**MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:33 pm BY Tim

IN ATTENDANCE: \*ONLINE MEETING\*

Tim French – President & Dir of Media, Jacqueline Saucier – VP of Rep and Director of Operations, Holly Strong – Secretary, Dionne Peterson – Registrar, David Peterson – Director of Equipment, Brandon Gomes – Director of Sponsorship and Fundraising, Megan Dorgan – Director of Tournaments, Christina McRae – Director at Large, Aaron Lowes – Director at Large, Andrew Gumbinger – Director at Large, Danielle Carroll

REGRENTS:

Leia Bolton – Treasurer, Lindsay Lawson – Director at Large

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Meeting date: October 11, 2023 (AGM)

Motion to Accept: Will vote on approval at next AGM.

Second:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Accept: Megan Doran

Second: Brandon Gomes

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

* **President’s Report**
  + Zone 6 Meeting Occurred
  + OLA AGM in Niagara Falls this weekend. Tim, Danielle and Mike are attending. Will provide any relevant updates.
* **Vice President – Representative Report**
  + Coaching applications have been put out with a cut off of December 1st, 2023. No applications have been received yet.
* **Treasurer’s Report** 
  + N/A
* **Secretary’s Report** 
  + Nothing to Report.
* **Registrar’s Report** 
  + Nothing to report.
* **Director of Field’s Report**
  + Vacant Position
* **Director of Media Relations** 
  + Information for coaching applications to be posted.
* **Referee in Chief** 
  + Vacant Position
* **Director of Operations**
  + Request for floor time sent in for Monday to Friday 6-10pm.
  + Request for Dan Greer is in but may be difficult with Orono not being available for rentals.
  + Newcastle may be an option but will need to be explored.
  + House league potential on weekends to open up more floor time.
* **Director of Equipment** 
  + Daniel Muirhead reached out as he is operating a new clothing business. Has been used in the past however, the costs were several dollars per item over the quoted price.
  + Currently using Uncommon Fit and happy with jerseys however exploration for other clothing to be explored.
* **Director of Sponsorship and Fundraising**
  + Looking for sponsorships.
* **Director of Tournaments**
  + Form needs to be filled out by November 30th, 2023.
* **Technical Director** 
  + Vacant Position
* **Director at Large (4 Positions)** 
  + Aaron Lowes – Nothing to report at this time.
  + Andrew Gumbinger – Nothing to report at this time.
  + Christina McRae – Nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS -

NEW BUSINESS –

Volunteer Shortage

* Agreement to follow suit with other associations regarding a commitment of volunteer hours per family (two hours) for the 2024 season. There is the ability to use “Sign Up Genie” (no fee for our purposes) to assist in scheduling/ posting volunteer vacancies/ needs or left with Team Managers to schedule/ look after.
  + Consideration of charging a fee per player that is returned or deducted from their final payment upon completion of hours. Families would need to be aware of this with a potential of beginning in 2025 if this is agreed upon.
* Some tournaments charge an addition fee per team (example: $100) that is returned to the team at the completion of the tournament if their team has completed a required amount of volunteering time.
* Currently there are no volunteers for House League.
* Volunteers are needed for fundraising, picnics, clothing fitting, house league, the board, phone notifications when a coach is not there, a house league final day, equipment inventory, and try outs.

Coaching

* Discussions regarding timing of interviews for head coaches (before or after the holidays).
* 2023 Survey is out, 44 replies have been returned. Follow up with coaches based off the surveys has begun.
* Discussed meeting with each team staff to discuss expectations from CMLA which may be helpful moving forward.

Arena/ Field Use

* Newcastle to be looked into.

Clothing

* Looking for non-jersey options but will stay with Uncommon Fit for jerseys. Anyone with contacts, please send them to Dave.

House League

* Consideration for offering a reduced fee for those who step up for coaching with House League.
* Discussions around timings and days per week. Possibility of one night a week followed by games on Saturday’s.
  + This could facilitate having clothing vendors, fundraising and the possibility of other associations attending.
  + A floor time booking request will be sent in for Saturday’s from 9am to 12pm for now.
* Another option is to run house league similar to Northumberland, once a week for an hour and a half. This would be comprised of a 45 minute practice followed by a 45 minute game.
* Difficulty with decision as we will need time to ascertain what other associations may wish to join for the interlock.
* Feedback was that it was disorganized, and families would prefer one location over multiple, assists with families with multiple children. More development and shorter games would be preferred.
* Hopeful for zone wide interlock (similar to select) with the possibility of a mini-festival at the end for house league.

Summer Camps

* Potential for outdoor camp, possibly half days (9am to 12pm) with potential to pay some older players to assist with coaching.

Team Building

* Consideration to build into team budget to assist with events. A rep night and a house league night may be good.

Team Fundraising

* Support for the teams to do individual fundraising so it does not all fall onto the board.

Coaching Course

* Discussions around creating a coaching course (with other associations) with the CMLA taking the lead on it, with the goal of teaching coaches how best educate their age group, how to talk to, approach and work with officials (supported by referees) and expectations for coaches (and how to protect yourself and be supported as a coach).

Mascot

* Tim is working on a Lacrosse Gnome for the CMLA that can help with marketing and branding.

Picnics

* Two picnics for 2024 season discussed.
  + Spring Picnic to meet coaches, assist with registrations and get to know everyone.
  + Year end picnic with player awards.
* The 2023 year end picnic went well despite being later into the year than we wanted.

Tryouts

* Anticipated to be after March break (possibly the week of March 18th, 2024). The first two practices will be one outside and one on indoor turf to assist teams in preparing for the first field games (instead of one outdoor field and one indoor box practice).
* Discussions around running ‘Tryout Warmups’ before tryouts to run some drills and get tryout ready.
* Arena request is in for first week after March break, pending the ice coming out. Request will go in with Newcastle to ask when their ice is expected to come out.

Committees

* Dan Greer Tournament – To be discussed another time.
* House League Organization – To be discussed another time.
* Picnics
  + Spring (Registration / Meet and Greet) - To be discussed another time.
  + Fall (Awards) – To be discussed another time.
* Fundraising (Ideas and Organization) - To be discussed another time.
* Clothing (Swag/ Team and House League Jerseys) - To be discussed another time.

Player Development

* Feedback received from parents about players not being developed. Document to be sent around for comments. How do we want to approach our coaches about how players are selected? How do we address unfair playtime? To be discussed another time.
* Goalie/ Field Clinics considerations moving forward. Nighst can be added to the Winter Program, which is going well, to facilitate specialty clinics.

Toronto Rock Game

* January 27th, 2024 (7:00pm game) for Toronto Rock game against the Bandits. If the CMLA can sell 200 tickets, we can do the ball toss as a fundraiser. Volunteers will be needed to sell tickets at the game for this.
* For tickets to count for the CMLA, it must be stated by e-mail or phone that the tickets are for the CMLA.
* To be promoted as a ‘Save the Date’ until logistics are confirmed.

Survey

* 44 replies (15 house league and 29 for rep) across many age groups.
  + House league surveys provided: it was disorganized, did not know who the coaches were, requested shorted games. Positives were player development.
  + Rep surveys provided: requests for earlier tryouts, not having to go to Brampton for field, no parent coaches moving forward. A few comments about coach behaviours on the bench and unfair play time. Requests to end major/ minor teams but also to have a major and minor team or to just to mix them. Generally positive coach comments however some about what happened on the bench.

Santa Clause Parade

* Newcastle (November 19th) or Courtice (unknown date) if the CMLA would like to participate.

Winter Rental / Gaels Christmas/ Holiday Night

* Sunday, December 17th from 6:00 – 7:30pm at Ontario Tech Field House (indoor dome turf) to do a Gaels Christmas night. Santa, skills, and drills. It was free last year if there was a toy or food donation.

Next Meeting:

December 13th, 2023 – In Person at Fionn MacCool’s at 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Tim

Second: Holly

Tim adjourned the meeting at 9:11pm

Tim @ 9:11 pm