



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021, via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM on Monday, September 20, 2021, by Sara Gaum.

In attendance: Sara Gaum (President), Barb Taube Hesterberg (VP), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Jeff Wright (Past President), Courtney Schmidt (USCA), James-Grant Robertson (Chicago), Adam Miller (Chicago), Lon Peper (Cedar Rapids), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Jane Vahle (Waltham), Larry Vahle (Waltham), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary).

Absent: Steve Young (St. Louis), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Walter Burns (Wilmette), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), Kate Ross (Des Moines).

August Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter and edited by Shannon Brown, were approved (Warner/Taube).

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Update on 2020-2021 MCA balance sheet
- Wilmette CC did not have members last year, so no dues will be assessed.
- Annual filings with the Attorney General and Secretary of State and the AG990-IL Charitable Organization Annual Report have been completed.

USCA Report by Courtney Schmidt

- USCA Board Meetings scheduled in Cleveland, OH on October 1-2
- USCA Member's Assembly on October 2; Sara Gaum to vote on behalf of MCA
- NBC's Curling Night in America commenced on Sept 19, with other dates to follow.
- Olympic Trials are scheduled for November 12-21 in Omaha, NE. Tickets are selling well.

USWCA Report by Michelle Rane via e-mail

- Plan to more reach out to USWCA Representative (Michelle Rane) for future reports
- Women's Scot Tour has been moved from January 2022 to October/November 2022.
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MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown ([View Calendar](#))

- U18 Playdown will be moved to April 9-10, 2022, at Windy City Curling Club.
 - Not in conflict with Dar Curtis Bonselis as entire junior teams aren't eligible.
- Prairie State Challenge is 75% full, include 2 Cedar Rapids teams and 1 St. Louis team
 - Registration and draw schedule handled by Brown
 - Robertson and Miller to handle day-of-event details at Chicago CC

- A reminder that this is a “no frills” bonspiel (i.e., no meals)

Club Reports with Focus on Covid-19 Protocols

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- Plan to follow CDC and Linn County Public Health guidelines, which include wearing a facemask. Otherwise, normal curling rules will be in effect.
- CedarSpiel was successful with 14 teams in September
- USCA Men’s & Women’s US Nationals tentatively scheduled for January 2-9, 2022. Cedar Rapids CC is waiting on ImOn Ice to sign official USCA paperwork.
- Leagues start September 21, and learn2curls start September 23

Chicago CC Report by James-Grant Robertson and Adam Miller

- COVID-10 Protocol will include:
 - Masks for everyone over age 2, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Staggered sheets (2 begin at the glass and 2 begin at the scoreboard)
 - No handshakes or coin tosses. Using a randomizer to determine color/hammer.
 - Each person to sanitize their own rocks and stabilizers
 - Broomstacking will be distanced. Food leagues to be decided.
 - Entering the club Ready-to-Play is encouraged over locker room use.
- Finished painting the four sheets; ice should be ready by the opening party on October 9
- Chicago Open Bonspiel still has a few spots, scheduled for October 14-17
- Mixed Bonspiel has just opened for registration, scheduled for November 12-14

Des Moines CC Report by Kate Moss via e-mail

- Following the COVID policy of their curling arena, which is masks encouraged but not required. All employees to be masked and board asks to wear masks as a good example.
- MidAmerican Energy RecPlex grand opening will be October 3, 2021. They plan to host demonstrations and sponsor a sign-up booth.
- Learn2 Curl scheduled for October 8
- Fall League starts October 24

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Following the State of Illinois guidelines, as well as Exmoor Country Club COVID policies
- Warmer conditions required additional insulation to be added below the floor. Ice is still anticipated ready for October 10.
- Interleague between area clubs scheduled for Wednesday evenings (1-2x per month); otherwise, all leagues are moving forward as planned.
- USCA Senior Nationals scheduled for Feb 8-13, 2022

Waltham CC Report by Larry Vahle and Jane Vahle

- COVID protocols to be decided at next Board meeting
- Ice to be in by November 1 with an Open House on November 13-14

- Pick Spiel for former Learn2Curl participants scheduled for November 20
- Leagues will begin in late December
- St. Louis CC Winter Classic scheduled for January 28-30, 2022, at Waltham
- M's Bonspiel in February 2022 and Mixed Bonspiel in March 2022

Wilmette CC Report by Walter Burns via e-mail

- Wilmette plans to curl in 2021-2022 by renting ice from Chicago Curling Club.

Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne via e-mail

- Food Truck Bonspiel in August was a success with 32 teams, many from out of town.
- Windy City Leagues started 1st week of September
- Ninety paying members (Pre-Covid 125); Expecting an Olympic boost to 150 members
- In discussions with USCA about the possibility of hosting Senior Women's Nationals in tandem with Senior Men's Nationals at Exmoor in February 2022

Old Business

Discussion: Fostering Participation in the Region

- Brown will reach out to Dean Gemmell to schedule Instructor and Official Clinics
- Brown and Robertson brainstorming on whom to train as timers; looking into making a PowerPoint presentation to train timers before the events (modeled off Granite CC)
 - Gaum noted that teams were required to find their timers in the past, but teams tended to reach out to the same people.

Sub-Committee: Improving Regional Ice Conditions

- Brown/Miller/Peper plan to discuss at a later date and present findings in early 2022

MCA Grant Program report by Shannon Brown

- Grants will be due before the December MCA Board Meeting
- Value to be offered at pre-COVID membership rates (i.e., 25% of 2019-2020 dues)

Discussion: Voting Rights

- Whether a voting member or not, all individuals of the MCA Board are encouraged to voice their opinions and bring forward their ideas regarding the region
- Motioned to table the secretary voting rights discussion until the Annual Meeting, as a voting position should be voted on.

New Business

Discussion: COVID-19 Guidelines at MCA Bonspiels and Playdowns

- Host clubs rules will be enforced; Brown will reach out to clubs to coordinate

- Will utilize “The Stricter Rules Wins” policy at the Prairie State Challenge, which is shared between Chicago CC and Exmoor CC

Pin & Trophy Update report by Shannon Brown

- In the process of organizing pins and trophies; plan to loop in VP later this season
- Quoted \$1,000 for five years of pins (4 events = 160 pins = \$6.30 each pin)
 - More expensive this year, likely due to shortages
 - Might consider waiting on trophy engraving for this reason

Discussion: Curling Night in America led by Shannon Brown and Sara Gaum ([Click Here to View](#))

- Gaum and Brown developed a “Tips & Tricks” flyer to be distributed to the MCA’s clubs and put on MCA’s website with suggestions on fundraising and creating awareness utilizing the television series.

MCA Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 PM (Warner/Miller).

The next meeting will be on October 30th during the Prairie State Challenge.