



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022, via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM on Monday, February 7, 2022, by Sara Gaum.

In attendance: Sara Gaum (President), Jeff Wright (Past President), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Larry Vahle (Waltham), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Steve Young (St. Louis), Lon Peper (Cedar Rapids), Jane Vahle (Waltham), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Adam Miller (Chicago), Courtney Schmidt (USA Curling), Kate Ross (Des Moines),

Absent: Barb Taube Hesterberg (V.P.), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Andrew Wolek (Northwestern), James-Grant Robertson (Chicago), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Walter Burns (Wilmette).

December Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved (Moss/L. Vahle).

Treasurer's Report No report.

USA Curling Report by Courtney Schmidt from Beijing, China

- Marketing materials have been sent to clubs on hosting Learn2Curl and Special Events.
- USA Curling developed a video on how to watch curling for mixed doubles and 4-man team.
- Courtney met with Gaum and Ben Levy (President of GLCA) to discuss the process of selecting a committee to select our next representative to the USA Curling Board. Several potential formats have been successfully used by other regions. Russ Linski to send (by March 1) a letter delineating the gaps in expertise needed on the USA Curling Board.
- Believes all MCA clubs have submitted their USA Curling dues
- If clubs need help with Learn2Curls, contact Dean Gemmell and/or Jenna Burchesky.

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown

- MCA U18 Playdowns – rescheduled for March 5-6 at Exmoor CC – timers needed
- MCA 5 Year & Under – rescheduled for April 9-10 at Chicago CC
 - Switched dates and location with Dar Curtis, which will now be at WCCC.
 - Only the winner qualifies for 5 Year & Under Nationals. Runner-up goes into a selection pool and is not guaranteed a seat at Nationals.
 - Participation is limited to teams who qualify for Nationals
- Dar Curtis Bonspiel – rescheduled for May 28-29 at Windy City CC
- MCA Arena Bonspiel – scheduled for May 14-15 at Cedar Rapids CC
- Senior Nationals – scheduled for March 9-22 at Exmoor CC – timers needed

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- Three-week curling mini-camp for those participating in the Learn2Curls

- Watch parties scheduled in their area throughout the Winter Olympics.

Chicago CC Report by Adam Miller

- Media Day: Jan 31 from 5:45 am – 7 pm with Television, Print, and Radio personalities both to get media coverage of the sport and to decrease the need for last-minute volunteers.
- Gloamin' Gaels Women's Bonspiel and Men's International Bonspiel were successful.
- Olympic watch parties on Feb 12 and 19 with curling and dinner (and corporate sponsors)
- Rookie Rink League for new members starts on Feb 20; Junior Leagues forming in Spring
- Corporate events and Learn2Curls have been very popular.

Des Moines CC Report by Kate Moss

- Local brewery released a new beer in honor of curling; played beer cooler curling at event
- Hosted one Learn2Curl, three private events, and have a watch party scheduled for Feb 16.
- Ice coming out in April.

Exmoor CC Report via email by Steve Wright

- Senior National rescheduled for Mar 3-13 with 10-12 teams
- InterLeague has been delayed until Feb 23 due to Covid concerns.
- Olympic Curling Watch Party this Saturday to get more exposure to the sport to both golf members and friends of current members.

St. Louis CC Report by Steve Young

- Leagues start after the Olympics; Corporate event scheduled for this Friday
- Hosted the Winter Classic Bonspiel at Waltham CC with 12 teams
- 40 attendees at the last learn2curl session, with one scheduled for next week
- Land is still for sale (utilities issue)

Waltham CC Report by Larry Vahle and Jane Vahle

- Olympic Open House on Feb 26; Olympic Beginner's League on Mondays in March
- USWCA 5 Years & Under scheduled for Feb 4-5
- Men's Bonspiel scheduled Feb 18-20; Mixed Bonspiel scheduled March 4-6

Windy City CC Report by Aaron DeGagne

- Ground Hog Day Open Bonspiel had 12 teams, including teams from OK and WA
- WC3 Open will be April 21-24; Olympic Open House on February 19 (\$20 per person).

Old Business

MCA Grant Applications

- Brown will follow up with Warner regarding reimbursements

MCA Arena Bonspiel Budget

- Motion for each participant to pay \$35 with anticipated 12 teams passed (Ross/Peper)
- Brown to make a flyer and draw sheet suggestion; undecided if 6 or 8 draw format.

- Undecided if non-arena or non-MCA would be permitted to fill the bonspiel. Or, if the non-arena curlers should be limited to 1st or 2nd year curlers.

Trophy Update Report by Jeff Wright

- Jr. Men's base completed in walnut. Needs plaques installed for the past 8-10 years.
- Jr. Women's has been repaired and needs plaques for the last 2 years.
- Plan to resolve spelling mistakes on existing trophies, but need a representative to check trophies so we can begin the verification process. In the future, spellings will be verified via Club Representatives or USA Curling sign-up.

Glenview Park District by Jeff Wright

- Floor curling proposed – two sessions limited to 100 participants.
- Glenview Park District contact wants to table until May/June about a Fall 2022 session.

MCA Ice Standards Committee Report by Shannon Brown, Adam DeGagne, Lon Peper

- Will present suggestions on how to make better ice across the region at the annual meeting.

New Business

MCA working to start/support new clubs: Discussion

- Peper has put together info on how to do Learn2Curls in the form of public kits, as well as how to start a new club, where to get 32 stones plus brooms, how to store stones, and how to paint houses, based upon Russ Lemke's (Cape Cod CC) format.
- Wright to reach out to Bruce Trumbles and see if he'll donate used curling equipment (hacks, brooms, shoes, and sliders) to the MCA to be used for a potential new club.
- Ross suggested that a webpage is more accessible than a kit.
- Schmidt plans to follow up with USA Curling's Dean Gemmell as they were previously working on "Curling Club out of a Box" or how to evolve from arena to dedicated ice.

How to Capitalize on the Winter Olympics Discussion led by Sara Gaum

- Potential Ideas from Brown: QR codes and Radio ads for Learn2Curls
- Potential Ideas from Porter: Ram does curling beers, potential watch party location

MCA Meeting was Adjourned at 8:32 p.m. (Peper/Ross).

The next MCA meeting will be on April 11 via Zoom.