

2021 FYHA Annual General Meeting.

May 20, 2021

Facilitated by Dwayne Hayes

For the purposes of expediency, when motions are put forth, those that move and second the motion will be given time to speak to their decisions. Questions can be typed in the chat and the facilitator will bring them to the table.

Procedural Motion to enable voting by electronic means – Moved by Nancy and Seconded by Leslie Paul-Plaster. Result of the motion – 96% in favor and 4% opposed.

Question from Willie Cook – Is there a way that we can see who is in attendance as that is normally the case with an in-person meeting?

Answer – Audit completed of those registered for the meeting as well as a list of those signed on. List of attendees posted in the meeting for all to see. 102 attendees, 5 of those individuals are ineligible to vote, so a quorum would be 48+1.

Opening Remarks

Thanking everyone for their patience and positivity throughout the season. Goals of the board this season were to update documents/procedures, establish proper financial stewardship, and keep kids interested in the game during Covid. Engagement took place with private hockey groups in the city to leverage the experts within the city to allow our players to take advantage of their knowledge. Special thank you to all this year's board members and contributors.

Approval of Agenda – All in favor

Question – Why is this agenda different than the one that was emailed earlier in the day?

Answer – Just to allow for better flow of the meeting. All information is still contained within.

Question – Based on the proposed changes to the constitution, will the election of officers still take place, and if so, will we proceed with the election of officers with the membership not knowing which positions are available?

Answer – We will work it out as we go as the nominations committee did not receive nominations for the reasons that were just described. If the changes are passed, we can move to keep the positions vacant if the membership so chooses.

Approval of Minutes – Moved by Kelsey Pye and Seconded by Melissa Stewart. Result of the motion – 99% in favor and 1% opposed.

Executive Directors report

Report has been submitted and published. Thank you to our partners: HNB, City of Fredericton, PNB, and Hockey Canada. Thanks to key operational people. Registration numbers for this year were 1037, which is down 151 from the previous year. The First Shift program was a huge success. Our donors

stepped up this season. There was an incredible commitment shown by coaches in trying to keep the players engaged under covid restrictions.

Financial Report

We have purchased QuickBooks to establish proper tracking and reporting. The association received a 40k grant to defray the deficit caused by covid. As an association we are fiscally stable. There has been difficulty with the financial records due to availability and differing start dates of the fiscal year. Equipment has been expensed rather than depreciated as it should have been. There are at least 6 years of no tax filings for the association and a substantial unassigned carry-forward. There is no record of any external audit as required by law. We have requested a deferral of the financial report as the members must appoint an external auditor.

Question – Why have draft financial statements not been prepared?

Answer – Given the circumstances of having to set up new accounting system it took a bit longer. Financial information was only received a week ago from last season that will have potential impact on this year's financials.

Comment – Not having the detailed financial information is a sufficient reason not to provide a draft statement as it could have been helpful for the membership.

Question - It looks like you retained counsel from KPMG. Can you speak to the terms of the retainer?

Answer – Because of the constitution, we can not select an auditor as it must be done by the membership. We did have an individual that we consulted, she did so not as a representative of KPMG. They were not actually retained and paid. Cox and Palmer did so pro-bono.

Motion to defer the financial reports until the end of July – Moved by Travis McLean and seconded by Chris Frame. Poll results – 79% in favor and 21% opposed.

Motion to appoint an external auditor to provide review and engagement report – Moved by Bryce Barry and seconded by Caitlyn Cumming. Poll results – 92% approved and 8% opposed.

Question – Is there a reason that the recommendation has been made to use Teed Saunders Doyle?

Answer – Due to the familiarity with their work as well as the staff. As well as the importance of supporting local and the hockey community within their staff.

Question – Should we not go to tender for transparency purposes?

Answer – We are okay with obtaining quotes, but we need to ensure that we can meet the deadline that was just voted on.

Question – A member of Teed Saunders Doyle is on the board of HNB, would that be considered a conflict of interest?

Answer – Our feelings are that their professional obligations as an auditor would trump any possible conflict of interest with their employer.

Motion to appoint Teed Saunders Doyle – Moved by Bryce Barry and seconded by Caitlyn Cumming. Poll results – 53% in favor and 47% opposed.

Question – With such a close vote, I feel that we should go to a show of hands.

Answer – We can definitely do that.

Comment – If we do this, what will it change? We could be delaying the previous motion by going to tender.

Answer by facilitator – A motion was held, questions were asked, and a vote took place. Polls are more accurate than a show of hands in this electronic environment.

Question – I submit a motion that should Teed Saunders Doyle deem it a conflict of interest, we should move to the 3 quotes.

Motion to move to 3 quotes should Teed Saunders Doyle deem it a conflict of interest – Moved by Jennifer Clement and seconded by Melissa Stewart – Reverse motion held and 0 opposed.

Director Reports

Reports: Divisional coordinators, Director of Operations, Director of Officials, Director of Property and Equipment, Director of Female Development, Director of Special Events, Director of Discipline.

Motion to accept all director reports as presented to the members in the agenda package – Moved by Bryce Barry and seconded by Andrew Garsch – Poll results 95% in favor and 5% opposed.

