

Vanderhoof Speed Skating Club Executive Meeting -WebEx

Feb. 28, 2021

Virtually attending:

Terry Lazaruk, Calvin Desmarais, Christina Bulmer, Trinda Elwert, Dianne Raymond, Jessica Seely, Sean Baumann

Welcome -Terry Lazaruk

1) Finances:

With the new registration system (IceReg) put in place last year, money from registrations goes directly to the parties involved. Clubs no longer collect and forward organization fees to SSC/BCSSA. Without this income and expense shown in the club financial statement, our eligibility to apply for the gaming grant next year has been dramatically impacted. For comparison, last season we showed an expense of \$9,500 compared to this season: \$1,900. Expenses this year were further reduced, without any competition related expenses.

Income statement - Jan 31st

(Christina shared an income statement and projected expenses for remaining season)

Note the expenses (\$9,500 dollars past year) of BCSSA member fees passing through our bank- compared to last year \$1,900.

-Donations were received toward the new timing booth project: Canfor \$1000, Co-op \$1000, Covid relief \$2,850* = nearly \$5000 received to offset the Scouten bill for engineering.

-Projected expenses as of Jan 31, 2021, plus the cost for ice through March 19th- \$12,000 total expenses.

\$18,759 -balance remaining - far to high to qualify for the grant.

\$2,300 remains to be spent within this season from the \$13,000 gaming grant funds received last season.

We are faced with a question of whether we should attempt to spend the funds necessary to remain eligible for the grant. Terry presented several options to consider, suggesting option (d) as the most appropriate:

a- find projects to spend the difference - (mat repair/replacement)

b - invest in ice for two years ahead to tie up capital

c - allocate funds at our AGM, toward capital projects which would remove the money from general revenue and place it against a future expenditure

d- considering the amount we need to spend is so high, operate within these funds for next year. We would not be eligible for the grant this season, but our available finances would be close to the account limit after operating another season.

(* We do NOT have to spend the Covid Relief grant money this year: this grant was targeted toward clubs that were not able to operate at all and can be spent in future.)

Discussion:

Christina: there is a risk that if we spend the money AND lose the grant we may not get it back. Eligible purchases need to be ice rental (about \$12,000) and other costs incurred directly by the delivery of our program: supplies, program expenses, courses, clinics, etc.

Sean asked if we allow a grant application to lapse, if we become ineligible to reapply in the future. Calvin responded that every 3 years we have to do a long form application for the grant - if we do not apply in a "short form" application year, we do not become ineligible but the schedule resets with the next application requiring the more exhaustive process.

Points discussed:

Calvin - suggests that we replace, rather than repair, mats this season. Is electronic equipment needed for meets, clinics/workshops?

(Required electronic equipment for meets is a computer, and a printer, which the club already owns. There is a small cost associated with the use of a horn start/electronic lap counter which are stored in Prince George. Trinda's perspective as a meet recorder: it's easier to use personal equipment for organizing a meet.

Terry: We would require an actual cost on mat replacement but it seems unlikely that we could actually spend \$18,000 before the end of March.

Sean: Skate inventory is generally good and no new purchases necessary with our current numbers. Rockering and bending is due for some of the blades.

Christina: Clarification: technically we must spend \$18,000 bank balance + \$2,340 (remaining grant money) to keep us safe in the gaming books.

All purchases must be completed by March 31: we should make a list of mats needing repair (done at Shadow Leathers in Vanderhoof). If we get a quote back early we can then make a selection of blades to re-rocker/bend with the remaining funds.

It might be possible to use grant funds toward a promotional plan for recruiting next year..? We need a minimum of \$13,000-\$15,000 for the club to operate next year.

There was a lot of concern this season that the gaming grant may not be available in the future: Christina reported that the shift from in-person gambling to online gambling was larger than expected. This information suggests that the gaming grant program will continue to run.

RECAP; mats will be repaired using the balance of gaming grant remaining.

Any leftover funds can be used for L2T/T2T blade maintenance

Motion: Dianne made a motion that we HOLD our operating account funds toward next year's season, and forego applying for a gaming grant toward the 2021/2022 year.

Christina Bulmer seconded. (All in favor.)

Conclusions: this leaves us: \$19,000 by the end of this season. Up to \$14,000 will be required to operate next season; leaving approximately a \$5000 surplus starting the 2022 season: we will be eligible to reapply for the gaming grant

Registration fees collected this season were \$4,400. This money is unspent in the account.

2) Equipment Repairs (Covered in discussion above.)

Terry will begin flagging the mats as we are using them between now and the end of the season. Any mat inventory will need to happen during our regular hours per the arena Covid protocols.

Calvin suggested that we draft an equipment replacement structure to ensure that our equipment continues to function smoothly - mat cart wheels are a common point of failure etc.

Inventory maintenance:

No new purchases are necessary. Four pairs of skates need to be sent to PG for inexpensive stitching repairs. One pair of long track boots may need to be sent back the Calgary skate shop for repair to a damaged bolt system.

We should continue to bend & rocker some of the blades each year - many blades haven't been done for four years. It would be a good idea to allocate a percentage of the inventory for upkeep in our annual maintenance plan.

Sean can forecast the blades that are likely to be in demand next year and ensure those sizes are included in the count to be sent away.

Motion: Terry moved that starting this year, on an ongoing basis, we will allocate a portion of the budget toward the rebending and rockering of the L2T/T2T blades. Calvin Desmarais seconded the motion. (All in favor)

3) Officials' Platform & Timing Booth -

Expenses coming out of our operating account

\$5500 -cost for plans for platform

Timing booth materials and labour will not be covered: estimated \$3000 cost for materials.

Terry has ideas for people to approach for support toward this.

After applying the grant for \$2850 from BCSSA and \$1000 from Coop and Canfor each- there is an outstanding amount of **\$715.57** owed to Scouten Engineering.

Christina recommended using the operating account for this. Jessica will look into the possibility of a sponsor.

Motion: Calvin moved that the club should cover the remaining Scouten bill if not covered by a donor. Sean Baumann seconded. (All in favor)

4) Long track boot sale policy:

There is a need for our club to draft a long track boot resale policy. The club already has a ST boot sale policy already in place (posted on website, as follows in brief:):

-skater rented previously at least two years

-boots minimum 3 years old

-skater must be member

-sale cannot be retroactive (rent cannot count toward purchase)

\$75 - club may refuse sale of boots at any time considering the needs of the club first

Proposed LT boot sale policy - similar to ST policy with the following additions:

-boots must be a minimum of four years old

-first priority will be given to Vanderhoof Clippers Club members

-price for resale will be 50% of current replacement cost - club may refuse sale of boots at any time considering the needs of the club first

(Terry will take the wording from ST policy, add the above additions and send to the group to review.)

5) Review of current Covid plan:

The Covid 19 Safety plan had 3 revisions throughout the season-

- (1) increasing 6 feet between members to three meters,
- (2) adding a plan to access to the equipment storage area,
- (3) a plan bringing the masters' AM skate into compliance with new rules for adult athletes.

Dianne said that the system seemed very safe and straightforward and has worked well. Calvin noticed that the bathrooms in the change rooms are no longer cordoned off in the arena. This was an arena operating plan adjustment, implemented mid-season.

Dianne commented that the parents accompanying their young skaters on the ice were a big help in keeping practice fun for the kids (ie skating games were possible with the skater's parent).

We are hopeful that our Active Start program can be offered next fall.

Terry shared a BCSSA Projection: Likely the first half of next season will not permit competition or cohort skating. January is forecast as the earliest "restart" for Provincial LT / ST; with regional qualifying meets beginning in Dec/January.

As the year plays out and updates are announced, clubs will be advised if a Covid plan will be necessary for opening next season.

6) 2021/2022 Registration

Terry gave an update from SSC: next season categories of skaters will look slightly different and some fees have changed. Elite skaters will become "national athletes"; Competitive skaters become Regional skaters. Recreational skaters will become Club Athletes (no competitions permitted). The special event category will still be available: a club athlete can register for a single event and pay just an extra dollar to race.

Fees have been adjusted somewhat for the non-skater categories (volunteer, Coach, etc). This year, we charged competitive fees for most skaters (but no competitions were run). BCSSA has arranged a discount on next year's registration (via Ice Reg) in effect "refunding" this difference against next year's registration.

Trinda has heard that BCSSA is hoping to open registration as early as April if the clubs want early registration. Our club would have to determine whether offering an early registration is worthwhile this year. Dianne feels many people will not make a decision in April. The club has both types of skaters - earlybirds / wait and see. Terry suggests this topic be slated for discussion at the club AGM.

7) End of Season

There was a discussion on how to handle skate returns, shared equipment, (jigs etc).

*Calvin and Dianne's group will only be returning two pairs -it was decided that it would be simplest for the coaches to collect these after the last practice and sharpen them.

Rather than hand out damage deposit checks when parents bring skates back, we will put a notice out that to minimize points of contact, this year skate return damage deposit checks will be shredded (not returned) when skates have been accounted for and found to be in good repair.

Terry will find out if we will be permitted to return inventory to the storage area after the 19th. If we lose access after that date, we may need to use part of the 19th for skate collection.

We can use the last day (19th) for actual skating OR for taking mat inventory. Terry would prefer to use the last day for skating rather than mats. Calvin and Terry may be able to use a portion of a Thursday AM adult skate if necessary to complete this.

Jessica will let Jeremy know there will be an extra hour available on March 19th for skating.

Virtual AGM potential dates - Terry will identify a date that works for everyone.

Meeting adjourned.

Addendum to Minutes:

A motion was put forward by Terry as follows:

"The executive agrees to allocate \$600 per year over the next 3 seasons (2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24) towards mat repairs and blade bending and rockering. Once we have caught up on blade maintenance, this amount will be adjusted. Should we need these dollars for these repairs/maintenance sooner, the allocation towards future spending will be adjusted to compensate for these expenditures at that time."

Sean Baumann seconded. All in favor.

(Request and responses were completed via email following adjournment of the February 28, 2021 meeting – all responses were received by March 19, 2021).