



Midwest Curling Association Board Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by President Sara Gaum

In attendance:

Sara Gaum	Barb Hesterberg
Shannon Brown	Jeff Warner
Kerry Dickson	Eric Reithel
Lon Peper	Adam Miller
Matt Sherry	Christa Lautner
Jane and Larry Vahle	

Review of Minutes

August Meeting Minutes	Motion by Barb Hesterberg, Second by Jeff Warner.
Passed unanimously	
September Meeting Minutes	Motion by Barb Hesterberg, Second by Jeff Warner.
Passed unanimously	
October Special Meeting Minutes	Motion by Lon Peper, Second by Eric Reithel.
Passed unanimously	

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner

- Fiscal year started 4/30/2022
- Total Income for the two-month period is \$1,573.
 - Received \$725 from USCA for hosting playdowns.
 - Rock rental of \$800 received from Glenview Park District.
- Request from Cedar Rapids for reimbursement for bonspiel pins (\$97.80) for an upcoming event. Eric Reithel motion, Barb Hesterberg second. Passed unanimously
- Motion for incidental expenses (ice tech tips (\$5/sheet/draw) and \$50 for breakfast and other snacks) for all MCA bonspiels. Eric Reithel motion, Barb Hesterberg second. Passed unanimously
- Motion to reimburse Russ Brown for tips for the Prairie State bonspiel last weekend. Barb Hesterberg motion, Eric Reithel second. Passed unanimously.

MCA Calendar Report by Shannon Brown

- Rescheduled MCA Dar Curtis
 - New Date is December 17-18, 2022 at Waltham
 - Shannon Brown sent a flyer today to all MCA Club Reps; trying to get 12 teams
- Tentative MCA Arena Playdowns/Bonspiel – May 13-14, 2023 in Cedar Rapids

- Trying to confirm that this date works for all MCA arena clubs. An email was sent to all of the MCA arena clubs trying to get feedback.

Club Reports

- Cedar Rapids – Lon Peper
 - Nothing new to report
- Chicago – Adam Miller and Matt Sherry
 - Matt Sherry is a new CCC representative
 - Old Boys Bonspiel—December 2nd – 4th
 - Received permit today for paving a portion of the parking lot
 - Enjoyed hosting the Prairie State Challenge with Exmoor
- Des Moines – Christa Lautner
 - For the first time ever, filled the early-bird and late-night leagues
 - Pop-up shop will be held next Sunday
 - Hosting a learn to curl
 - 10-year anniversary is next year
 - Looking for new stones—two to four stones in case something happens.
 - A couple of rocks seem to be close to the end of their useful life
- Exmoor – Steve Wright
 - Regular scheduled leagues in full swing (Tuesday Morning – Women’s, Wednesday – Interleague)
 - Hosting weekend events, such as a curl & dine – open to all experience levels and guests are welcome. Enter as a single, couple, or group of friends.
- Northwestern – Andrew Wolek
 - Not in attendance. Andrew is no longer their representative.
- St. Louis – Steve Young
 - Not in attendance. No report.
- Waltham – Larry and Jane Vahle
 - Ice Equipment is down—waiting for a part
 - Waltham should be able to use their ice on Saturday evening during the bonspiel. Draws can be adjusted to allow the ice to be free.
- Wilmette – Walter Burns
 - Not in attendance. No report.

- Windy City – Eric Reithel
 - Founders Cup was this past weekend. Went really well.
 - Looking to expand their leagues. Want to increase opportunities for women to curl. Current opportunities are three nights in a row.
 - Looking for suggestions for how to structure leagues to increase
 - LBGQT—Bonspiel is scheduled for February 16th-19th
 - Registration is now open. Don't have to enter a full team.
 - Aurora Devine is scheduled to be the Drag Queen.

