



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM on Monday, March 8, 2021, by Jeff Wright.

In attendance: Jeff Wright (President), Jim Wilson (VP), Courtney Schmidt (USCA), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Shannon Brown (Media/Communication), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Sara Gaum (Chicago CC), Steve Parke (Waltham CC), Steve Wright (Exmoor CC), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City CC), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern CC)

Absent: Phil Burian (Cedar Rapids CC), Steve Young (St. Louis CC), Kate Ross (Des Moines CC), and Walter Burns (Wilmette CC)

January Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved (Warner/Parke).

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Recommendation to allocate some of the unrestricted funds.
 - To be reviewed by Jeff Wright and Jeff Warner – additional discussion with the Board at upcoming May 2021 meeting.
- Discussion of getting higher rates of return for our assets but remaining conservative to protect our reserves. Jeff Warner to investigate.

USCA Report by Courtney Schmidt

- [Hall of Fame Induction: Elmer Freytag](#) (Member of Chicago CC and Exmoor CC)
- [USCA Award Page](#) updated on the new website
- USCA launched [Ice Breakers](#) to increase representation in curling
- Playdown and Championship Updates
 - Information available on [Men's Worlds](#) and [Women's Worlds](#)
 - U18 age eligibility will not change due to the pandemic
 - Anticipating a busy upcoming season due to the Olympic Year

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown ([View Calendar](#))

- Five Year and Under, March 20-21 at Windy City, is full with 12 teams.
- Dar Curtis, April 10-11 at Exmoor, has 10 teams. Registration open until March 27
 - Changed the eligibility wording to leads, seconds, and newer vice skips.
- MCA Mixed Playdowns – registration via USCA curling website, open until March 26
- U18 Girls' Winner: Team Hagenbuch (Windy City CC)
- U18 Boys' Winner: Team Schallmo (Exmoor CC)
- MCA Men's Club Playdowns registration is closed. 7 teams are participating.
 - Single round-robin (double elimination) March 26-28 at Exmoor CC

- MCA Women's Club Playdowns Issue
 - Two teams registered for the event. Due to a miscommunication, one team was unavailable on the scheduled day. To facilitate playdowns, motion to offer up Sunday, March 28, or ask teams to work together to reschedule the event. If the teams don't agree on a new date/location, the event will be canceled and no winner designated.
 - Motion passed (Gaum/DeGagne)

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian (via email)

- Painted four sheets on the NHL side of the public arena.
- Devised a detailed protocol for ice set up and play; publishing an instructional video
- Getting stones to ice within the COVID guidelines is problematic.
- Hosting a soft open March 11 with 24 curlers; aim to start leagues in a few weeks.

Chicago CC Report by Sara Gaum and Jim Wilson

- Extending season until mid-May; recently hosted their first corporate event
- Northwestern Curling has started. Wilmette CC has not returned to date.
- Planning Fall Open Bonspiel (formerly known as the Windy City Open).
- Mixed Bonspiel will be hosted in Fall 2021 due to cancellation of Fall 2020 event.
- CCC will host overflow for Senior Nationals in Feb 2022.

Des Moines CC Report by Kate Ross (via email)

- Curling is on hold until Fall due to construction delays and no access to ice.

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- All leagues are in progress, but using 2-3 sheets to allow for distancing.
- Indoor broomstacking, with half of the curlers participating.
- Extended season to mid-April, hosting MCA Club Playdowns and Dar Curtis Bonspiel.

Northwestern CC by Andrew Wolek

- Resumed curling at Chicago CC.

Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- Leagues continue through the end of the month; no COVID cases to date.
- A Beginner's league Monday and Friday nights, mostly juniors, started Friday, March 5.

Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne

- Curling will continue through the Summer, open to hosting outside curlers for a fee
- Learn to Curls are filling quickly, as well as corporate events.
- Hosting MCA 5 Year & Under March 20-21, MCA Mixed Playdowns, and WCC Open Bonspiel (members only); no COVID cases in 2021.

Old Business by Shannon Brown

- General Pin and Trophy Update – pictures and costs forthcoming
 - U18 Girls has been updated, and the U18 Boys trophy is being constructed
 - Mixed Playdowns' "Illinois" plaque has been replaced with "MCA," and a plaque has been made to house the older plates.
 - Pictures and costs forthcoming.
- 2020-2021 Grant Applications Update
 - Awaiting receipts from St. Louis CC; reimbursement for Windy City CCC; Waltham CC approved in late January
- MCA Arena Bonspiel discussion tabled until next season

New Business by Jeff Wright and Shannon Brown

- Next Meeting will be the Annual MCA meeting on May 10
 - Election of President, VP positions – one term (2 years), limited to one term
 - Media/Communications – one term (2 years), eligible for four terms
 - Shannon Brown was elected in July 2019; vote needed.
- Club Representatives need to confirm if they plan to serve the 2021-2022 term.
 - If not, please have your Club's Board find your replacement.
 - Please note that Club Reps are expected to help run MCA sanctioned events.
- MCA needs to develop a plan to train officials for National Senior Men's in 2022.
- MCA is developing an electronic Information Booklet to help clarify procedures and expectations and help improve Board transitions.
 - Have an annual schedule by month (Currently completed on the MCA website)
 - Job description and the responsibilities of each Board member
 - Rules and by-laws of the MCA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM. (Wilson/DeGagne). Passed.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on May 10 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom.