



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2021, at Chicago Curling Club and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM on Sunday, October 30, 2021, by Sara Gaum.

In attendance: Sara Gaum (President), Barb Taube Hesterberg (VP), Steve Young (St. Louis), Jeff Wright (Past President), James-Grant Robertson (Chicago), Lon Peper (Cedar Rapids), Jane Vahle (Waltham), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Larry Vahle (Waltham), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Walter Burns (Wilmette).

Absent: Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Adam Miller (Chicago), Courtney Schmidt (USA Curling), Kate Ross (Des Moines).

September Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter and edited by Shannon Brown, were approved (Hesterberg/Robertson).

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner via email

- 2020-2021 MCA balance sheet remains unchanged from last month.

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

- Prairie State Challenge hosted at Chicago CC and Exmoor CC
 - Multiple teams from the region, including 3 arena teams and 2 U18 teams.
 - The first event was won by Team Murphy of Chicago CC
- MCA Club Playdowns – Registration open until Nov 12th via [USA Curling Portal](#)
- Registration for MCA Mixed Playdowns and 5 Year & Under open in November.
 - Date unknown for the Mixed Nationals, so if the winning team cannot go will be covered by an alternate.

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- USA Curling Men's & Women's Nationals tentatively scheduled for January 2-9, 2022. Cedar Rapids CC is waiting on ImOn Ice to sign official USA Curling paperwork.

Chicago CC Report by James-Grant Robertson

- Murder Mystery Mixed Bonspiel (Nov 12-14) is looking for more teams
- Gloamin' Gaels Women's Bonspiel scheduled for Jan 8-9 is open for registration
- Men's International Bonspiel is scheduled for Jan 13-16
- Membership is low, but anticipating Olympics and corporate events will remedy.

Des Moines CC Report by Kate Moss via e-mail

- Opening night was Sunday, Oct 24; winter League starts in January.
- Fall league has 16 teams, including 22 new recruits, for 8 weeks.
- New facility ([MidAmerican Energy Recplex](#)) has been very accommodating.
- Images posted on our Facebook page.

Exmoor CC Report by Barb Taube Hesterberg

- MCA Men's and Women's Playdowns on Dec 3-5. Looking for timers!
- Exmoor Men's Continental Bonspiel scheduled for Dec 9-12 - expecting less teams
- Interleague between area clubs scheduled for Wednesday evenings (1-2x per month); otherwise, all leagues are moving forward as planned.
- MCA Mixed Playdowns from Jan 21-23
- USA Curling Senior Nationals scheduled for Feb 8-13, 2022

Northwestern University CC Report by Andrew Wolnek via e-mail

- Will be attending several student events to increase participation.

St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- 14 week league just completed; two new leagues started with 4 and 8 teams.
- Hosting the Winter Classic Bonspiel at Waltham CC from Jan 28-30.
- Property is for sale.

Waltham CC Report by Larry Vahle and Jane Vahle

- Ice is being made now; November and December will feature in-house activities, like Pick Spiel for former Learn2Curl participants.
- Regular leagues begin in January; beginner leagues start in March
- MCA 5 Years & Under open to 16 teams and scheduled for Jan 15-16
- USWCA 5 Years & Under scheduled for Feb 4-5
- Men's Bonspiel from Feb 18-20 and Mixed Bonspiel from March 4-6
- The website has not been opened up for registration for corporate events

Wilmette CC Report by Walter Burns

- Website registration for corporate events is pending.
- Recruiting for new members from Yacht Club and Bocci League.
- Initiating plans for a Mixed Bonspiel in the Spring.

Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne

- Actively recruiting new members -at 115, working to reach pre-COVID numbers (125)
- Masks continue to be required in the ice house and warm room except when eating/drinking. Mask policy follows that of the State of Illinois.
- New Bonspiel - Groundhog Day Open scheduled for Feb 4-6.

- Simon Ganet coordinating Curling at the Park at Wrigley from Feb 1-3 and Feb 15-17.
 - Will be using MCA stones stored at WCC.
 - Discussion of using MCA signage and QR codes linked to additional opportunities
- Initiating planning for bonspiel in April

Old Business

Discussion: Fostering Participation in the Region

- Brown to arrange with USA Curling and Dean Gemmell for Official and Instructor Clinics
- Reaching out to previous timers and participating teams to recruit timers

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

- Grant Applications are due on Dec 11. As a reference, dues are due on January 31, 2022

MCA Pin and Trophy Update by Shannon Brown and Barb Taube Hesterberg

- Dar Curtis pins \$900.20 (160 pins for 5 years Pincrafters) approved three meetings ago, works out to \$6.30 per pin.
- Still need to do 5&U pins, which needed a redesign to remove the state of Illinois
- Trophy update to be done in Summer, once this year's winners are known.

Discussion: Curling Night in America ([Click here to View Schedule](#))

- Des Moines held successful event
- Shout out to Windy City's efforts to take advantage of the coverage.

New Business

Discussion of MCA Involvement in Wrigley Curling

- Low conversion rates in past
- Robertson offered to make a QR code for a contact card to be given to each participant linking to curling membership offers and curling opportunities.
- Burns offered to make a take away coupon for additional curling instruction.
- Instructors are paid \$50.

Discussion of Paper Clubs

- Two bars have started curling leagues. Tabled the discussion about inclusion into MCA.

MCA Meeting Adjourned at 5:46 PM (Young/Burns).

The next meeting will be on December 13th, at 7 pm via Zoom.