Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2020, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM on Monday, September 14, 2020, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance: Jeff Wright (President), Jim Wilson (VP), Russ Brown (USCA), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Phil Burian (Cedar Rapids), Steve Young (St. Louis), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Sara Gaum (Chicago), Steve Parke (Waltham)

June Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Financial report was distributed to all board members via email for review

USCA Report by Russ Brown

- USCA Meeting held in June via Zoom to approve budget, next meeting in September
  - Russ will inform MCA of USCA decision regarding dues
- USCA decides the fate of events 45-60 days out, all November events cancelled
- COVID resources can be found on the USCA website
- Steven's Point office lease will not be renewed. Offices will be virtual for the duration.

USWCA Report continuously via email by Michelle Rane

- Annual meeting to be held in two weeks (online)
- Scots Tour moved to 2021; Friendship Tour in 2022
- USWCA Senior and National Bonspiels during the 2020-2021 have been canceled

MCA Calendar Report by Russ Brown and Shannon Brown

- MCA Calendar is being continuously updated by S. Brown
- Playdowns will be held, even if Nationals are canceled, for:
  - U18 at Exmoor CC – November 21-20, 2020
  - Club at Chicago CC – January 8-10, 2021
  - Mixed at Exmoor CC – February 5-7, 2021
- Prairie State Challenge (Nov 7-8) canceled due to large number of participants
- 5 Year & Under location undetermined, though Windy City and Waltham given priority

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian

- August storm damaged arena resulting in cancellation of fall season (open in Jan)
- Working with Coralville Mall to establish second curling arena, but likely won't have logistics figured out (e.g., paint, Zamboni use) for another year

- Planning for Cedar Rapids 2021 National Championships, as long as COVID permits
- Interested in online training for Level 1 Officiating

Chicago CC Report by Sara Guam

- Construction finished, plan to open in October (ice making is underway)
- Windy City Open and Old Boys' Bonspiel cancelled, Mixed postponed
- Gloamin' Gaels and Men's Bonspiel are still awaiting decision
- Committee established to deal with COVID-restrictions, plan to use 3-sheets

Des Moines CC by email from Kate Ross

- Following USCA guidelines for COVID; decision to continue based on sign-up
- Rink is having trouble combating the virus and is not offering refunds on ice time
- Plan to host a 4-week league in October

Exmoor CC Report by Russ Brown

- 83% interested in curling in the 2020-2021 season with COVID restrictions
- Began the ice making process, plan to open Oct 12
- New scrapper purchased, hoping to get one sheet with webstreaming
- Three sheets, with broomstacking and social distancing
- Planning for Exmoor 2021 Senior National Championships, as long as COVID permits

Northwestern CC Report by email from Andrew Wolek

- Applied for annual funding through University, will get the decision in a few week

St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- Information regarding COVID and curling communicated via mass emails
- Begin 6-week league in late September, 3-on-3 (16 curlers, 4 sheets)
- Canceled 4 regular leagues and moved supplies to storage facility until Nov
- Only 2 people allowed into rink to set-up sheets, arena fees raised ($25 to $35)
- Updated their website

Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- 50% of curlers likely to curl, 30% uncertain, and 20% not interested
- Decisions regarding upcoming season will be made at the Board Meeting (Sept)

Wilmette CC by Walter Burns

- Membership letter recently sent out, interested in using Chicago CC ice

Windy City CC by Aaron DeGagne

- Ice went down in late August and is much improved since last year
- Food Truck Spiel had 15 teams (< 50 curlers) – tables outside for broomstacking, several teams traveled from far distances, one positive case afterwards (all participants notified)

- Leagues began in mid-Sept (masks required, one sweeper, no sweeping in the house)
- Have 3.5 leagues compared to the 7 leagues hosted in the spring season

Old Business

- Local clubs should follow USCA Guidelines, within the constraints of local health guidelines
- MCA Officiating Clinics – potential early January; needed to support Cedar Rapids' National Championship and Exmoor's Senior Nationals
- Combined GLCA and MCA Director will begin in October, bylaws to be updated to reflect new nominating procedure

New Business

- Slate of directors for 2020-2021 elected (Motion: J. Wright, Seconded: R. Brown)
    - Jeff Wright – President
    - Jim Wilson – Vice President
    - Jeff Warner – Treasurer
- MCA Dues Reduction from $14 per person ($5 youth) to $7 per person ($2 youth)
    - Motion: S. Young, Seconded: A. DeGagne, voted and passed
    - Only applies to the 2020-2021 season
    - None of the MCA dues are distributed to the USCA
- MCA Grant awards clubs 25% of their previously season's dues.
    - Discussion regarding the 2021-2022 MCA Grant percentage tabled
    - Application for current season to be released in September and decisions to be made regarding applications at November meeting
- MCA Bylaws
    - S. Brown working to update bylaws to reflect the combined USCA direct position, will be voting on new bylaws at the November meeting
- USCA 2020-2021 Media Guide: Every club needs to fill out the form (link sent via email)

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. (Motion: P. Burian, Seconded: S. Gaum)

The next meeting is November 9 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.