



Nechako Lake Speed Skating Club

Executive Meeting

July 12, 2017

Vanderhoof Municipal Arena, Vanderhoof, BC

Present:

Jim McBride, Laura Rusnjak, Trinda Elwert, Calvin Desmarais, Ann Douglas, Caitlin Harrison, Jessica Seely

Agenda:

1. BCSSA AGM - Laura
2. Registration – Start-up date – Trinda/Heather
3. Financial Report – Laura
4. Meet Registrar to replace Caitlin
5. Coaching – Nicole (loss of Tait/Vince T/Caitlin)
6. Summer Dryland Training (Raymond) / FT ST John registration deadline (July 31 for early bird), Calgary etc
7. Rec Fair (Sept)
8. Ice User Mtg Highlights
9. Mat Logo's -Calvin
10. Other
11. Next Meeting

Welcome—Jim McBride

Financial Report—Laura Rusnjak

Current Bank Balance: \$17,630. Recent major expenditure: \$1,000 to the Vanderhoof Health and Fitness Center for dryland program run by Raymond Riemer. Registrations of \$50 per participant are to be paid to the club (15 have currently registered: a total of \$750 to be returned).

Our application for grant funds was submitted before the end of May. If approved, grant money is usually received in August or September.

Upcoming expenses are: 3 mats and possibly several pairs of skates in larger sizes (as the group moves up more are requiring larger sizes).

In the past we've discussed placing a group order for jigs for families interested in owning their own. Calvin may be able to pick up jigs in Calgary in a few weeks. Jessica will canvas the club for interest.

Highlights from the BCSSA AGM—Laura Rusnjak

Laura attended the BCSSA AGM in May. 60th anniversary of speed skating in BC this year. BCSSA planned special events for the AGM and invited Pat Underhill as guest speaker. She founded BCSSA in 1955, beginning the first club in BC (2nd in Western Canada). A party was held Friday night to celebrate Academy Year 3, as well as the launch of the Racing to Red Deer program: clinics, webinars, and events intended to getting skaters ready for Canada Winter Games. A skaters retreat was held Sat/Sun.

Notes on the club development committee meeting: BCSSA is looking for someone to take a lead role in the area of club development. They've identified three pillars in development: Community, Fun, and Excellence. Bringing families together, making skating fun for kids, and supporting skaters who aspire to a high degree of excellence are each a vital part of healthy club growth. BCSSA applauded Northern clubs cooperation/communication.

Notes on officials' development committee meeting: Stu Gibbs has stepped down. Replacing him is Bill Kempers. He's asked clubs to indicate what clinics they need to support their officials' development. Calvin suggested the possibility of online clinics to ease the logistics (and cost) of attendance.

Alison Desmarais is currently on the Athlete's Development Committee.

The 50/50 lottery, proposed as a province-wide club fundraiser earlier in the year, did not go through.

BCSSA is in the final stages of signing a contract with Kukri Sports (a British sportswear provider offering customizable athletic wear), retaining their services for all BC clubs. They do not currently offer skinsuits, but most other types of sportswear are available. Clubs select styles & logos, and set up an online store which will be opened for 2 to 3 weeks while families order and pay the company directly, eliminating the need to coordinate club orders each season. A minimum order of ten pieces of clothing (may be different types) is required to process an

order. Clubs may add a margin and use clothing sales as a fundraiser if this is desired. Team BC and BCSSA clothing will also be available for direct purchase.

Lorna Holbech retired at the end of June. Her duties will be shared by Keara Maguire and Chris Acton: BCSSA will no longer be maintaining a physical office.

BCWG Society update: a few sports in BC had 2 age classes eligible for entry, so some athletes were attending more than once. This will no longer be permitted. Sports have been asked to identify one age class to attend. For 2018, to ensure no athletes are missed, both age groups of speed skaters will be accepted, but for 2020 this will not be the case.

Good news stories: Ft St John won several awards for the 2016/2017 season. They have grown rapidly with 34 new skaters joining last year. Some of their strategies were shared: they offer a “Come skate with your friend Day”, advertising in elementary schools. They run sanctioned time trials once per month. They also require that parents take the Level 1 official’s course in their first year with the club. They also offer a 10-week Learn2Skate program for kids—making it easier for kids to transition to speed skating from another sport.

Registration-Trinda Elwert

Projected start date for regular practice is September 18th. Trinda has updated the club registration form to reflect the recent Club name change, website url, the \$5/skater category cost increase (approved by email consensus earlier in the year) as well as removing references to the Child Tax Credit—this has been discontinued. Early registration discounts as usual are available until August 25. A Rec Fair will be held—date TBD. Trinda will be at the fair. She will post an advertisement for registration on Facebook.

Caitlin’s replacement

Sara Lazaruk will replace Caitlin as Meet Registrar. (Ann will mentor Sara.)

Coaching

(Nicole absent, coach’s meeting to be held date TBD)

Summary: Vince Terstappen, Caitlin Harrison and Tait Folkheard are moving and must be replaced. We may need to combine groups. There will be a coach’s meeting to identify key people to help. Terry Lazaruk may move up to Vince T’s group. Jessica can help with Active Start group.

Camps:

There will be no Ellis Edge Camp in PG this year. Raymond's dryland program will run 8 weeks. Calgary camp is next week, FSJohn LT camp in late August (early registration end of July), Kick Start Camp (PG) in September.

Mats: Calvin Desmarais:

Need logos printed on mats: Tom Silver, Grace memorial, Northern Homecraft (pending) Stephen Brothers. Logos on arena doors also need replacing/updating.

Gaming grant:

Vince has been our grant writer; we will need to replace him with someone to prepare grant applications. Ann and Laura will work together on this.

Ice users Meeting:

The issue of locked dressing rooms which existed last season was not addressed at the meeting. Jim Spoke to the President of a regional hockey team asking that the room used to store hockey gear be made available for all user's use. The issue was not resolved. Calvin will take the question to the hockey academy (with the school district). He suggested we prepare a club letter for the school district.

Steve Little has repeatedly objected to our Active for Life skaters category (adult skaters sharing a practice block with the T2T/juniors) and asked the club to move our last group skate from 7 to 8, which would allow younger hockey skaters to use that hour. The issue of mats remains--we cannot afford the time to handle these twice. Little indicated that he will take the matter to Council. If the issue goes to Council we will ask him to recuse himself due to his conflict of interest as council member and minor hockey president. The village recently accepted an ice allocation policy for arena users which will be a benefit.

Other

Track Survey—Jessica will email our referees regarding a track survey. If they can satisfy themselves that the bolts which currently mark the track (surveyed and placed in the concrete in 2012) are in good condition and clearly visible at the time the ice goes in, we can continue using the current survey for interclubs. If they feel the survey should be updated, Calvin will make a request to Tom Silver for his services.

Alison Desmarais and Jamie MacDonald have been officially named to the National Development Team.

Jessica will email the Official's Development Committee regarding official's assignments—we do not expect to need any outside officials for the December 2 interclub.

Helmet order—Jessica will email new families.

Meeting adjourned.