

2015 Meeting minutes

Date: November 28, 2015

Location: Occasions, Raynham, MA

Meeting called to order at 12:25 by Jodee Cohen.

Clubs in attendance with full voting privileges were as follows:

Rainbow

RK Hudson

Beverly

Skateland

Silver City

All-Star – Whitman

Carousel - Fairhaven

Galaxy

RK Tyngsboro

Ron A Roll

Plainfield

Approval of 2014 Minutes.

1st John Mullen

2nd KC

All accepted, unanimous

Review of 2015 Season

- Awards Banquet – small loss
 - Bob Wilson asked if Charlene Conway should have to cover the loss since she is in charge of the committee
 - Diane Gagnon asked if there a separate account for the banquet, Monica Delvy explained that all the money is in one account, no money is officially earmarked for each event
 - Heidi Permatteo mentioned that in the past we have made money, profit has stayed with the region, not with Charlene .
 - Tom Beebe brought up that originally the banquet was run by NECA, operator run to honor the skaters, then USARS took over. The way it used to be run was that whenever they needed, it was paid out of regional fund, got money from regional entries
 - Bob Wilson asked why does Charlene “own” the committee and how can one get on this committee. Topic was moved to new business.

- Regional Championship at Carousel Family Fun Center, Fairhaven, MA
 - Charlene had emergency at rink so not able to attend, everything went well.
 - Bill Spooner was sick, never replaced, was not able to judge one morning. This was fine but it brought up the point that we may need more out of region judges, as John and Phil Mullen ended up judging many events. It was decided this topic would be brought up in new business.

- National Championship, Albuquerque, New Mexico
 - Practice went well, paid for by region with no skater contributions.
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Treasury Report – presented by Treasurer Monica Delvy

- Reason there is income shown for last year’s operator-run regionals is that people sent entry fees to NEUSARS instead of Carousel
- Judges gifts from NEUSARS, ribbons for beginner events, leftovers to be used for future contests
- Anthony Daponte asked why Charlene didn’t pay for the beginner event ribbons? Heidi and Jodee explained that this was because we bought to use for whole season, not unreasonable cost to have them.
- Tom made the point that the vanguard account shouldn’t show on balance because we shouldn’t touch that money. Monica explained that she is showing all assets, and pointed out that she tried to clearly show the starting and ending balance in the checking account alone.
- Sue Perkins said shouldn’t Charlene pay for sanction if it is operator run. Monica said that it should be paid for it just hasn’t happened yet. She will get in touch with Charlene to take care of this.
- Discussion led to asking why NEUSARS paid for judges’ gifts – shouldn’t that be the operator’s responsibility for an operator-run meet? Charlene gave gifts and we decided as a region we should also give them something. The board decided we should also make sure the region helps out.
- Tom said that we did the right thing by giving gifts, because we want to make the NE a place where judges want to return to.

Ken Perkins made a motion to accept the Treasury Report. Chrissy Cassio 2nd. All approved.

Coaches’ rep update –Heidi Permatteo

- Heidi was not able to attend board meeting; nothing major is changing with the events or rules
- Bob said shouldn’t we get monthly updates? He made the point that we are not going to change anything if we don’t make our voices heard and demand updates from the board
- Bill Spooner is now chairman, there is also a marketing committee in place to work on web presence

IT Update

- Jodee thanked KC for his hard work on the regional website, we get compliments from other regions on how nice it looks
- KC – want to add better navigation menus, still trying to improve; classifieds coming out soon
- Try to get more people contributing to the site, set up accounts to post if anyone has anything to write; need to add judges selection committee info to site, etc
- KC explained how people can sign up for the email newsletter
- He proposed adding a glossary section of skating terms. It would be searchable, if anyone has videos of specific skills we could post that and link it to the glossary
- Suggested adding sections missing for awards committee members, and he can add info for hall of fame and skater of the year bios

- Regional store to sell water bottles, calendars, tshirts, etc
- Tom asked if the website will be sustainable if KC ever leaves. KC said it would be easy enough to pass on to someone else if necessary.

2016 Regionals update

- Forrest's Family Fun Center, 1 Lawton Ave, Taunton, MA
- Practice Day and Gold Medal Test Center: June 24; Competition June 25-26
- Hotel Accommodations: Courtyard Marriott Raynham \$199/night; Fairfield Inn Middleboro/Raynham \$179/night (Group Code: Silver City Skate Club)
- Confirmed Judges: John Hultquist (TX), Jim Puracchio (OH), Michelle Muckey (CA), Lisa Friday Holderbaugh (TX)
- Chief Referee: Christine Roemer
- In region judges: John and Phil Mullen have already volunteered, others will let us know
- It's very hard to have availability because so much overlap with judges also coaching and skating
- Can we get more out of region judges? Can we create a form for availability for in-region judges to sign in?
- Tom said that it would be helpful to have more out of region judges because currently it is hard to schedule everything, have to overbook people with so many conflicts
- Meet director for regionals will be Janet Jordan. Who will be referees/stewards: meet director will ask for help and referees
- Jodee will go to the judges' committee and see if we can find another out of region judge
- Lynn Cassio will work on finding better rates for rooms. It is hard in that area in the summer to get reasonable rates.

2017 Regional Bids

- Silver city withdrew bid, so Ron a Roll will host, tentatively June 24th and 25th
- Will have pre-regional competition – Easter weekend is middle of April.
 - Anthony suggested later in April (22-23, or 29-30)
- It was decided pre-regionals will not be on Easter, Monica will have to check with rink operator Jason Sepowitz to determine which will be better.

2016 Invitational Competitions

- Pre-Regionals at Forrest's Family Fun Center, 1 Lawton Ave, Taunton, MA, April 16-17
- Accommodations: Courtyard Marriott Raynham \$129/night; Fairfield Inn Middleboro/Raynham \$119/night (Group Code: Silver City Skate Club)
- Thanksgiving Invitational at Forrest's Family Fun Center Nov 26-27 w/ organ music
- Memorial Day meet at Hudson May 28-29
- February Beginner Meet, Sunday Morning Feb 14 at Ron A Roll, Vernon. NE Beginner Program Events only

New Business

- Travel Clinic: January 31 at Tyngsboro: Diane and Bonnie, precision; moves in the field and USARS test center, fee will be waived, new judges welcomed
 - \$5 test fee, waived if you pre register
- Calendars: one picture per email when it is sent in; make sure subject is labeled with skater and club; \$5 per picture; can submit up to 3 photos

- Awards banquet: clubs/coaches responsible for names submitted for embetterment awards to avoid any miskates
- Are B skaters still getting embetterment awards? It was mentioned that if we remove B then they won't come to the banquet, it was decided that we should leave it as is, with both A and B skaters receiving awards for national placements.
 - Tom: motion to have NE region give awards to B skaters, even if committee does not want to pay for the cost of the awards, then NEUSARS will cover the cost of the awards
 - Robin Orcutt 2nd
 - All agreed, Sue Perkins made the point that we shouldn't make any decisions that would discourage a skater from entering them
- Heidi: Moves in the field USARS test at January clinic is a great program: \$5 per pin for tests; can do test with or without music
- Jodee proposed starting Judging Panel Webinars: pick one night a month to run an online judges' webinar; rotation system on people who are judges who are able to run a panel to get new judge generated. Will start for test commissions...#1 figure. Heidi has dvds so that we can review (RSA and USARS), can do on go to meeting
- Beginner Program:
 - The word 'beginner' should not appear in the title of the events
 - We should leave the age requirements as they stand
 - We need new standards for the freestyle requirements: For all levels, maximum time of 2:00 and vocals are allowed in music. New allowed content:
 - Newcomer: content up to and including 1st RSA Freestyle test
 - Intro: up to 3rd test
 - Sub up to 4th test
- Beginner: if you skate a standard event at a regional championship, you cannot ever move down to the beginner program
- Should precision participation affect eligibility?
 - Jodee made a motion: have to go to intro if a skater has previously competed in precision/quartet
 - Chrissy 2nd, all in favor
- Ray Simas said sometimes you can't get skater on both levels. Do they still lose eligibility to skate newcomer if it's their first year skating dance for example, even if they already did figures last year? The answer is yes, they have to move up in everything. Ray was glad to have the clarification.
- If you skate in the beginner program, you can challenge up (newcomer to intro, intro to sub). If you skate standard at regionals is you cannot return to a beginner program
 - Scott doesn't agree that you should be able to challenge up to a standard event at any event
- Jodee motion to put in rule that if you are a participant in a beginner program, you cannot challenge up to a standard event at any event (invitational or regional)
 - 2nd Tom
 - All accepted, motion passed

- Should we require an amateur card after the first year in the beginner program?
 - Heidi thinks it should not be a requirement
 - Scott made a motion that is a club (not program) rule to buy an amateur card
 - Chrissy 2nd
 - All in favor
- Not having C event at regionals, still can have it at invitationals
- Scott motion to adjourn
 - Chrissy 2nd, all agree, adjourned at 2:57 PM