Old Business

- Arena National Championships – Team Allison (St Louis) and Team Kozak (Cedar Rapids)
 - Great pictures and Shannon will be pushing publicity onto MCA social media.
- New Drafted Addendum for MCA Events – Recent question regarding U18 eligibility
 - New addendum: All participants in MCA-sponsored bonspiels or playdowns are required to be active, dues-paying members of a regional MCA club.
 - Question has been asked of the MCA as to whether the rule can be bended to allow a team that is two, active dues-paying members and two, non-MCA players to enter a team for the U18 Nationals.
 - Discussion followed. Regarding new language and what was trying to be addressed. Should the wording be modified?
 - Decision needed at this meeting for this request. The non-MCA members would join an MCA club and pay MCA dues.
 - Matt Sherry, based upon his work with CCC juniors, doesn't have an issue with granting the exception.
 - Eric Reithel, on behalf of Windy City, is ok with the exception.
 - General consensus of the group is that this is OK only for U18.
 - Motion was made to make an exception for this year's U18 that the team with two, active members of an MCA club be allowed to represent MCA at U18 if the two non-MCA curlers joined an MCA club.
 - Barb Hesterberg motion, Eric Reithel, second.
 - Motion passed unanimously

New Business

- MCA Grant Program – Application to be distributed to MCA clubs post-meeting. Deadline for grant application is Jan 7, 2023.
 - In past years, grant was 25% of the club's previous dues. Need vote to set %.
 - Adam Miller motioned that we reignite the MCA Grant Program at 25% of the MCA club's previous years dues. Matt Sherry second. Passed unanimously.
- Media & Communication Needs for the MCA Board – Position needs filled by May 2023
 - Job description located in MCA Booklet
 - Potential Option: Split into two positions – Communication and Events
 - Shannon suggests that if a volunteer can't be found, it might need to be a paid position. Plans to post on MCA social media to gather candidates.

- Open Discussion: MCA and USA Curling
 - What is your club's current opinion on USA Curling? What are your expectations of USA Curling, and do you believe the MCA should be a part of USA Curling?
 - If an MCA regional clubs stopped paying USA Curling dues, as representatives of regional clubs, what is your expectation of the MCA?
 - Do we kick the clubs out? Do we keep the clubs in (violates USA Curling bylaws)? Do we adjust the structure of MCA to allow individuals to join?
 - Open Discussion
 - Windy City is actively discussing these items. Hosting a town hall this coming Wednesday on these issues.
 - Salty bitterness that Jeff Plush employment wasn't terminated.
 - Windy City's expectations haven't been met regarding transparency, diversity and equity, etc. from USA Curling.
 - Encouraged by Plush's resignation and resignation of three USAC board members. Windy City was this close to leaving USA Curling.
 - Waltham had a discussion. Right now, there is a lot of dissatisfaction due to lack of transparency.
 - Dissatisfied with the high cost of dues relative to benefits of membership. Appalled at the way teams had to be selected for Arena Nationals due to USA Curling's lack of communication.
 - Catering to the elite curlers; local clubs aren't getting any benefit.
 - Chicago is near where Windy City and Waltham are. Distrust with USAC.
 - Tentatively hopeful that USA Curling understand where they have erred. Discussed briefly whether to leave USA Curling.
 - Exmoor hasn't spoken about it recently, at least not since resignation.
 - Exmoor has a different structure as a county club. Curling is only a small portion of the larger Exmoor organization.
 - Cedar Rapids members know what is going on, but no town hall.
 - Needs USA Curling for the insurance and the stone loan program.
 - Encouraged by the changes that have been happening at USAC
 - Lon's personal opinion is that GNCC did a disservice to regional organization by allowing Utica CC to not be a member of USAC
 - Eric's critique of GNCC is that they weren't willing to be the USA Curling enforcer to gather Utica dues, but when push came to shove GNCC wanted to get their portion of the dues which would be paid by Utica.
 - Eric would like MCA to act as a group with decisions regarding USAC.
 - Shannon highlighted the benefit of MCA bonspiels. It would be unfortunate to lose regional clubs, therefore, making curlers ineligible for MCA Bonspiels which sole purpose is to support/grow grassroots curling.
 - Would MCA be able to offer insurance help support clubs who are currently securing insurance from USA Curling?
 - Sara said that she feels that MCA handled the whole rigamarole with GNCC well. Communicated and acted.

- Would like to be ahead of these issues and be a strong region.
- Wanted to present both sides of the issue to make sure that the Board is aware of options.
- Did not get her question answered at the USA Curling Town Hall.
- Wants to have our rep back on the USA Curling Board.
- Is trying to understand the committees that USA Curling has said that they are setting up. Wants to have representation for MCA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Our next MCA Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.