



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes and Annual Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2022, via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM on Monday, May 9, 2022, by Sara Gaum.

In attendance: Sara Gaum (President), Jeff Wright (Past President), Barb Taube Hesterberg (V.P.), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary), Courtney Schmidt (USA Curling), Lon Peper (Cedar Rapids), Larry Vahle (Waltham), Jane Vahle (Waltham), Aaron DeGagne (Windy City), Adam Miller (Chicago), James-Grant Robertson (Chicago), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Shannon Brown (Media/Communications), Eric Reithel (Windy City-elect), Kerry Dickson (Secretary-elect).

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

February Meeting Minutes, prepared by Sherryanne Porter, were approved (DeGagne/L. Vahle).

Treasurer's Report by Warner

- All dues have been collected. The balance sheet reflects post-COVID increase in activity throughout the MCA region.
- Curling stone leasing agreements are out-of-date and need to be redrafted for the 2021-2022 season and prepared for the 2022-2023 season.

USA Curling Report by Courtney Schmidt

- Lynn LaRocca is the new Chair of USA Curling.
- Marketing and digital media have been successfully moved to an independent platform.
 - Site Visit Summary - 2016 (50k), 2021 (1M), and 2022 (1M in the first four months)
- Ice Breakers, the diversity and inclusion program that started in 2021, is proceeding well.
- During the Olympics, the Looking for a Club link received 100k views, with Metro Chicago in the Top 5 (MN, NY, Boston, and metro D.C. were the others).
- Requirements for the joint MCA and GLCC position have been established. The position starts at the end of October. Applications are due to Sara Gaum by May 27.
- USA Curling Foundation, LLC. will be adding Trustees. Janet Dolton is the Director.
- World Curling Foundation has a few open seats on its Board. Contact Rich Lepping.

USWCA Report by Sara Gaum

- Women's Scot Tour curling at Exmoor CC and Chicago CC on November 1

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown

- MCA 5 Year & Under
 - 18 teams from Chicago, Windy City, Cedar Rapids, Waltham, and St. Louis.

- Team Robertson will be heading to Nationals on May 11 in Los Angeles.
- Utilized a computerized countdown clock, eliminating the need for timers.
- Dar Curtis Bonspiel – May 28-29 at Windy City CC has 11 teams registered.
- MCA Arena Bonspiel – Canceled; aim to coordinate with Arena Clubs for 2023 date.

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Lon Peper

- Dedicated Ice Fund is being established.
- Search has begun for a new general manager for the ice arena.
- Cedar Spiel may be canceled.

Chicago CC Report by James-Grant Robertson and Adam Miller

- Statistics on membership are very encouraging as people return to curling.
- Member Jim Klann has purchased new stones that will arrive this summer. Old stones are being auctioned with the money going to the Capital Campaign. Capital Campaign has provided new ice equipment. Will be carpeting and painting, as well as cementing the pipes (currently roll-up mats) and repairing the parking lot.

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Curling is finished for the season.

Waltham CC Report by Larry Vahle and Jane Vahle

- Winter Leagues ended in April; aiming to make capital improvements (stove and restrooms)

Windy City CC Report by DeGagne

- WC3 Annual Open Bonspiel held on April 20 with 22 teams
- New board elected: DeGagne is President, and Reithel is MCA Representative
- Moved to Curling Club Manager for their web platform
- Summer session started with 80+ curlers; Food Truck Bonspiel is scheduled for Aug 25-28
- Instead of the Ground Hog Day Open Spiel, next year, Windy City CC will be hosting an LGBTQIA+ bonspiel as part of the nationwide circuit of spiels. Aim to make this spiel part of a circuit with Granite CC (Seattle), Potomac CC (Maryland), and Canadian clubs.

Old Business

MCA Supporting New Clubs by Shannon Brown

- Jeff Wright to call Bruce Tibbles regarding the donation of curling gear to the MCA.
- Glenview Arena looks to host Learn2Curl opportunities for locals.

MCA & GLCA USA Curling open position by Sara Gaum

Open for Applications until May 27. Send to midwestcurlingassociation@gmail.com

MCA U18 Playdowns Registration Situation by Shannon Brown

- The teams were referred to by the State they represented, not their regions.

MCA Meeting was Adjourned at 8:24 p.m. (Taube Hesterberg /Robertson).

ANNUAL MEETING

The MCA Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:24 PM on Monday, May 9, 2022, by Sara Gaum.

Election of Slate of Officers led by Gaum

- President (Sara Gaum) – halfway thru 2-year term; no vote required
- VP (Barb Taube Hesterberg) – halfway thru 2-year term; no vote required
- Treasurer (Jeff Warner) – 2-year ends in Sept 2023; voting required then
- Secretary (Kerry Dickson) – interested candidate; vote required
- Media/Communication Director – halfway thru 2-year term; no vote required.

Motion to accept the slate (Miller/DeGagne) passed.

New Business

Drafted Addendum for MCA Bylaws led by Shannon Brown

- Suggested Addendum: “All participants in MCA-sponsored bonspiels or playdowns are required to be active, dues-paying members of a regional MCA club. “
 - “League Playing” was problematic, as Juniors may not be permitted in leagues.
 - Discussion of the word “active” and leaving what constitutes “active” to the discretion of the MCA Board.
- MCA events are there to create camaraderie amongst the MCA members.
- Don’t aim to change bylaws but create rules for events; tabled until the next meeting.

2022-23 Tentative MCA Calendar by Shannon Brown

- Prairie State Challenge (Oct 29-30) - Hosted by Chicago CC and Exmoor CC
- Club Playdowns (late November or December) - Hosted by Windy City CC
- Mixed Playdowns (February) - Hosted by Chicago CC
- U18 Playdowns (February) - Hosted by Exmoor CC
- MCA 5 & Under (February or March) - Hosted by Windy City CC or Exmoor CC
- Dar Curtis Bonspiel (End of Season) - Hosted by Waltham CC or Exmoor CC
- Arena Bonspiel (Spring or Summer) - Hosted by Arena Club (TBD)

Voting Rights for Secretary, Treasurer led by Sara Gaum

- Discussed the implications of the MCA Secretary and MCA Treasurer having voting rights
- Motion (Reithel/L. Vahle) - Not Passed

Ice Improvement Committee Update by Shannon Brown

- USA Curling is hosting a clinic at Nashville CC in early June; MCA voted and approved funding (\$375) for one attendee per club

- MCA acknowledges the short notice of this opportunity and aims to provide more ice improvement opportunities in upcoming seasons

MCA Support for National Events (patches, uniforms, financial assistance) led by Sara Gaum

- With the rise in the number of National competitions, this was deemed too expensive and was discontinued in the past. More research is required before a discussion.

MCA Meeting was Adjourned at 9:12 p.m. (Peper/Robertson).

The next MCA meeting will be in August via Zoom.