

2011 Northeast Region Minutes

*Amended 11/09/11

Note: Amendments are in red

Commencement of meeting by Chairman, Tom Beebe at 2:05pm

Date: Sunday, November 6, 2011

Place: Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Clubs in Attendance with full voting privileges were as follows (11):

Plainfield FSC

Beverly Skating Club

Roller Kingdom Hudson

Skateland Skating Club

Galaxy Skating Club

Silver City Skating Club

Long Beach Skating Club

Roller Kingdom, Tyngsboro

Ron A Roll Skating Club

Whitman Skating Club

Carousel Skating Club

Approval of the 2010 meeting minutes

1st motion to accept: Bill Fellows

2nd motion to accept: John Scollo

2011 Treasury report was read and accepted

1st motion to accept: Bill Fellows

2nd motion to accept: Dottie DeRemer

Update from the board meeting by Heidi Permatteo (Amendments explained at end of this section)

Heidi went to the board meeting.¹ Heidi stated that the “Special Committee” recommendations were tabled at the meeting. She warned that they may try to revive the recommendations, however. The realignment of the age groups for girls was a big concern and she spoke up against them in **Lincoln**.² The recommendation wanted to put 12 year old girls in the same event with 20 year olds, and this, she told **them**,² would hurt the future growth of the sport.

Also at this meeting a presentation for a bid for the 2013 Nationals was made from Albuquerque, NM.

The term “Figure Committee” is being changed to “Sports Committee”.

The “C” level skaters will be staying home from the Nationals starting with the 2013 season.

New test requirements for all loop events will be going into effect.

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Anthony DaPonte asked if there would be any consideration in cutting back the days at Nationals now that “C” skaters will not be attending the Nationals.

Entry fees for nationals are going up to \$65.00 per event this year. There will be no fee for video cameras.

The Sr. World team will receive \$1000.00 per skater at the 2011 and 2012 World Championships.

There will be a new figure event age 10 and under and it will not qualify for the National Championships.

Heidi handed out the coaches surveys to all in attendance and asked that they be completed and given to her before they leave the meeting today.

Amended:

1. “Heidi went to the board meeting,”(added) - I went to be a voice for the New England coaches. I wanted to make sure that the coaches had a right to vote on changes.

2. Change the city of Lincoln to Fort Wayne. Heidi Meant to say that at Fort Wayne, not Lincoln, she talked to Jane, not “them” about the 12 year olds skating against 20 year olds at nationals.

Update on the 2011 Regional Championships

The chairman stated that the meet ran well. There were no complaints and many compliments. He thanked everyone that helped out to make it a success. He pointed out an extra thank you to Monica Delvy for a job well done as the host professional and Diane Gagnon for her help in the judges’ room. Monica stated that the operator, Jason, was very pleased to host the Regional Championships and thought it went very well. He was happy with the outcome. The chairman also noted that he (Jason) donated the facility to the speed side so that they were able to run their regional.

The chairman stated that he was extra pleased that we had Paul McNeil at the Regional Championships to announce. It made it extra special to have Paul there. At that time, he asked for the body to have “a moment of silence” for Paul.

Update on the 2012 Regional Championships

The chairman stated that he and Lynn had met with the operator and host professionals. The site has been inspected. Skating floor has been resurfaced. New carpet will be installed and the building is being re-painted. The operator indicated that he likes a red/white and blue color scheme, and that it

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would be fitting for the Championships. Air conditioners are in working order. Snack bar will have everything we need. The host club will take care of the officials' room food. There will also be a coaches' lounge and dressing rooms available.

Starting in January, there will be an artistic night on Sunday's from 6 pm to 8 pm. Anthony DaPonte also said there would be 15 minutes of just figures at the beginning and 15 minutes at the end of the session. He also asked that the region please support this session. It is there to accommodate the skaters.

2012 Judges confirmed –
Gary Callahan - Wisconsin
Eric Hadley- Florida
Cecelia Kelley - Michigan
Jim Purrachio - Ohio

Chief Referee – Christine Roemer from Eastern Region
Meet Director/organist – Bill Fellows
Assistant Meet Director – Tom Beebe
Awards Coordinator – John and Phil Mullin

Host Hotel – Fairfield Inn Middleboro
508-946-4000
Blocked off 30 rooms for 6/22 through 6/25
No code is necessary. Rate for regional championships \$99.00
Pre-region room rate \$89.00 per night
Dates for pre-regions- April 21& 22
Rooms blocked for Friday April 20 and Saturday April 21.

It was repeated that the Silver City Sports Complex's Artistic Night session will begin in January. It will be on Sunday nights from 6-8pm and will cost \$7.00.

Invitational bids

Only one bid was presented for an invitational in 2012.
Memorial Day Invitational at Roller Kingdom in Hudson, MA
Dates May 26 & 27

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John Mullen indicated that we possibly could have a meet at Roller Palace in Beverly MA. He will get back to us.

Dates for 2012 Regional Championships are June 22, Friday the practice day, 6/23, 6/24, and 6/25.

Proposals for 2013 Regional Championships

Presentations

1. Carousel Family Fun\Skate Center, Fairhaven, MA. Dates 6/28 to 7/2 - The host hotel will be the Hampton Inn with a rate of \$119.00 per night. Tom Beebe made the presentation via a letter from Charlene Conway who could not attend the meeting.

