



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021, via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM on Monday, December 13, 2021, by Sara Gaum.

In attendance: Sara Gaum (President), Barb Taube Hesterberg (V.P.), Steve Young (St. Louis), 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), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), Adam Miller (Chicago), Courtney Schmidt (USA Curling)

Absent: Steve Wright (Exmoor), Kate Ross (Des Moines), Jeff Wright (Past President), Walter Burns (Wilmette).

October Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, had two corrections made into the official report (MCA Arena Bonspiel is in May, and Wilmette will not be hosting corporate events at this time). Minutes, as corrected, were approved (Robertson/L. Vahle).

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner via screen share on Zoom

- MCA balance sheet reflects the purchase of a \$613 laser for tournaments.
- Awaiting invoices from Prairie State and for pin expenses (from R. Brown).

USA Curling Report by Courtney Schmidt

- 100+ hours of live coverage of 2022 U.S. Olympic Mixed Doubles and Team Trials; Webstream coverage of the Junior National Championships, Men's and Women's National Championships, Mixed Doubles National Championship; a USA Curling dedicated podcast; as well as Curling Night in America on NBC Sports Network.
- Ice Breakers, USA Curling's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program launched.
- Developing a one-hour learn-to-curl model to help clubs convert viewers into members
- USA Curling has hired Club Relationship Managers to serve as a point of contact for member clubs; will support certifications, programming, insurance, and SafeSport.
- Shawn Oleson was promoted to Head Ice Technician. Shawn will consult with member clubs on ice-making best practices and develop ice makers across the country.
- Aaron Kaylor was hired as Events Manager to support championship events.
- Sydney Mullaney, Marketing Intern, to create materials to facilitate sponsor outreach.

USWCA Report by Michelle Rane via email

- Winter meeting will be in-person and online.

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown

- MCA Mixed Playdowns registration is open until December 24 via [USA Curling Portal](#)

- MCA U18 Playdowns registration is open until March 11 via [USA Curling Portal](#)
- MCA 5 Year & Under registration is open (Waltham hosting)
 - Ten teams, with room for 16.
 - Qualifier for 5 Year & Under Nationals – Spring 2022
- Exmoor CC to host Level I Instructor Clinic on December 18

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- USA Curling Men's & Women's Nationals needs volunteers
 - Utilizing a Q.R. code link to post in various locations.
- Ramping up for an Olympic bump in membership; hosting many learn2curl events

Chicago CC Report by James-Grant Robertson and Adam Miller

- Leagues end this week and re-start in mid-January.
- Gloamin' Gaels Women's Bonspiel is looking to host 12 teams.
- Men's International Bonspiel is scheduled for Jan 13-16
- 24 new members from learn2curls are enrolled in Rookie Rink League.
- New push for Capital Campaign

Des Moines CC Report by Kate Moss via email

- Selling six fabric houses. Please call if interested.

Northwestern University CC Report by Andrew Wolnek

- Done for Fall; will be curling at Chicago CC starting in Jan 2022
- 6-7 core curlers with a few additional drop-ins

St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- Looking for a new club President
- Hosting the Winter Classic Bonspiel at Waltham CC from Jan 28-30
- 38 attendees at the last learn2curl session

Waltham CC Report by Larry Vahle and Jane Vahle

- Offering in-house events (Sticks and Shenanigans, Christmas Party, and Family Fun Spiel)
- Regular leagues begin in January; beginner leagues start in March
- USWCA 5 Years & Under scheduled for Feb 4-5
- Men's Bonspiel from Feb 18-20 and Mixed Bonspiel from March 4-6

Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne

- Fall leagues are ending; Holiday Bonspiel this weekend – triples with 16 teams
- Steady demand for corporate events \$25 per person includes a beverage.
- Ground Hog Day Bonspiel will be an open event
- WC3 Open will be April 21-24

Old Business

Discussion: MCA Involvement in Wrigley Curling

- Banner with Club and MCA logos created for display outside Gallagher Way
- QR code to website added, awaiting MCA Clubs links to learn2curls/membership
- Blast to be sent to MCA members for paid volunteers (\$50 per hour).

Officials Clinic: Update by Shannon Brown

- Cedar Rapids CC may be hosting virtual officials clinics before Nationals
- Working with Dean at USA Curling to set up training clinics

New Business

MCA Grant Applications reviewed and approved

- Cedar Rapids CC using funds for two billboard advertisements (Taube Hesterberg/Miller)
- Chicago CC using the money for new scraper blade for Chicago (J.Vahle/DeGagne)
- Exmoor CC purchased two electronic measuring devices (Peper/Robertson)
- Windy City CC utilizing funds to cover ice fees (Taube Hesterberg/L.Vahle)
- Waltham CC purchased a new ice scraper (Robertson/DeGagne)
- All clubs were asked to send proof of purchase to Jeff Warner.

MCA Arena Bonspiel Budget review and vote

- Proposed Date: May 14-15, 2022 at ImOn Ice in Cedar Rapids
 - Format: 12 teams, 2 day, 3 event bonspiel with 6 end games
 - Cost: \$220/hour (ice rental) + \$2.24/pin + \$55 pin mold fee = \$110
- Proposed Budget based on different scenarios
 - 6 draw format \$1,980 + \$110 – (48 curlers x \$35) = \$410 MCA contribution
 - 8 draw format \$2,640 + \$110 – (48 curlers x \$35) = \$960 MCA contribution
- Motion to book ice (Robertson/Young); fee discussion tabled until next meeting

Discussion: Glenview Park District led by Jeff Wright

- Want to offer learn2curls at their new arena facility starting in March 2022 (tentative)
- MCA needs to determine what they can provide (stones, slides, ice tech training)
- USA Curling can provide information on establishing an arena club
- Undetermined as to who would run the L2C and who would staff it.
- Adam Miller and Lon Peper offered to assist Jeff Wright in finding out more and determining what resources the MCA should be provided to new facilities

MCA Meeting was Adjourned at 8:12 p.m. (Young/Degagne).

The next meeting will be on February 7, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.