



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2022 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom

In attendance:

President	Sara Gaum
Vice President	Barb Taube Hesterberg
Treasurer	Jeff Warner
Communications Director	Shannon Brown
Secretary	Kerry Dickson
USA Curling Director	Courtney Schmidt
USWCA Regional Contact	Kirsten Jensen Higashikawa
Cedar Rapids Curling Club	Lon Peper
Chicago Curling Club	Adam Miller
Des Moines Curling Club	Christa Lautner
Exmoor Country Club	Steve Wright
St. Louis Curling Club	Dan Sovar
Waltham Curling Club	Jane & Larry Vahle
Windy City Curling Club	Eric Reithel
	Aaron DeGagne

Not in attendance:

Wilmette Curling Club	Walter Burns
Northwestern Curling	Andrew Wolek

Meeting Called to order at 7:33 PM by President Sara Gaum

May Meeting Minutes

- Sara Gaum requested that Jim Klann's name be spelled correctly in the May minutes.
- Motion Reithel, Second Barb Taub
- Passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Warner

- 990 Tax Return has been filed.
- Annual report to the Attorney General office needs to be signed
- Financial report was summarized, no real change to financials
 - Reconciled income to cash balance
 - Adam (Chicago) asked about CCC reimbursement for MCA grant
 - Jeff believes that the reimbursement has been paid
 - Adam and Jeff going to compare records
- Discussion regarding liability insurance for clubs renting rocks from MCA

- Recommendation that insurance be required
- No decision on recommendation

USCA Report – Courtney Schmidt

- Summary of USA Curling activities at and since the last USA Curling Board meeting

USWCA Report – Kirsten Higashikawa

- Hosting Fall Conference in Northbrook -- August 16 and 17th
- Ladies Scots Tour -- Coming through Chicago on November 1st
 - Curling at Chicago in the morning and Exmoor in the afternoon
 - Banquet at Exmoor on November 1st, all invited
- Senior Bonspiel -- Racine host end of November, beginning of December

MCA Calendar Report – Shannon Brown

- Final Calendar to be in place by August
 - Provide suggestions of events to Shannon via email
 - Can rename events if they are still in flux
 - MCA events are pretty much set and in the calendar
 - Need to confirm an arena bonspiel to be added to the schedule
 - Pins are purchased, needs to be scheduled
 - October MCA Board meeting is scheduled for October 29th
 - During the Prairie State, intended to be in person

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids – Lon Peper

- Held annual picnic, leagues starting next month

Chicago – Adam Miller

- James Grant has stepped down as rep
- Finalizing the bonspiel calendar
- Registration for the Chicago open is open, October 14th -16th
- CCC is getting new rocks through a donation from Jim Klann – selling old rocks

Des Moines – Christa Lautner

- Tying down ice time has been challenging, need to lock in time early
 - Existing arena has been inconsistent with commitments
- New arena is coming to Des Moines, club is contemplating switching locations

Exmoor – Steve Wright

- Opening October 10th then guests nights on October 11th and 12th

- Monday—new curlers
- Tuesday morning—Ladies, Tuesday evening—Men’s
- Wednesday—Plan to do Inter-league again
- Thursday—Open league
- Friday and Saturday—pretty much open ice
- Exmoor Men’s Continental Bonspiel December 8th thru 11th

St. Louis – Dan Sovar

- Arch City Spiel is September 2nd through 4th
- Leagues starting after the spiel
- Great Olympic bump, up to 185 members

Waltham – Larry and Jane Vahle

- No curling right now, starting in November
- Hosted pasture golf outing last week with cookout
- Hosted a brewing event at the club, beer will be available for opening events

Wilmette – Walter Burns

- No report

Windy City – Eric Reithel

- Wrapped up summer leagues, numbers a little down
- Doing a soft melt on ice to improve surface
- Bonspiels
 - Food Truck, end of August before Fall leagues
 - Tyler George will be hosting classes on the two days after the bonspiel
 - Registration open to people outside of WCC
 - Octoberfest Open, end of September
 - Pushed up to September to not conflict as much with the Chicago Open
 - MCA Club National Playdowns, Jan 3rd – 5th
 - LGBTQ Bonspiel in February

Old Business

- MCA & GLCA USA Curling Position - still looking for someone to fill this position
 - One person from MCA is interested
- New Drafted Addendum for MCA Events
 - All participants in MCA-sponsored bonspiels or playdowns are required to be active, dues-paying members of a regional MCA club. Language is being added to flyers stating this requirement (see agenda) rather than making part of bylaws.
 - Definition of active is to be confirmed/determined by the MCA clubs

- Question asked regarding who is going to be responsible for checking this?
 - Addresses aren't effective to confirm affiliation with a certain club.
 - Want confirmation from each MCA club that the registrant is "active". Decision of the Board is that the person managing registration will send registration list to all Club Presidents and MCA representatives after registration is closed for confirmation that all registered participants in the event are "active" members of a MCA club.
- Ice Improvement Committee – Follow-Up on Nashville Opportunity
 - Windy City had two people attend the event. Fun was had by all.
 - MCA is reimbursed the cost of one individual per club. Only Windy City CC sent two ice technicians to the event.
 - Potentially another ice summit will be held this fall by USA Curling.
- MCA has been working to host a training session for "Officials"
 - Only one official in the MCA - would like to rectify by training more officials
 - USA Curling has been non-responsive regarding this request for over a year.
- MCA Involvement & Support for Large National Events (patches, uniform funds, etc.)
 - Tabled for next meeting. Shannon has historical data to be covered before National events. Data will be shared with the board prior to next discussion.

New Business

- Glenview Community Ice Center – Volunteers Needed, August 19 (5:20-6:20 pm)
 - Sara distributing information to everyone
 - Chicago CC is aware of this event as they are the closest club to Glenview. This is to allow CCC to be in a position to assist the Glenview Park District
- MCA Reps: Onboarding, roles, and event expectations
 - Is this being done? Was everyone onboarded? Are you comfortable with the role and responsibilities?
 - One responsibility of a MCA representative is that they are expected to be the host for MCA events at your club.
- USA Curling & GNCC Situation – Discussion
 - 10 years ago, bylaws were adopted by regions
 - 100% of association club members needed to be USCA members
 - GNCC fell below this standard and negotiated a 95% standard with USCA
 - In 2020, GNCC changed their standards and no longer required clubs to require members to be members of USA Curling. In response, USA Curling decided to allow individuals to become members of USCA.
 - As of 2021-2022 season, GNCC was no longer in compliance with 95% standard, noticed by USCA.
 - Conversation with USAC and GNCC leadership to try to break impasse
 - No proposals provided by GNCC to resolve issue

- In May Board meeting, entire board and committee members decided that a letter needed to be sent to GNCC Chair—“if you are not going to comply, resign.”
- Left decisions to the clubs as whether they wanted to stay part of USA Curling—could either be at-large members, join another region or form a new region
- Vote to remove GNCC was unanimous
- Staff has been receiving many questions from GNCC clubs regarding becoming at-large members of USA Curling
- What is the USA Curling doing to provide more support to at-large member clubs who will no longer have access to a region’s resources? USA Curling can not assist to establish a new region, but it is assisting individual clubs to determine if they want to establish a new region.
- General feeling seems to be that USA Curling needs to be proactive to communicate.

Eric Reithel motions to adjourn, Larry Vahle seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Our next MCA Meeting is scheduled during the Prairie State Challenge in October. Date and time TBD. Also to be confirmed is whether the meeting is in-person rather than Zoom.