All American Bonspiel to be held in April 2020 with Cedar Rapids CC has been canceled
- Working with the arena to secure additional ice time from 2020/2021 curling season

Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- Curling club open until normal close, but all organized events, leagues, and group outings suspended effective March 16 due to COVID-19
- Plan to do ice shutdown, spring awards banquet, officer elections as circumstances allow

Wilmette CC Report by Walter Burns

- Curling suspended due to COVID-19

Windy City CC Report by David Jamros

- Club closed and summer maintenance moved up to prep for a tentative later summer opening.

Old Business

MCA Banners Update

- Distributed at January Meeting: banners need to be sent to Cedar Rapids CC and Des Moines CC

MCA Grants for MCA Clubs

- Send receipts to Jeff Wright and Jeff Warner to get reimbursements
- Chicago CC, Exmoor CC, St. Louis CC, and Waltham CC submitted receipts

Stone Purchase Status/Leasing Agreement by Jeff Wright and Russ Brown

- Agreements have been signed by St. Louis CC and Windy City CC
- Three sets (48) were purchase from Bruce Krumhotz at $175 per stone $8,400

- New stones were weighed and matched by Windy City Curling Club
- Two sets are being leased to St. Louis CC; three new sets are being leased to Windy City CC to replace existing stones; three remaining sets for Learn2Curls are being stored at Windy City CC

Wilmette Park District

- No plan to continue pursuing at this time

Champaign Learn2Curl Event

- Coordinated by Kate Garfinkel & Jesus Barajas
- Ran a very successful event on three sheets; 80+ people attended the event
- Stones used for the event were loaned from the MCA

New Business

2021 Cedar Rapids Nationals Committee

- Asked MCA members how to improve survey (click here to view)
- Discussed possible ways to improve the volunteer experience and collect data for sponsors. For instance, would volunteers be willing to pay for commemorative items?
- Is there a need/interest in an ice-making class specifically for arena clubs?

MCA Officiating Clinic

- Summer officiating clinic at Cedar Rapids CC canceled
- Plans for Cedar Rapids CC and Exmoor CC to coordinate and host clinics separately in early 2021

MCA Trophies

- Russ is reviewing the plan with David Haverick, and they are determining the needs/ability to reuse or update existing MCA trophies
- Women's Playdown trophy and Mixed Playdown's trophy are in the process of being updated

2020 USA Senior Nationals

- Silver Medal (Exmoor CC): Jeff Wright, Russ Armstrong, Sean Silver, Russ Brown, Steve Waters

Facebook Updates

- Discussion about dealing with humorous/un-humorous comments on MCA Warm Room page
- Some inappropriate posts were being published, so Shannon has been monitoring the situation

Revenue Loss due to COVID-19

- Discussion regarding potential options for reimbursement or funding: SBA Loans, PPE Loans, Insurance Contracts for lost revenue, State Grants, EIDL Loans, etc.

Positive MCA News

- MCA Mixed Playdowns had five teams. For the past several years, the MCA has simply sent the only team that signed up. More participation in this playdown means great things for curling, and hopefully, we will continue to see the same level of interest next year!
- Five and Under National Spiel had four MCA participants this year (Chicago CC, Windy City CC, and St Louis CC) and 2 waitlisted MCA teams. For a spiel that is only 35 teams, that is amazing!

- After rarely having an MCA juniors team from 2011-2018, we had high participation in our last two U18 events, which is something we should be incredibly proud of and continue to encourage.

Meeting adjourned8:09 pm. March 23, 2020

The next meeting is on June 22nd at 7:00 pm via Zoom.