



Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating Club
Annual General Meeting
April 8, 2019
Gospel Chapel Church @ 1800 hrs

Present:

Jim McBride, Sean & Nicole Ebert, Kat Solberg, Laura Rusnjak, Sean & Leal Baumann, Jessica & Jeremy Seely, Mike & Trinda Elwert, Calvin Desmarais, Maria Campbell, Liz Legebokoff, Terry & Sara Lazaruk, Shay and Christina Bulmer, Kris Scott, Angie Stevens, Paula & John Wylie, Doug Ebbot

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Past Executive Meeting Highlights
 - (a) Club enrolment numbers
 - (b) Successional Planning - Job shadowing
 - (c) Grant Applications
3. Financial Report – Laura
4. Executive Changes – Vote, Recognize retiring executives
5. Challenges and Successes
6. Summer Training Events
7. Other – open forum
8. Next Meeting Date
9. Adjourn- Meeting Closed

1. Welcome – Jim McBride

- Welcome to the 2019 AGM for the Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating Club.
- Emergency exit protocol
- Our Certificate of Incorporation is dated Jan 11, 2005, but our first skating was in Sept 2004. This year marks our 15th AGM to celebrate our club's successes. Acknowledgement of our founding members that helped steer our club to its current formation that are still active members today: Nicole and Sean Ebert, Ann Douglas, and Calvin Desmarais
- The AGM is one of the only opportunities for the executive to be up-front and centre to provide members with operation details, challenges, issues and discuss any concerns.
- Pre-pizza dinner jokes
- Awards handed out for those not at the awards night.

Leander Ebbot

Treyken Stephen - absent

Rylan Bennett – absent; accepted by mom, Laura

Julie Desmarais – absent; accepted by Calvin

Calvin Desmarais

Alison Desmarais – absent ; accepted by Calvin

Nicole Ebert

- Adjourned to eat
- Return to the AGM.

2. Past Executive Meeting Highlights – Jim McBride

(a) Club enrolment numbers – more or less stable for the last couple of years. There is still strong interest in the sport of speed skating in Vanderhoof. We had to cap the enrolment numbers for each class level and some people were unfortunately turned away.

(b) Registration – clubs under the umbrella of Speed Skating Canada have been struggling with the working process of the new registration system called MASS (Membership and Affiliation System)

-Trinda reported that it was not the product that Speed Skating Canada envisioned but Sportal (the company who made it) has committed to rebuilding the system to what Speed Skating Canada wants. The improved system is supposed to be ready for August 1st, so registration will at least August 2nd

(c) Successional Planning - Job shadowing – providing awareness and training to fill executive vacancies as people rotate thru a 2 yr cycle and training for volunteer positions to host meets.

(d) For anyone that wishes to coach, the club will waive the skate rental fee.

(e) Community Grant Applications-every year we apply and are very fortunate to receive about \$10,000. This covers 90% of our ice rental fees. Some clubs rely on alternative methods for raising funds to cover costs. We are grateful that we don't have to resort to raffles, bottle collecting or other means of fund raising.

(f) Thursday Morning Skate – there has been some interest to continue with the Thursday Morning Skate. Diane Raymond is quite excited to again be part of this coaching. We are looking for more skaters for this time slot. We will need at least 5-6 people to enroll to make it worthwhile. If anyone is interested in trying the long blades, this is an excellent intro opportunity.

3. Financial Report – Laura Rusnjak

- The bank balance to date is \$24,349.92
- Total revenue for the year (generated by member fees, skate rentals, equipment sales, meet

registrations & grants) : \$44,806.98

- Total expenses to date for the year: \$42,083.31
- Net income : \$2,723.67
- Year end is end of April so some incidentals may appear between now and then

4. Executive Changes – Vote & Recognize Present and Retiring Executives – Jim McBride

- Recognition of the members that make up the current executive: these people have become very knowledgeable in their roles and have been dedicated to ensure the club remains strong and active moving forward

Jim (President), Laura (Treasurer), Leal (Secretary), Terry (Acting Vice Pres) and Directors: Jessica, Calvin, Nicole, Ann, Trinda, Sara

- Recognition of executive that are not returning:

Nicole Ebert – she is one of the founding members of the club that was instrumental in finding members and volunteers to assist the club, she volunteered as Head Coach, has always been a director on the Executive, very knowledgeable in the preparation of meets and other behind the doors preparation for the development of skating skills, as the kids get older and advance.

Sean Ebert - another founding member, who has worked behind the scenes repairing mats, fixing the mat carts, volunteering as a Referee at meets as well as a past President on the executive, just to name a few.

Both Sean and Nicole are moving south this fall.

Erin Baker - who stepped down as Vice President last year.

- As our kids mature, graduate from high school, we see kids and volunteer parents move on from the club, with the hope that parents stay on not thru obligation to the club, but for their passion for the sport. But as volunteers exit the stage, we have asked all those with intentions to leave, to find someone that can shadow their position before it's vacant.

Vince and Debra Sewel - they have worked as equipment managers, coached and volunteered at meets; **Sean Baumann** will be the new equipment manager and will be taking over Jim McBride's position as Chief Track Steward at meets.

Jeremy Seely will take on some of the new demands as head coach, as Nicole is leaving.

Ann Douglas - has stepped down as a director. With Ann stepping down we are also losing the Liaison position. This position ensures photos displaying our kids competing at meets are published in the local paper. During registration times we advertise our club at various local schools to, help maintain our membership. If anyone is interested please contact one of the executives.