Question – A question surrounding the evaluation procedure used and how it deviated from the operations manual.

Answer – It was inconsistent. We did not do the rankings and evaluations on the ice according to the operations manual. There were different evaluators doing different groups. It must be the same across the board for consistency purposes.

Comment – With the evolution and updates from the province, it did impact our evaluation process as we were only allowed a certain number of players on the ice. This past draft followed it more so than previous years. With respect to standardization process, there was an effort to have independent parties this season. The coach's voices also held a little more weight this season.

Comment – Some of the external evaluators did not show which threw out the scores of other independent evaluators. Also, at the U13 draft, the goalies were on a puck basis. If you drew the first puck, you picked 2 goalies. With the U11 proceeding after, it was done the opposite way.

Answer – Apologies on this, and it will be dealt with next season. It is important that we are consistent.

Comment – There were issues applying for a coaching position and there was to be a short list which didn't happen. The operations manual was not followed. Disappointed as a lot of things were missed.

Comment – We did our best to rank the players. I do want to commend the U18 coordinator. If there are issues going forward, let's address it at the time.

Comment – Going forward it would be great if the goalies could receive more than one of their own sessions. It is difficult to evaluate them when they are on the ice with the skaters.

Answer – To speak on previous comments, there were great efforts to obtain external evaluation groups for the younger divisions. There were independent evaluators, but not in the large groups like other divisions.

Division Realignment Proposal

Typically, operational changes need to be approved by the board. The proposed change is very substantial. In the interest of members, the movers are requesting definitive support/non-support in principle. FYHA board members reached out to other associations to review their structure and the FYHA divisional structure is an “odd duck”. Is the current structure achieving the mission of the association?

Kevin Pottle – Through the 80s-90s FYHA was the strongest association in the province. It is important to note that whatever success on the competitive stage, it starts at the minor hockey level. Looking at the proposed changes, I am strongly in favor of this. They are well thought out, well reasoned, and provide opportunities for players to compete at levels that they will feel some success with. I would like to commend those that worked on the proposed changes.

Review of document outlining changes

Question – Does the divisional realignment follow the Hockey Canada pathway?

Answer – This follows it perfectly.

Question – How will the AA teams work, and who will they play as District 3 does not have AA teams?

Answer – Some areas will have the ability to field teams. We also expanded the ability for these teams to enter tournaments to allow these teams to travel. There was an accommodation to allow for flexibility with regards to registration numbers. Tournaments would be the best bang for their buck.

Question – Is the number of players in Fredericton commensurate with other associations that have A and AA teams.

Answer – Other associations were doing it with less. Most are the same or very close.

Question – Will the increased requirement for the competitive affect the recreation levels?

Answer – We were short 5 weekday ice times the previous season. So, this could be a problem. John Burns would know better. I am hoping that once we see normalcy, that this would help.

Follow-up answer – We did look at this. We would be looking for more ice times, but we looked at the A team’s sharing ice and the AA having their own ice. It would mean that we would only be looking for 1 extra ice time per week. We would be willing to look at arenas outside of the city to facilitate this. Ice times are operational. We are looking for endorsement in principle.

Comment – This model was tried and failed miserably. Additional tournaments may not be feasible as it comes with an increased cost. U7 and U9 is a great place to start, but the talent may not exist in the older groups until we build the younger groups.

Question – Was research completed around possible negative effects surrounding equity issues?

Answer – At the grassroots level, kids who are brand-new to the sport are competing against kids that have been in the sport for a few years, so this is already happening without restructuring. At the older levels, it would allow for more children to play at the competitive levels.

Question – Is this all or nothing? What is your measure of success?

Answer – Our goal is to keep kids in hockey and increase numbers.

Follow-up Answer – What is on the proposal is and agreement in principle. Just see whether logistically it can be done.

Question – What is the plan for implementation?

Answer – With the support of the membership, we move forward and develop a plan.

Question – Where does Female Development fit in the realignment?

Answer – We would like to get to a point where FYHA had all female teams within the association. We had the idea of individual skill sessions for larger groups, and then tighten them as we get more participation.

Kevin Pottle – Everything here falls within Hockey Canada long term development model and Hockey New Brunswick.

Request for amendment to the motion that it be tabled until the next meeting of the association so that we can have a more informed decision on this, moved by Willie Cook and seconded by Dan Standing.

Motion to table the motion regarding the divisional realignment as proposed, moved by Willie Cook and seconded by Dan Standing. Poll results – 52% in favor and 48% opposed.

Constitutional Reform

The association was made from the amalgamation of two associations in 1977. There is an informal board structure (governance and operations mixed on the board). We have more than double the population, more rinks, and more players. There is a natural tendency for the board to grow to deliver hockey. The fiduciary responsibilities, mission statement, and documents get put on the back burner. The job becomes overwhelming and there becomes a tremendous amount of politics which drives the volunteers away. If you look at the structure of the association as operations needs to be taken out of the governance. The constitution should describe the relationship with the board, and the constitution can only be changed by agreement with the members. The operations manual should be a living document that is more flexible and changeable by the board. The current operations manual is a mix of both documents.

