



## **Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes**

### January 11, 2021 via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 11, 2021, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance: Jeff Wright (President), Courtney Schmidt (USCA), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Phil Burian (Cedar Rapids), Steve Young (St. Louis), Sara Gaum (Chicago), Steve Parke (Waltham), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Kate Ross (Des Moines), and Andrew Wolek (Northwestern).

Absent: Walter Burns (Wilmette), Aaron DeGange (Windy City), and Jim Wilson (VP).

November Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved (Warner/Ross).

#### **Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner**

- Grant disbursements have been made to Exmoor CC and Chicago CC.
- MCA is financially strong, with no debt.
- Discussion of dues collection (see New Business)

#### **USCA Report by Courtney Schmidt**

- Special Members' Assembly Meeting in December.
  - Letter regarding dues will be released by the USCA Growth and Development Manager. Please inform him (Steven O'Keefe) of changes in membership (715.344.1199 x203 or [steven.okeefe@usacurling.org](mailto:steven.okeefe@usacurling.org)).
  - USCA Dues are due January 31
  - Clubs that do not open will not be assessed dues.
  - In the future, USCA will collect both the USCA dues and the regional dues using the Sport-80 system. This year, MCA is to collect its own dues.
- Arena Nationals may be in Massachusetts, considering hosting in a dedicated ice club.
- U18 and Club Nationals require playdowns across regions, looking at summer event(s).
- USCA is devising a marketing plan rolling forward to the Olympics.

#### **USWCA Report by Sara Guam**

- All events, tours, and in-person functions are suspended until April 30, 2021.
  - Dues are suspended for the fiscal year May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.
  - Eligibility for future events and tours from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 will be based upon club and per capita dues collected May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020.

#### **MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown**

- 5 Year and Under postponed to March 20-21 at Windy City. 12 teams and filled.

- Eligibility for Under 5 to be after a pre-determined, published date.
- Dar Curtis postponed to April and decreased to 12 teams.
  - Eligibility for leads and seconds to be confirmed by local club.
- Other playdowns (Clubs, Mixed) may move to April, May, or Summer, as long as area clubs have ice. MCA aims to host playdowns, even if no National Competition occurs.
  - See the MCA website for updates.

## **Club Reports**

### Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian

- Handwritten postcards were well received, having been sent to members.
- Arena Nationals have moved to a different location. The City would like them in 2022.
- NHL site will have three sheets in Feb, but don't expect to start until March.
- The Olympic side is sand based and may be open in August.

### Chicago CC Report by Sara Guam

- Practice ice started on January 11.
- Hope to resume league play on January 18, pending regional numbers.
- MCA Grant used to purchase 4 HEPA air purifiers and ten stabilizers.
- To raise revenue, they sold Beef Tenderloin and growlers from the bar.

### Des Moines CC Report by Kate Ross

- Curling is on hold until March.
- Awaiting information on a new arena being built in West Des Moines.

### Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Outstanding ice on 2 sheets with no COVID cases. Only closed the 2 weeks in December.
  - Monday (Rookie's), Tuesday (Men's), and Thursday (Open) Leagues begin this upcoming week and will use two sheets each night.
  - Saturday pick-up games have been well attended.
- Outside broomstacking; no food or beverage allowed inside.

### Northwestern CC Report by Andrew Wolek

- Closed, concurrent with Chicago CC.
- 4-5 members, so far, as grad students, are being very careful.

### St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- Completed a 5-week league. No COVID cases.
- Ran a successful Learn to Curl with 24 well-spaced (instead of 40-60) attendees.
  - Next Learn to Curl will be in late January. Sold gift certificates at Christmas time.
- On January 9, they started a nine-week league of 8 teams.

### Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- On January 1, they opened with leagues three nights per week.

- Watching financials closely before setting an official closing date.

#### Windy City CC Report via e-mail from Aaron DeGagne

- Continuous leagues since October, with one isolated case of COVID.
- Actively converting Learn to Curl participants to active; December (90% full).
- MCA 5 and Under rescheduled to March 20-21; WC3 Bonspiel scheduled for April 9-11.
- Will remain open Summer 2021, closure for maintenance planned for Summer 2022.

#### Old Business Report by Shannon Brown

- New MCA Bylaws – available for viewing on the MCA Website
- General Pin and Trophy Update
  - Working to update nameplates, please see e-mail for details.
  - Found a trophy for the U18 Juniors, base made may require additional funds.
- 2020-2021 Grant Applications Update
  - Chicago CC and Exmoor CC submitted receipts and received funds.
  - St. Louis CC submitted their application for a construction-grade laser level to assist the Zamboni drivers and biter measurer; Waltham application requested funds for new brooms, pads, and stabilizers for Learn to Curl participants; Windy City submitted their application for outdoor heaters and website costs.
    - Motion to approve St. Louis CC, Waltham CC, and Windy City CC applications (Gaum/Warner) passed.
- Canceled/Postponed National Events
  - Exmoor CC likely to host Men's Senior Nationals in Feb 2022
  - Cedar Rapids CC National Championships postponed and moved to new location.
- COVID-19 and Local Curling
  - Clubs are asked to continue to follow USCA rules and local guidelines

#### New Business

- Proposal: MCA Arena Bonspiel report by Shannon Brown.
  - Aims to begin in 2022, after Winter Olympics and COVID have passed.
  - Event length dependent upon availability of ice at hosting arena (1½ - 2 days).
  - Interested in limiting participation to members of arena clubs.
  - MCA to cover the shortfall between participation fees and actual costs.
  - Motion to approve an MCA investment in our region via a new Bonspiel for Arena Curlers with MCA covering additional costs (Gaum/Warner). Passed.
- MCA meetings will continue on Zoom, using the account services of various members.
- New Stone Lease approved for Sherryanne Porter, starting Fall of 2021 - Private Use
- Dues and Dues Collection Date:
  - Reduced to \$7 per person (\$2 per youth) for the 2020-2021 Season
  - Treasurer to send notice that dues are due. Clubs are asked to pay dues for all active curlers. An active curler is an individual who plays in leagues, participates in MCA Bonspiels or Playdowns, and/or is a member of the MCA Board.
  - Motion to change the date to March 1, 2021 (Parke/Warner). Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM. (Young/Gaum). Passed.

The next meeting will be held on March 8 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom.