



Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating Club

Executive Meeting

February 19, 2018

Vanderhoof Municipal Arena, Vanderhoof, BC

Present: Jim McBride, Calvin Desmarais, Vince Sewell, Nicole Ebert, Dianne Raymond, Ann Douglas, Erin Baker, Trinda Elwert, Laura Rusnjak, Sara Lazaruk, Jessica Seely

Welcome- Jim McBride

Jessica was appointed Secretary (filling in for Dianne Raymond) through the end of the season (all in favor).

Agenda:

- Discussion items from the previous minutes:
- Max Registration numbers per age group
Contingency plan if our membership decreases
What if registration numbers are lower than anticipated in June
- Strategy for Ensuring a Future Health Club Exec- Exec Shadowing
Bring names of some one that shows interest in shadowing
- Change our structure to have regular monthly meetings during different practices that will include more parents.
- Check Grant eligibility for paying expenses for LT, official/coach development, dryland
- Meet options- Consider another ice time for a 3 hr meet instead of Mar 10th.
(Sanctioned so times count)
- Discuss meet dates for next year
- Other
- Next Mtg – AGM

Discussion: open topics carried over (see minutes from the previous executive meeting):

Erin and Ann are willing to continue for another season as Vice President and Media Liaison respectively. Vince Sewell will step down as a Director but will continue on in the equipment manager capacity on a volunteer basis.

Strategies for shadowing positions were discussed. Often those who volunteer within the

framework of the club (coach, equipment, official, registrar etc) also take on the role of Director, however, directors do not have to have a specific volunteer job description. Details covered by a position can vary widely depending on the strengths of the individual filling the role as well.

The Secretary role is vacant and nominations should be made for it, to be voted in at the AGM. This position as formally described includes a variety of duties, most of which are currently assumed by the President. At a minimum, the Secretary should compile and distribute the agenda for executive meetings, and take the minutes.

Maximum Registration numbers per group

2017/2018 we had 20-28 skaters per ice hour. All are in agreement that 80 skaters is our maximum number for the ice time available; with group sizes being somewhat flexible, but in general not exceeding 15 skaters per group.

Exception: Active Starts: we had 13 this year. Recommend a maximum of 10 with flexibility to expand depending on physical and emotional preparedness, number of coaches, etc.

More ice time is needed. Jim requested an additional hour last season, and will repeat the request in April at the Ice User's Meeting. Shadowing will be seamless here: Trinda will be able to work with Calvin & Jim- she will already be at ice user's meetings, representing Women's Hockey. She is familiar with procedure as she has been attending these meetings for eight years.

Registration Form Updated

Trinda introduced the new registration form, now a multi-skater form suitable for a single document family registration, complete with an updated code of conduct, waiver and member agreement. Thank you Trinda! The form was unanimously approved with only a couple of small suggested edits. This form will be provided to the club ahead of the AGM in anticipation of (new this year) early registration at the AGM.

Monthly Information Meetings

There is a need for a regular meeting, or strategically scheduled meetings prior to specific events, for the purpose of passing on information and helping parents understand the structure of the club, the sport, and competitions. Erin found the document "what to expect at a meet", posted on the website (and distributed via email), to be helpful. However people don't generally appear to be using the website. Links to website documents on Facebook may help connect families to posted information.

Long Track Program

By invitation, the Vanderhoof Clippers have used the Ft St James Falcons long track program free of charge for some years now. Training under this informal arrangement, Vanderhoof skaters have competed in long track competitions at a level sufficient to earn provincial and national medals. While only about half a dozen of our skaters make regular use of the Tuesday/Thursday practices scheduled, (practices started in December and will continue to run

while the ice is in good condition), the invitation was extended to all VCSSC skaters. More skaters are expected to participate as they get older.

A recent mechanical breakdown in the outdoor oval ice maintenance equipment brought up the question of how the Vanderhoof club should help bear the cost and maintenance of the LT program that we offer to our skaters as an optional part of our training option. Several ways were discussed that would allow the Vanderhoof Club to contribute toward the maintenance of the LT program. It is recognized that a society cannot invest in or maintain the assets of another society. However if we hope to continue to participate in long track, it would be in our best interests to support the existing program. Ft St James is a struggling club with under a dozen skaters and yet they have kept the infrastructure of a long track program in place and have an excellent and motivated coach in Keith Gordon.

Motion: Calvin Desmarais.

That, starting this season, we pay an ice user fee of \$700 to the Fort St James Falcons for the use of their long track program, paid ongoing per season that the program and/or oval is operational. ***All in favor.***

Meets

Club intent to register at the March 10th meet was polled at 20 skaters, or 30% of normal registration, due to other events in conflict. All in favor of cancelling the meet.

Younger skaters need an updated 200 meter seed time for the first meet in the fall. Older skaters need other seed times. The decision was made to apply for a sanction for the March 2 Friday practice. We will need full mats & medical attendants & 3 watches per skater. Without running heats and finals, we can use a time card system to streamline the paperwork. Jim will request either access to the ice earlier than 5:00 (would shorten a public skate) or afterward (Muckers may be willing to give up a hockey game which would give up to 2 hours following the event for take-down).

Nicole made a suggestion that we move our November meet to February, rather than running two meets. The weekend of the Prince George Iceman was selected (February 9, 2019). In addition, she would like to see several 3-hour ice sessions reserved on open Saturdays to be used for club racing or other club events.

New topics for discussion:

Ann put a suggestion to the executive that for any year in which the club is approved for the gaming grant, that the club should assist with the cost of sending any VCSSC gold medalist at a provincial meet, to the national competition for which they have qualified. This could include travel for a parent, as long as there is a BC coach at the meet. Ann's proposal was made on the basis that a skater competing at this level should have the opportunity to compete at a higher level regardless of financial situation.

Erin suggested that we consider creating a bursary type fund available to skaters who have qualified to compete at a national level. It would be expected that they submit an application. We are currently a large club without any type of scholarship or bursary fund maintained- many

other clubs have this. Currently we have high enrolment and the club finances are not in jeopardy; in future years if this should change, fundraising could be used to maintain such an account. If no skater qualified in a given season, then the fund would not be reduced in that season but would remain available for future applications.

Discussion to be continued: we will ask for input from the membership at the AGM.

Coaches jackets:

Presenting club jackets to coaches was discussed in a meeting earlier in the season. Nicole has put together a jacket package for this purpose. Historically this has been the club thanks for the time put in by our volunteer coaches. A request that the club cover the cost of custom jackets for the current coaches who have not received a jacket in the past was approved by a show of hands.

Jessica made a suggestion that jackets be offered to the three additional coaches as well in recognition of their years of volunteer coaching.

Nicole opened the jacket order to the club, as additional orders do help reduce the total cost, and some members have been waiting for an opportunity to order for some time. Another club jacket order will be placed in the fall however. Erin will put out an email to that effect, if parents with growing children would prefer to wait.

Meeting adjourned.