



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2021, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM on Monday, August 9, 2021, by Sara Gaum.

In attendance: Sara Gaum (President), Barb Taube Hesterberg (VP), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Courtney Schmidt (USCA), Steve Young (St. Louis), Grant Robertson (Chicago), Adam Miller (Chicago), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), Lon Peper (Cedar Rapids), Kate Ross (Des Moines), Steve Wright (Exmoor).

March Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved (Ross/DeGagne).

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Update on 2020-21 MCA balance sheet
- Annual filing of AG990-IL Charitable Organization Annual Report is pending.

USCA Report by Courtney Schmidt

- MyUSACurling has been delayed and will not be used for USCA dues this season.
- USA Curling now offers a substantial insurance program alongside membership. If curlers did not curl or pay dues last year, clubs are reminded to pay dues earlier if they want coverage to be effective over the entire membership.
- Olympic Trials are scheduled for Nov 12-21 in Omaha, NE. Tickets are on sale now!

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown

- MCA Calendar has been finalized and will be published in early September.
- Regional clubs are asked to send their bonspiels to Shannon as she plans to create a single-page MCA Calendar to distribute on social media and the website.
- MCA Arena Bonspiel, likely to be held by Cedar Rapids Curling Club in Summer 2022.

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- CedarSpiel scheduled for September 11-12; reduced in size due to limited interest.
- Anticipate hosting the USCA Arena Nationals from January 2-9, 2022.
- Plan to follow CDC and regional guidelines, which include wearing a facemask.

Chicago CC Report by Grant Robertson and Adam Miller

- Returning to 4 sheets; COVID committee working to establish protocols for season.
- Hosting multiple bonspiels this season, including a Murder Mystery Mixed Bonspiel.

Des Moines CC Report by Kate Moss

- Signed contract with new arena; moving stones to a new arena in anticipation of season.
- Local brewery plans to sell curling theme beer in honor of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Live web streaming is being installed on Sheet 1 and Sheet 2.
- Ice going in mid-October; following local/state guidelines regarding COVID.
- Interleague scheduled for Wednesday evenings (1-2x per month)
- Women's Scot's Tour visiting in mid-January; USCA Senior Nationals from Feb 8-13, 2022

Northwestern CC Report by Andrew Wolek

- Applied for annual club funding from the University
- Plan to host a table at the upcoming student activities fair to promote the sport.

St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- Four-week Saturday league beginning on September 18.
- Planning to alternate team league with doubles league; planning for 3-5 sheets.
- Mask mandate currently in the state court; awaiting the outcome.

Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne

- Summer leagues have ended; fall leagues begin on September 6.
- Currently 120 members but hoping to get back to 150 members this season.
- Food Truck Bonspiel is scheduled for Aug 26-29; already full.

Old Business

MCA Long-Term Funds Sub-Committee Report by Sherryanne Porter

- Meet once and began developing a long-term strategy to support the MCA's mission of growing curling via designated funds. Aim to present at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Guide to Hosting a USCA-Sanctioned Event

- Draft in progress; aim to have a more finalized version in early 2022

MCA Information Booklet

- Board members are asked to review and comment on the booklet created by Jeff Wright and Shannon Brown. The booklet aims to provide a one-stop-shop for all MCA information, so if you feel something is missing, let them know.

Electronic Measuring Device

- Purchased by Jeff Wright; plan to deliver to Dave Haverick before U18 Playdowns.

New Business

MyUSACurling Update by Sara Gaum and Courtney Schmidt

- Dues will be paid to the USCA by the clubs; no change from previous years.
- Individuals curlers are encouraged to register on the MyUSACurling portal when available, as it's used to track certifications and competitive ratings.

Discussion: Fostering Participation in the Region

- Aim to offer instructor and official training this year; currently, the region heavily relies on one USCA official and is interested in certifying more.
- MCA website will aim to highlight local teams and club events this season.
 - If you have any blog post ideas, feel free to reach out!
- Timers are needed for MCA Playdowns
 - Robertson and Brown to brainstorm recruitment strategies
 - College students could potentially be trained in exchange for volunteer hours.

Discussion: Sponsoring a Program for Improved Ice Conditions

- A sub-committee (Miller/Peper/Brown) was formed to investigate the cost and means of establishing resources for regional MCA technicians.

Discussion: MCA Grant Program 2021-2022

- Offered for the past three years at 25% of previous year's dues
- Motion to renew the MCA Grant Program at 25% based on 2019-2020 dues; Passed.
 - The current plan avoids penalizing clubs for low numbers/dues in 2020-2021.

Discussion: Voting Rights

- Executive Committee Members vote on behalf of the MCA, whereas MCA Representatives vote on behalf of their regional club.
- Media/Communications Director and Secretary have no vote in current bylaws, which were recently rewritten with the USCA bylaws and other regional association bylaws as examples. The discussion was tabled.

Bringing Nationals to Chicago

- Lon Peper asked about the previous plans to host a Nationals in the Chicago area.
- David Jamros previously led efforts on this initiative, but it was learned that the backing needs to come from the potential host arena and the city itself.

MCA Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 PM (Peper/Warner).

The next meeting will be on September 20, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.