

Fernie Minor Hockey Association Board Meeting

September 21, 2011

7:00pm Annex Room, Fernie Arena

Members present: Cathy Garcia, Arthur Sombrowski, Tracey Kelly, Laura Loewen, Claude Perreault, Brendan Morgan, Craig Bell, Paul Traverse. Tom Hopkins arrived late, around 9pm due to family emergency.

- The association received an email from Chris Ippolito who is shooting a family major motion picture in Fernie in October looking for hockey players for his movie.
 - Arthur moves that Tracey should contact the movie people to discuss the details, including releases, insurance and kids getting to keep the jerseys from the shoot. Claude seconds. Passed unanimously.
- Residential Waivers. Tracey recently received information from BC Hockey regarding residential waivers. Once a player is released to an adjacent association the release is irrevocable and they are allowed to try out for any tiered team in that association (i.e. if they do not make the tier 2 team they can then try out for the tier 3 and/or 4 teams in that division). Additionally, players released to an adjacent division can only come back to their home association to play recreational hockey and not any carded team. Also a player is only allowed one release per season so players coming back from Cranbrook can NOT then go play in the Elk Valley Minor Hockey Association.
 - It is important to get this information out to all parents regarding rules around residential waivers so that they can make informed decisions about trying out for Cranbrook teams.
- At a future meeting we will develop a written release policy and put together an information package for parents to be handed out prior to the end of this season.
- PeeWee: At registration numbers were showing that there would be around 24-28 kids registered in PeeWees throughout the Elk Valley with half in Fernie and half in Sparwood/Elkford. Final numbers were 24 registered players, 12 from each association which is not enough to have a viable rep team and house team. An idea was brought forth to have two geographically based house teams, one in Fernie and one in the Elk Valley so nobody would have to drive from Fernie to Elkford or Elkford to Fernie. Fernie PeeWee parents were canvassed to see what they preferred and 9 out of 12 said that they were in favour of keeping a peewee team in Fernie. Emails were sent to Elk Valley Minor Hockey Association (EVMHA) president to confirm numbers and discuss the proposition. The reply was that if that if we wanted to do it then it was all or nothing, so ALL Fernie players would have to play in Fernie. An email discussing the issue and asking for feedback was circulated around the board members with 6 responding in favour of proceeding with keeping the Peewees in Fernie, 2 responding that they were against it and no response from the others due to short time line. An email was sent off to EVMHA president letting them know of the decision, peewee tryouts were cancelled and Fernie peewees were all informed and told of when the next ice time was. Over the

weekend there were MANY emails and phone calls made by a couple people unhappy with this decision. An information meeting was held at the arena on Monday September 19 to explain the whole process and why the decision was made. Questions were asked to clarify the issue. Voices were raised and things generally got out of hand. In the end VP Arthur asked everyone to email their thoughts to the Board if they had anything further for the Board to consider at its next meeting on Wednesday Sept 21. Approximately 12 further emails were received in addition to those previously received and brought to the meeting for review. Several of them were sent on the condition of anonymity. Of the 10 from peewee parents 4 were clearly for staying in Fernie, 4 were clearly for returning to EVMHA and 2 were for sitting down with EVMHA and discussing with them the best options. The others were from other divisions and were split on their input. The Board then had a general discussion to determine what the will of the overall majority of the Pee Wee parents. Tracey had consulted with BC Hockey regarding this issue and whether we are obliged to release participants that were unhappy with the decision to have a Fernie based team. B.C. Hockey said that all decisions made so far were done with proper consideration of the game and players and that the release rules state that you should not release players if it will be detrimental to the team remaining. Also discussed the rotation ice issue brought up by EVMHA (that the EVMHA teams will have to play less in Fernie this year if we take the peewee time slots for the Fernie peewee team thus resulting in other Fernie players having to travel more than the equal 1/3 rotation) and that since there won't be a midget team this year the ice rotation will not be an issue.

- Craig moves to overturn the decision to make a Fernie Peewee team. Cathy seconds it. Vote: 2 in favour (Cathy and Craig) and 6 against (Paul, Arthur, Tracey, Laura, Claude and Brendan)
- Arthur moves to have the meeting in camera due to discussions about player movement and coach selection which involves privacy issues. Laura seconds. Passed unanimously.
- Claude moves that we respond to the EVMHA letter of request regarding bringing back the midgets from Cranbrook with a letter stating that the players have already been released to Cranbrook and cannot be called back according to BC Hockey's residential waiver rules. We suggest that EVMHA contact the local BC Hockey rep regarding their hockey options with their being no team in the Elk Valley. Laura seconds. Unanimously passed.

