



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2020, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 9, 2020, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance: Jeff Wright (President), Jim Wilson (VP), Courtney Schmidt (USCA), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), 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), Steve Wright (Exmoor), and Andrew Wolek (Northwestern)

September Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved (Gaum/Warner).

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Financial reports will be distributed to all board members via email for review

USCA Report by Courtney Schmidt (New USCA Rep)

- USCA CEO Jeff Plush has participated in 100+ Zoom calls with clubs to introduce himself and provide updated information and resources
- Mixed and Club Nationals are likely being moved to May 2021
- COVID resources and guidelines are available on the USCA website

USWCA Report by Sara Gaum

- USWCA not sponsoring any events; clubs may host an 'All-American' bonspiel, but no pins will be provided by the USWCA
- No USWCA dues this year; not counting the 2020-2021 season in 5 Year & Under events
- Scots Tour moved to 2022 (January); Friendship Tour with Canada moved to 2022

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown

- U18 Playdowns at Exmoor CC – postponed, hope to reschedule in Dec/Jan
- Mixed and Club Playdowns – sign-up will be made available through the USCA website
- 5 Year & Under – hosted by Windy City CC, sign-up opens on MCA website in late Nov

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian

- National Championships on schedule for Jan 30 – Feb 7
- Considering the logistics of moving volunteers offsite
- Other than the scoreboard, all curling equipment escaped damage from Aug derecho
- Expansion into Coralridge Mall postponed due to financial and management concerns

Chicago CC Report by Sara Gaum

- Membership declined by 60%
- Northwestern signed a contract to curl and start Saturday; Wilmette plan to use ice
- Club closed for 36 hrs for deep cleaning after a positive COVID case
- Board meeting scheduled on Wednesday to discuss closing until MLK Day (Jan 18, 2021)

Des Moines CC by email from Kate Ross

- Fall and Winter leagues are canceled partially due to the financial burden
- In talks with a new arena in West Des Moines for spring leagues
- Engaging with new and current members via social media

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Jeff Shliesman, an ice tech from Madison CC, visited to train our new ice tech and examine our facilities and curling equipment
- New scrapper, new pebble heads, and new temperature gauge purchased
- Ice installed three weeks ago; league play four nights a week

Northwestern CC Report by email from Andrew Wolek

- Received funding through the University and reserved ice at Chicago CC
- Following Northwestern's and Chicago CC's COVID guidelines

St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- Began 6-week league in late Sept (27 curlers, 6+ teams)
- Require three people to assist with 15 min before-game set-up
- Possible return to Pacific Arena in Dec, depending on sign-up

Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- Board drafted COVID guidelines on Nov 1
- Annual Fall Meeting next Tuesday and league sign-up expected then
- Plan to install ice around Dec 1; 60% of curlers not planning to curl this season
- No Learn2Curls or corporate events until 2021

Windy City CC by Aaron DeGagne

- Positive cases resulted from a draw in mid-Oct; all were wearing masks on ice but not during broomstacking – closed from Oct 15-31 for sanitization
- Looking to purchase a tent and heaters for broomstacking
- Board in communication with the USCA regarding COVID experience

Old Business

- Clubs should follow USCA Guidelines within the constraints of local guidelines
- Senior Nationals at Exmoor CC (Jan 26 – Feb 6) are unlikely
- USCA Nationals at Cedar Rapids CC (Jan 30 – Feb 6) are on schedule
- MCA Dues – reduced to \$7 per person (\$2 per youth)
 - Please send to J. Warner by January 31st, 2021

New Business

- S. Brown drafted new bylaws and distributed for review
 - Motion: J. Wilson, Seconded: A. DeGagne (Vote: Passed)
- Pin Update
 - Plan to use current stock of pins and make small adjustments (e.g., from ICA to MCA) when the current stock is depleted
- Trophy Update
 - General update to nameplates on several trophies required (outdated)
 - \$200 allocated – Motion: J. Wilson, Seconded: S. Gaum (Vote: Passed)
 - Need a trophy for the Jr Men's Event
 - \$200 allocated – Motion: J. Wilson, Seconded: P. Burian (Vote: Passed)
- Discussion on MCA Arena Bonspiel
 - Potential begin in Fall 2021
 - Rotating among the arena clubs (currently 3 in the MCA)
 - S. Brown coordinating Zoom Meeting with P. Burian, K. Ross, and S. Young to review needs, best timing, and draft a proposal for review
- Proposal to reduce stone leasing fee to \$1 for the 2020-2021 Season
 - Motion: S. Gaum, Seconded: J. Wright (Vote: Passed)
- 2020-2021 MCA Grant Applications
 - Chicago CC plans to use the money for air purifiers and stabilizers, whereas Exmoor CC plans to use funds to offset ice technician costs
 - Motion to Approve: S. Parke, Seconded: S. Gaum (Vote: Passed)
 - St. Louis CC, Waltham CC, and Windy City CC asked for an extension
 - Motion to extended (Jan 11): J. Wilson, Seconded: P. Burian (Vote: Passed)
- MCA Playdown History added to the website ([click here to view](#))

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM. (Motion: J. Wilson, Seconded: S. Parke)

The next meeting is on January 11th at 7:00 PM via Zoom.