2. Roller Palace, Beverly, MA – The presentation was made by Philomina Mullen. Dates: 6/22 – 6/24 or 6/29 - 7/1. New white lights would be installed so the building wouldn't be so dark. Floor size is 80 X 180 with Roll-On coating. Good location, plenty of hotels, restaurants and a nice mall nearby.

Ballot 1 – Vote: Roller Palace 6, Carousel 5.

2013 Regional Championships will be at Roller Palace in Beverly MA. The dates are to be determined. The chairman thanked both clubs for entering a proposal.

New Business

The banquet will be held on Sunday, April 1, 2012 in the afternoon again. It will be held at the same location, just moved to a different room.

Coaches' surveys were discussed and the coaches were asked to fill them out and hand them back to Heidi Permatteo at the end of the meeting. Heidi stated that Tony Berger has only collected ~~45 surveys~~³ in the whole country so far. She continued that the coaches are finally being heard, and now is the time to speak up and fill out the survey. Dottie DeRemer asked if we could put the survey on the website to get a better response. Tom will try.

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Amended: 3. I talked to Tony Sunday night, the figure in our report was from the first time the survey went out. As of now he has received over 150.

Ken Perkins asked if there was any talk about how long a skater can stay in “C” events. Anthony also asked “Why are we still letting skaters stay in the C events?” Tom Beebe said that every coach is responsible for that decision and in some cases it is warranted, while in other cases it is abused.

Bob Wilson said we need to “police” ourselves and not let your skaters stay in the “C” events forever. Bob also said we should use the test structure instead of the C events. Tom stated that when skaters are allowed to skate down, you are crushing the new skaters. Discussion was ended at that point.

Bob Wilson stood up and asked the body if we could send a letter to Richard Hawkins at the National Office and ask him to answer his letter. Bob said that Mr. Hawkins is not giving him any answers to his question. He feels that he deserves the courtesy of a reply, (If you write a letter it deserves to be answered) even if it is to say that he (Mr. Hawkins) can’t provide that information. It is not right to just ignore his request. Bob is researching how we can have “a nine day National Championship and needs the information to help him with his proposal. Mr. Hawkins will not provide him with any financial information that he requested over two years ago other than the IRS forms. Bob wants to know how many people bought amateur cards and how do they (USARS) generate money?

Bob’s research has already found that the youth skaters in 2009 produced \$100,000, adults around \$80,000, and world class skaters \$9,000.

The chairman said that he would write a letter if the body made a motion instructing him to do so and voted on it.

A motion was made to have the chairman draft a letter on behalf of the Northeast Region requesting the courtesy of a response to Mr. Wilson’s letter.

Ken Perkins made the motion.

Bethany Seidel seconded the motion. The body voted, and the motion was carried.

A request was made to update the current by-laws. The chairman stated that the by-laws in their present state don’t tell us much. He requested that members highlight the things that need to be changed and email their ideas about what needs to be changed or added to him.

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The chairman has the right to form committees so a new by-law committee was formed to start the updating process. Volunteering for this committee: Dottie DeRemer, Heidi Permatteo, John Mullin, Lynn Cassio, and Bob Wilson.

The committee will meet on Friday night after the practice at Regionals.

Talk was also mentioned about redesigning the banquet committee.

Awards at the banquet were mentioned. Ray Simas and some others suggested that we should not give awards that are undeserving. An example was given of the freestyle skater of the year award. What if there was no legitimate freestyle skater. Should we give the award to a 15th place skater just because they were the only one in the region? New criteria should be set to further clarify who qualifies for the awards.

~~Phil Mullin made a motion that we make new criteria and bring it to the banquet committee for the 2013 banquet.~~⁴

John Mullen asked how you get on this committee. He said they were a self perpetuating committee. He has been coaching for over 40 years and never got asked to be on this committee. The chairman stated that he was not even sure we had any jurisdiction over this committee as it came from the New England Chapter of RSA and Charlene Conway has been watching over it to make sure we stayed true to the founders' intentions.

~~Anthony made a motion to nominate two new people to be put on the committee. This was seconded by Bob Wilson. The motion was voted on and passed. The chairman said he would like to see Ray Simas join the committee, John Mullen, having previously stated his desire to be on the committee was added as well. The body voted to show their support and all were in favor of the choices.~~⁴

The main idea expressed through the discussion that followed was that many felt that committee members advocate for their own skaters, and if you're not on the committee, you have less of a chance of getting an award for your skaters. Some committee memberships' were questioned. Diane Gagnon said she represented New Hampshire, but offered to have someone take her

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place, because she said it is not an easy job. The chairman said, “No, we aren’t replacing anyone.” Lynn Cassio stated that this was a misconception, “You would be pleasantly surprised at how this meeting was run. We don’t advocate for our own skaters nominated. In fact, I have not voted for my own skater anytime there has been a better choice.” She continued, “The work of the committee is not easy and careful consideration is given to all nominees.”

Bob Wilson made a motion to adjourn
The motion was seconded by Philomena Mullen.
Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Cassio, Secretary –Treasurer

Footnotes:

1. 2. 3. Change was at the request of Heidi Permatteo as she felt that she needed to clarify some information she provided at the meeting.
- 4 After the meeting, Chairman, Tom Beebe, investigated and as he thought, the Banquet Committee does not come under the jurisdiction of NEUSARS. Members of the region are invited by the committee to participate, but the chairman does not appoint this committee nor does the region itself. Therefore, all motions made and passed as regards the Banquet committee are voided.
- 5 The chairman has requested that I add to this report that following the meeting, he asked Charlene Conway to join the by-law committee to help with historical information. (Should have been a footnote).