



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

June 22, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM on Monday, June 22, 2020, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance were: Jeff Wright (President), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Russ Brown (USCA), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Jim Wilson (Vice President), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Phil Burian (Cedar Rapids), Sara Gaum (USWCA), Steve Parke (Waltham)

March Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Financial reports were reviewed, and tax return will be filed in the next three weeks

MCA Event Reports

- All upcoming USCA events scheduled after March were canceled

USCA Report by Russ Brown

- USCA meeting in April was held via Zoom. Courtney Schmidt will stay on as Board Chair for two more years; in addition, she will act as the GLCA/MCA USCA rep starting in October
- Dave Jenson has resigned as the National Juniors Coach after seven years of service
- Jessica Schultz is the new National Juniors' Coach. Highly regarded
- Steve O'Keefe/USCA coordinating calls to each club to discuss the future of curling
- USCA asks clubs to follow local and statewide guidelines in regards to COVID and reopening

USWCA Report

- Women's Scot Tour was moved to January 2022 only effects Chicago CC and Exmoor CC

Calendar Report by Russ Brown

- COVID likely to restrict bonspiel participation. Based on current regulations, MCA events might need to limit number of teams, cancel broomstacking, and limit sweepers.
- 2020-2021 MCA Calendar presented and distributed to all board members for review
 - Several fall events already canceled or postponed due to restrictions
 - U-18 Playdowns moved to November as U-18 Nationals is now in January

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian

- Excited to work with new arena manager and plan to install six sheets at the main arena
- Cedarspiel in August has been canceled
- Looking to have four sheets at Coralville Mall and may need additional stones from the MCA
- Brainstorming ways to protect curler's safety in regards to COVID-19. For instance, how should they paint their house and set hacks while maintaining social distancing

Chicago CC Report by Sara Gaum and Jim Wilson

- Windy City Open is canceled
- Capital campaign saw a solid level of pledges and construction has started on rebuilding the mechanical shed and resolving ongoing insulation issues
- Applied for Dar Curtis and WCF loans
- Committee established to deal with COVID restrictions: plan to restrict locker room and kitchen use, spread broomstacking between two rooms, require masks, and place quarters in the ice to encourage social distancing

Des Moines CC by Kate Ross

- Kate Ross is the new President and MCA Representative
- Plan to curl in the Fall while taking into account local guidelines and USCA advice
- Based on a survey, the club will likely host a smaller league compared to previous years
- Requested ice time from the arena but are waiting on the hockey schedule
- No Learn2Curl events scheduled this Fall

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Plan to proceed with Fall season with adjustments based on local guidelines and USCA suggestions. For instance, they may use only three sheets to maintain social distance
- Exmoor Men's Continental likely won't have 40+ teams
- Exmoor CC currently not taking temperatures, future discussion planned for curling season
- 2021 Senior Nationals scheduled for January 26, 2021
- Web streaming planned for 1-2 sheets and new ice scraper to be purchased

Northwestern CC - No report

St. Louis CC Report

- Becca Walter will step down as President after six years of service.
- Canceled all events until after Labor Day 2020, including the Arch City Bonspiel
- First league night is planned for September 12th. New rules for staying safe while curling are being drawn up and will be communicated to all participants and members later this summer
- Looking to rescheduled All-American Bonspiel coordinated with Cedar Rapids CC
- Transitioning to a new website

Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- Work outside to be done to resolve drainage issues
- Banquet canceled and annual meeting rescheduled for August, Steve Parke will be President
- Directors are looking at the group outings typically hosted on Friday and Saturdays, which can have 150 folks through the clubhouse. How do they clean afterward? Stabilizers and brooms are often passed amongst the participants
- Each committee (Building & Grounds, Kitchen, etc.) has been asked to devise COVID plans

Wilmette CC by Walter Burns

- Planning to continue as an opportunity ice club, and rent ice from Chicago CC
- Club is a flexible starter, middle or end club that allows curlers the opportunity to get on the ice

Windy City CC by Brian Stoiber

- Windy City Open at Chicago CC is canceled
- Annual meeting rescheduled for August 22 and will be held virtual, new Board to be nominated
- Facility repairs underway: pulled all ice mats out, laid 50+ tons of sand, pipes, and insulation on the floor, and raised the outside boards
- Plan to have ice early-mid August and start leagues by the end of August
- Working on plans for safety for curlers and looking towards USCA for guidance

Old Business

MCA Grants for MCA Clubs

- Chicago CC, Exmoor CC, St. Louis CC, Waltham CC, and Cedar Rapids CC received grant money
- Grant program will continue during the 2020-2021 season – applications available in late August

Cedar Rapids 2021 National Championships

- Two students from the University of Iowa have taken over some planning responsibilities
- Athletes have expressed concern with COVID-19 as virus spread at events this last spring

MCA Officiating Clinics

- Cedar Rapids CC and Exmoor CC interested in hosting a clinic, plan to coordinate scheduling

Updating/ Replacement of Trophies by Russ Brown

- Need to decide whether to create new trophies or remove/replace the plaques

New Business

Review of Board Positions

- Russ Brown will be retiring from MCA Board after 14 years.
- Courtney Schmidt from Mayfield Curling Club and the Great Lakes region will be the Board's representative to the USCA for two (2) years starting October 2020

Effect of COVID-19 on National Championships

- USCA is working on plans for the upcoming season, and plan to address athlete concerns

Effect of COVID-19 on Local Curling

- Potential ideas include staggered start times, masks, limited number of people on the ice, socially distanced broomstacking, no contact, and one individual in charge of posting the score
- MCA is not established their own rules. Clubs are asked to follow USCA rules and local guidelines

Combined USCA director for GLCA and MCA regions

- GLCA to provide rep for the upcoming two years, then MCA will provide rep for the following two-year term. The representative will attend both regions meetings

Questionnaires of Intention to Return to Curling

- Oakville Curling Club of Canada composed a survey asking members about their intention to return to curling this year. The survey gaged participate for the upcoming season and asked what concerns members want the club to address (in regards to COVID-19 restrictions)

Meeting adjourned 8:13 PM.

The next meeting is on September 14 at 7:00 PM via Zoom unless otherwise indicated by e-mail.