Review of proposed organizational restructuring document provided to members.

Vote held to review the possibility of adjourning the meeting early – Result of the poll was 40 people in favor, so meeting proceeded.

Motion put forth by Kelsey Pye to table the 6 notices of motion on or about June 15th, 2021, due to lack of time to review and consider. Moved by Kelsey Pye and seconded by Leslie Paul-Plaster. Poll results – 65% in favor and 35% opposed.

Question – Would attendance at that meeting be restricted to those that are on the call this evening?

Answer – Procedurally, that would be the most appropriate thing to do.

Motion to table the constitution motions until the June meeting – Moved by Leslie Paul-Plaster and seconded by Kelsey Pye. Poll results – passed based on show of hands

Election of Directors

Discussion surrounding suspending the rest of the meeting. Todd Pye of HNB spoke to confirm that due to the motion already passing to continue, it would be recommended that the meeting proceed. If you fail to proceed with elections this evening, do you have a board tomorrow?

Motion to suspend the meeting – motion defeated with only 28 hands raised.
Nominations committee did not receive any prior nominations.

President – Ben MacFarlane nominated by Nick Reynolds. Nomination accepted by Ben. Alan Underhill nominated by Bonnie Harvey. Nomination accepted by Alan. Poll result – Ben MacFarlane elected with 62% of the vote.

Vice President – Kent Brewer nominated by Ben MacFarlane. Nomination accepted by Kent. No other nominations. Kent Brewer elected by acclamation.

Treasurer – Nick McCarthy nominated by Bryce Barry. Nomination accepted by Nick. No other nominations. Nick McCarthy elected by acclamation.

Secretary – Nick Reynolds nominated by Ben MacFarlane. Nomination accepted by Nick. No other nominations. Nick Reynolds elected by acclamation.

Director of Operations – Leslie Paul-Plaster nominated by Kelsey Pye. Nomination accepted by Leslie. Caitlin Cumming nominated by Bryce Barry. Nomination accepted by Caitlin. Poll result – Leslie Paul-Plaster elected with 53% of the vote.

Ben MacFarlane showed support for Caitlin Cumming. Kelsey Pye brought it forward that it was out of order for the new president to support the election of a new member. Hazel Wells also spoke to that effect and showed support of Leslie Paul-Plaster.

Director of Property and Equipment – Sean Fraser nominated by Ben MacFarlane. No other nominations. Sean Fraser elected by acclamation.

Director of Coaching and Player Development – Mark Parrill nominated by Ben MacFarlane. Nomination accepted by Mark. Mark Sommerville nominated by Leslie Paul-Plaster. Nomination accepted by Mark. Poll results – Mark Sommerville elected with 53% of the vote.

Director of Special Events – Travis McLean nominated by Ben MacFarlane. Nomination accepted by Travis. No other nominations. Travis McLean elected by acclamation.

Director of Female Development – Rachelle Standing nominated by Willie Cook. Nomination accepted by Rachelle. Brooxie Grandy nominated by Lisa Hunter. Brooxie not online, so due to her not being able to be online, nomination was not accepted. Caitlin Cumming nominated by Christa Reynolds. Nomination accepted by Caitlin. Now voting via show of hands for the remainder of the meeting as polls have been exhausted. Poll results – 37 voted for Rachelle and 31 for Caitlin. Rachelle Standing elected.

Director of Discipline – Aaron Frizzell nominated by Ben MacFarlane. Aaron is not online. Christa Reynolds spoke as due to his current role with the Fredericton City Police he is on shift as supervisor and unable to attend. He also sits as the current Director of Discipline. The acceptance was sent to Frank from Aaron accepting the nomination. Kelsey Pye nominated by Leslie Paul-Plaster. Nomination accepted by Kelsey. Poll Result - 33 votes in favor for Aaron Frizzell and 30 votes in favor of Kelsey. Aaron Frizzell elected.

U18 Coordinator – Alex Vanderlaan nominated by Leslie Paul-Plaster. Nomination accepted by Alex. Joel Banks nominated by Christa Reynolds. Nomination accepted by Joel. Poll Results – 25 votes in favor of Alex Vanderlaan and 39 votes in favor of Joel Banks. Joel Banks elected.

U15 Coordinator – Fred Clancy nominated by Leslie Paul-Plaster. Nomination accepted by Fred. Fred Clancy nominated by acclamation.

U13 Coordinator – Lori Massie nominated by Michelle McNeil. Nomination accepted by Lori. No other nominations. Lori Massie elected by acclamation.

U11 Coordinator – Michelle McNeil. Nomination accepted by Michelle. No other nominations. Michelle elected by acclamation.

U9 Coordinator – Natalie King nominated by Christa Reynolds. Nomination accepted by Natalie. No other nominations. Natalie King elected by acclamation.

U7 Coordinator – Amanda MacDougall nominated by Amanda MacDougall. Nomination accepted by Amanda. No other nominations. Amanda MacDougall elected by acclamation.

Award winners have been published – Congratulations to all.

Motion to end the meeting – Approved by Leslie Paul-Plaster.