Voting: Rules and Procedures followed as discussed in the Last 2 Emails to the Membership.

Positions for the following executive are vacant and need to be filled:

- **President** (previously Jim McBride)

Jim McBride nominated Terry Lazaruk for President. Calvin Desmarais seconded.

- **Vice President** (previously Erin Baker)

No nominations, so still needs to be filled; will only be a one year position.

- **Director**

Jim McBride nominated Jessica Seely. Nicole Ebert seconded.

- **Director**

Jim McBride nominated Trinda Elwert. Laura Rusnjak seconded.

- **Director**

Jim McBride nominated Liz Legebokoff. Jessica Seely seconded.

- **Director**

No nominations for the fourth Director position.

Laura Rusnjak will continue her term as Treasurer. Calvin Desmarais and Sara Lazaruk will continue their terms as Directors. Leal Bauman will continue her term as Secretary.

- Reminder that for all the executive meetings an invite is sent to members to attend to get an inside knowledge of what we discuss and provide an opportunity for feedback. Meetings last up to 1.5 hrs and there may be as many as 4 meetings/year

5. Challenges and Successes – Jim McBride

- Challenges:

-always finding young members to help coach, people to learn certain tasks to host meets. If we don't have the trained officials to host an event, we request support from neighboring clubs or BCSSA. If we request an official from the BCSSA, we will be on the hook for various costs that include hotels and meals. It is more financially beneficial to promote from within our club membership to fill key positions. The current positions that we need to fill asap are: Starter, Referee, meet recorder, track stewards. Please if you have an opportunity to help, contact one of the executive.

-hoping to hold two meets but are lacking trained officials

-Other jobs that facilitate the operation of our club include, putting mats away and preparations for hosting an event

-Ensuring the MAS registration program is working properly. A challenge for Trinda and the membership, that will be required to use it.

-Working with the District so that our club can continue to host sanctioned meets. We are still trying to resolve issues with the judging platform needed for meets and events.

- Successes- all kids have personal best times since last year... a sign of continued progress. Our elite skaters have progressed significantly with special congrats for Madison's performance at the Canadian Age Class LT Championships in Winnipeg. The younger kids that are interested in advancing their competitive skills, may be interested in speaking with some of the elite skaters to look at some of the medals that can be won.

-Alison Desmarais Update from Calvin -placed 7th in senior selection meet in Calgary and has decided to retire from speed skating but will stay involved with skating and coaching at university of Calgary

- personal best for 3 races in the senior selection in Calgary
- 47th fastest skater in the world for 500; has a world ranking!
- Calvin would like to acknowledge Nicole and Sean for their contributions to the club

6. Summer Training Events –Nicole Ebert/Jim McBride

- in the past we have organized summer training with Raymond from the Vanderhoof Health and Fitness Club. This summer Alison Desmarais has expressed an interest in running the summer program.
- email has been sent out to see if there is interest
 - Fort St John normally hosts a speed skating camp in the 3rd week of August
 - Calgary will host a summer Speed Camp from July 15-20th

7. Other – open forum

- We are considering hosting 2 events next year. One will be at the end of Nov and other in February. Will need to discuss whether we have the interest and man power to do this.
 - Jeremy suggested that we possibly do an unsanctioned training meet earlier in the season; something more structured than the mini-meet we did this year. This would allow more experience for officials. This could also possibly be coordinated with Fort St. James.
 - Calvin suggested that it may be better to just do one meet and aim to do it really well.
 - concerns were raised that the challenge in doing several meets is a lack of man power/ volunteer fatigue
 - Nicole suggested that perhaps if Vanderhoof hosted more meets, perhaps PG and Fort St. James could cut back as the issue is that we end up sending a lot of volunteers from our club
- There will be an ice allocation meeting next month, so the executive after this AGM will have to discuss when the meet dates and ice time bookings are.
- Laura Rusnjak volunteered to look after the Community Gaming Grant for this year. The deadline is May 31st, 2019. Thank you to Laura and Ann that ensured this was completed before last year's deadline.
- BC Winter Games is coming up this year
- BCSSA News for All BC Clubs:
 - Terry and Jim participated in a teleconference call with BCSSA (Pres Kari-Rae/Chris) and BC Presidents to discuss ways for BCSSA and clubs to raise money and provide more awareness for the sport of speed skating to increase the membership. BCSSA recognizes that skaters need to advance their skills by training and competing more often. They are developing an annual event that will be called "Speed Week". Individuals on hockey or figure skates (not speed skates) will compete against the clock in single laps. Times will be posted. Format will be similar to the NHL Skills Competition.

Another race to be promoted will be the “Challenge Races”. These will be 4 man teams to race in team pursuit format. Money is made by betting and challenging other teams. Competitions can be against, restaurants, mayor & council, police etc.

There are plans to increase the number of BC Cups. There will be an additional 2 ST and 1 LT BC Cup. This will be for those registered in the L2T and T2T categories.

There will be changes in the Development Committees within BCSSA by developing a new committee call the Technical Committee. This includes single members from each of the Athlete, Coach, Officials and Sport Development Committees.

- News relating to our club: reminder to please visit the club Website at www.vcssc.ca to look up any information regarding the club. Jessica tries hard to keep this up to date. The site includes copies of our meeting minutes, our calendar of events, links to BCSSA and the Provincial Calendar, Resource Info and legal info associated with the Society Act and our clubs Bylaws.

8. Next Meeting Date

First meeting with the newly formed executive will take place immediately after the AGM.

9. Meeting Adjourned