



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

May 10, 2021, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:16 PM on Monday, May 10, 2021, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance: Jeff Wright (President), Jim Wilson (VP), Courtney Schmidt (USCA), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Steve Young (St. Louis), Sara Gaum (Chicago), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), Lon Peper (Cedar Rapids).

Absent: Kate Ross (Des Moines), Walter Burns (Wilmette), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Steve Parke (Waltham).

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

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

- Update on 2020-21 MCA balance sheet.
  - Y/E Financial report and Annual filings are pending.
  - D&O insurance has been paid.
- Discussion about developing a well-articulated, long-term strategy to support the MCA's mission of growing curling over an extended period via restriction of funds.
  - A sub-committee was formed to collect data and propose direction and priorities (Warner, J. Wright, Porter, and DeGagne).

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

- Office has moved to Minneapolis. Partnership with the Minnesota Vikings announced.
- New staff to support clubs as pandemic ends and Olympic year starts.
- USOPC doing quadrennial compliance audits
  - Ad hoc committee reviewing policies of the 2011 Bylaws.

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

- Five Year and Under, MCA Dar Curtis, MCA Mixed Playdown, MCA Men's Club Playdown, MCA Women's Club Playdown winners all posted on Facebook and the MCA website, as well as sent to USCA for their records and publication in their magazine.
- Calendar planning to begin in June; shifting playdowns to Fall (especially U18)
  - Opportunity to train timers for Senior Nationals.

### **Club Reports**

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- Leagues are continuing.
- Cedarspiel is scheduled for September 10-12, 2021.

#### Chicago CC Report by Sara Gaum and Jim Wilson

- First Saturday fun event since the pandemic was successfully held last weekend.
- Closing Bonspiel is scheduled for this weekend.
- Fall Open Bonspiel (formerly the Windy City Open) is scheduled for Fall 2021.
- Mixed Bonspiel will be hosted in Fall 2021 (due to the cancellation of Fall 2020 event).
- New officers have been slated for June 10 annual meeting.

#### Des Moines CC Report by Kate Ross (via email)

- Curling is on hold until Fall due to ice having been removed for Summer.
- DMCC looking to return to curling in a new facility in West Des Moines.

#### Exmoor CC Report by Jeff Wright

- MCA Dar Curtis Bonspiel was the last event of the season last weekend.
- The club closed for Summer.

#### Northwestern CC by Andrew Wolek

- Season ended last weekend.
- Curling will resume in the Fall.

#### St. Louis CC Report by Steve Parke

- High School 4-week league has ended.
- Canceled the Labor Day Weekend Bonspiel due to low interest.
- Next weekend starts 4-5 week leagues for new curlers.

#### Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne

- Curling will continue this Summer, open to outside curlers, with dues built into the league fees.
- Election of officers to occur at the May 22 year-end meeting.
- Food Truck Bonspiel, scheduled for Aug 26-29, has a few spaces available.

#### Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- Waltham is closed for the season; new officers were nominated.
- New Board will appoint a new MCA Rep. Until a new MCA Rep is announced, MCA communications can be sent to Steve, who will forward them to Waltham Board members; however, he will no longer submit reports or attend meetings.

### **Old Business**

#### General Pin and Trophy Update by Shannon Brown

- Motion to order five years of pins for MCA Dar Curtis and 5 Year & Under; in addition, Motion to correct spelling errors on trophies from the past five years, as needed.
  - Motion to allocate \$1,900 (Warner/Young). Passed.
- Recommendation for pins or patches for MCA Board members (past and present).
- Recommendation for Pin and Trophy management to be the responsibility of MCA VP.

2020-2021 Grant Applications – Jeff Warner, awaiting receipts from St. Louis CC

Guide to Hosting a USCA-sanctioned event by Shannon Brown

- Discussion regarding difficulties of running a USCA-sanctioned event (e.g., playdowns)
- Shannon will work with David Haverick to develop a short handbook similar to the 'Guide to Hosting an MCA Bonspiel'

### **New Business**

Update on MCA Information Booklet by Shannon Brown

- Resources for all MCA Board members: [Click here](#).
- MCA Information Booklet has been posted: [Click here](#).

Purchase of Electronic Measuring device for Competitive events hosted by MCA by Jeff Wright

- Motion to acquire for \$250 and stored with Head Official (Wilson/Young) Passed.

Club Information – Keeping Information Up-to-Date

- Reminder to inform Shannon of any club updates (e.g., new boards, locations, general club descriptions) so she can keep the MCA and USCA website updated.

Discussion regarding Playdown Ice

- MCA Playdown ice is held to a higher standard than regular MCA Bonspiel ice. In general, playdown ice should be 24 seconds with 4 feet of curl.
- MCA aims to support regional clubs and the growth of the sport. Since MCA Playdowns lead to USCA Nationals, improving ice conditions at these events is of major importance.
  - Potentially establish a grant program aimed at ice improvement.

**General Meeting Suspended – Move to Annual Meeting** at 8:25 PM

Thank You Message and List of 2019-2021 Accomplishments are attached.

- Special thanks to Shannon Brown for her support and hours of dedication to the MCA

Introduction of Slate of Officers for 2021-2023 and Vote to Elect

- President – one term of 2 years, limited to one term- Sara Gaum
- Vice President – one term of 2 years, limited to one term – Barb Taube Hesterberg
- Media/Communications – one term of 2 years, eligible for four terms – Shannon Brown
- Past President – one term of 1 year, no voting rights – Jeff Wright

- Motion to elect (Wright/Wilson). Unanimously passed.

Club Representatives announced

- Chicago CC - Adam Miller and James-Grant Robertson
- Cedar Rapids CC – Lon Peper

**Annual Meeting and MCA Meeting Adjourned** at 8:33 PM (Wilson/Gaum)

The next meeting will be on Aug 9 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom.