

SCC Board Meeting

Sunday, November 18, 2023

5:30pm

Present: Mike O'Brien (President) Doug Runnoe (Vice President)
Shevaun Stocker (Secretary) Karen Flesvig
Scott Laven Ron Bichler
John Gunnon

Absent: Charlie Johnson, Tim Bradshaw

Guest: Joe Kubala

Called to order at 5:32 pm.

Secretary Report – Shevaun

- Motion to approve amended Oct board minutes (Runnow/Bichler) – approved unanimously

Treasurer Report – Tim

- Will send financial update tomorrow

Club Manager Report – Scott

- Membership – 123 official members, 22 unpaid members (Scott has some payments to process)
 - Scott thinks we'll end up with 160 to 165 members (last year we had 200 to 210 members)
 - This is down significantly – Wed night refinery folks aren't back, Duluth Juniors
 - Juniors is down, too, from last year's numbers (though two paid today) – maybe 19 to 22 Juniors (Duluth started a Sunday Juniors league, which may be cutting into our numbers a bit)
 - Scott will cross-reference the payments with registrations to get this cleaned up this week
- Parking lot updates – one round of gravel was put down (three loads); the Fairground owner will be putting 4 more loads down and SCC will pay for two more loads – this should all help
- Lighting – Service Electric will be coming out this week to switch bulbs to LED and getting light sensors working; will look at lights on the building to see if we can get more energy-efficient bulbs on it
 - Will see if Focus on Energy has any rebates
- Ron asked about whether the drain in the parking lot can be fixed so that it functions more as a drain (we'd need the county to work on this)
 - Mike took photos of it that we can take to the county
- Dehumidifiers – they are working to lower humidity; we may want it to go even lower – need to talk to Rick to see if one more unit would help with that (they're working all the time; need to see the utility bill – power bill may go up with their activity, though gas bill may go down with more efficient furnaces)
 - Scott hasn't heard back from Focus on Energy from these improvements
- Pharmacy bonspiel – quoted \$50 per person at 64 people (\$3200); Doug and Sue will cook meals for them – this should bring in more revenue (more bar revenue, we raised the per-person rate)

Sponsorship update – Joe

- Joe provided a one-page summary of the SCC advertising
- In addition to the revenue collected at this time, four more payments are due
- Net income this year (\$6715) is about \$1k more than last year (expenses are down)

Determine who will have USCA dues paid by the club – Mike/Scott

- Mike – SCC will reimburse these folks their basic USCA dues: anyone who is actively helping with Juniors program (and wants to stay up-to-date with SafeSport), anyone who is active in instruction, any board members, anyone in a paid position for the club (manager, ice crew)
 - Would need to email the club to let them know who we are reimbursing for USCA dues (and the process for doing that reimbursement)
 - Next year, we could set up a pay-online option
 - With Rick's resignation, we likely need to work on expanding the expertise of our existing ice crew and see who could replace him
- This would be effective Dec 1, 2023

Identify two USCA reps for SCC – Mike

- Each club can nominate up to two different gender reps to USCA; they represent the club at two meetings a year (virtual meetings)
- Is anyone interested? Mike is interested; need a non-male rep (Scott – email the club to see if anyone is interested)

Dues model (effective 2024-25 season) – Karen

- Karen will lead a group to build a proposal for a new dues model
- Doug and John will also participate; check with Tim to see if he could/should

Dollars for Doers program – Shevaun

- Mike would like to see a new Dollars for Doers model to go into effect this year; may need to be revised again, under the new dues model that is being proposed
- Better number for incentivizing it
- Shevaun will build a proposal to bring to the December board meeting
- Also need to address how to track the hours of volunteering

Club rentals requests (can we support the requests?) – Karen

- 6 proposals have come in for rentals – we have lead individuals committed for 5 of the 6 proposals to help with their instruction, etc.
- Scott will need to update the calendar with these commitments (noted as a 'private party')
- We're getting a number of questions about renting the space but many don't follow-through or they're at a time when members aren't available to provide instruction/bartending
 - Especially for youth groups, it's better for the club if we can route those kids through the Juniors program (longer-term involvement in the sport) – also need to make sure adults are there to do the 'baby-sitting' portion of the work with the youth group so the instructors can focus on instruction
- In addition to having trained instructors available to help at these events, we can also have general members assist at these events. We need to reach out to a wider audience in SCC to assist
 - We could also be more proactive in encouraging SCC members to become trained as instructors?
- Can add volunteer instruction at the rental events to the Sign Up Genius to make it easier to recruit help for this (maybe increase the incentive for Dollars for Doers for volunteer instruction?)

Lifetime membership, need to appoint a committee – Mike

- We have 3 nominations
- Need to get a committee going to review these
 - Committee may need to go back to the nominator to get more details on the nomination; nominators may struggle to get the particulars of the person's curling history
- John and Doug would like to be on the committee; will work on getting non-Board members to also serve on the committee (Brian? Kim?)
- Joe – shared a model where there is an assigned facilitator – a person who knows what the committee needs to know and asks the person being nominated the information that is needed

Honoring Bud Somerville, where are we at? – Mike

- Propose that banners get made up for the two curlers that are in the World Curling Hall of Fame for Bud Somerville and Bill Strum
 - First bid was \$170 (vinyl, 5 ft wide, 8 ft tall)
 - Design is still being built (Dave Poderatz is working with World Curling Hall of Fame)
 - Need to be careful in terms of how they impact air/heat flow
- Additional honorees – maybe something to go on the wall
 - We have 6 members who are in the US Curling Hall of Fame (maybe a little smaller)
 - There are also 3 teams that are in the US Curling Hall of Fame
- Renamed the bonspiel to the Somerville CF Charity Bonspiel – family appreciated that
- Discussed ways to build in-ice mechanisms for honoring Bill and Bud
- Maybe we need to re-think the honoring of folks altogether – as a whole package of visuals/signage

Lake Superior Ice Festival (Jan. 27, 10AM – 4PM), do we participate? – Mike

- Mike proposes an event there on Saturday, Jan 27th from 10 to 4pm
- Build one or two shortened curling sheets (using rocks under display case)
- Get club members to volunteer to just throw rocks with people
- Goal – get community members to the club on any Sunday or open house we host after that
- The event will have a Zamboni to make the ice; we'll need to bring a pebble but we're not going to nip
- Tie the next open house to this? Sunday (1/28) at say 5pm and then another night during that week (Mon/Tues/Wed) at 8pm but we'd wait to decide which days until we see what the demand is
 - 2 hour event – just one; we wouldn't host multiple sessions on a given day
 - Yes to Sunday (1/28) and we need to pick the second night
- Mike has a radio interview on Wednesday to advertise the ice festival

Set date for last day of curling – Mike

- Mike proposes the last week of March (Thursday, March 28th), though that weekend is Easter Sunday (may impact ice-out efforts – it takes a few days for the ice to melt enough to do anything with it, anyways)

Open (if time allows) – All

- Bar prices – all the same for league, bonspiels, and events
 - Could we raise the bar prices for bonspiels and events by \$1 for each category, except sodas (leave that at the league rate)?
- **Motion to approve to increase bar prices for alcoholic beverages for any non-league event (Gunnon/Runnoe) – approved unanimously**

- This would apply to any non-league event (bonspiel, rental event, etc.)
- Mike will make a two-sided sign to reflect this that can be flipped over, as needed
- **Motion that for any beverages not currently listed in the pricing categories, these will be priced by Scott Laven, as needed (Bichler/Gunnon)** – approved unanimously
- Doug took an inventory for the sliders available for the club – would like to see us purchase more adult sizes (one of each size at each end of the sheet)
 - These would be stationed at each end of the sheet so they're always available
 - We need 6 extra large, 3 large, 6 mediums
 - We have a credit from Dakota Curling Shop, which will cover a significant portion of the cost.
 - Doug will notify Scott on the sliders needed
 - **Motion to approve this purchase of additional sliders** (Runnoe/Flesvig) – approved unanimously
 - Discussion: buy one extra of each size, just to have on hand
 - Scott has some storage drawers he needs to install that could house them
- Scott - Set up an online store for apparel, through Shirts Unlimited
 - We could get a portion of the sales
 - Their designer has our logo and has ideas about additional designs
 - Before we announce this option, maybe we need to remind the club that we have t-shirts available for sale?

Ice Manager

- A resignation from Rick Flesvig was received effective at the end of the 2023/2024 curling season.
- Rick has done an outstanding job for many years and will be greatly missed.
- We will discuss options for filling this critical roll starting at the December meeting.

Review assignments – Shevaun/Mike

- Dollars for Doers – Shevaun (revisions for 2023-24 plan)
- Dues model proposal (to go into effect, starting 2024-25 season) – Karen
- Lifetime membership committee – Doug will get this coordinated
- Honoring Bud Somerville & Bill Strum
 - Joe and Mike to continue to design/get bids for banners
- Lake Superior Ice Festival – Mike
 - Need to recruit volunteers for day-of
- Open-house – Shevaun
 - Need to finalize logistics for a second round of open house(s) for January, to follow on from Lake Superior Ice Festival
- New bar price signs - Mike
- Scott
 - Additional gravel
 - Will finalize membership numbers
 - Lighting updates
 - Communicate updates/opportunities to membership via email
 - Provide information for USCA dues reimbursement
 - Ask for volunteers for USCA rep (two meetings per year, need one person who does not identify as a male).
 - Ask for volunteers for the lifetime membership committee.

- Update SCC online calendar with private events
- Order more sliders, using Dakota Curling Shop credit
- Pursue online store for apparel with Shirts Unlimited

Set next meeting date & time – Mike

- Sunday, Dec. 17th at 6:30pm at SCC club

Adjourned (Runnoe/Gunnon) at 7:10pm