

Minutes

January 19th at 7:15pm. Zoom

7:15pm: Call to order by President Ranjit Aiyagari

In attendance: Ranjit Aiyagari, Warwick Anderson, Erin Donovan, Craig Forsyth, Carmen Fox, Mary Johanson, Karen Meints, Matt Oonk, Helena Schotland, Karla Stoermer-Grossman, Camille Ziolek.

Apologies: Anjali Bhandari.

Also in attendance: Ann Dougherty, Bonnie Shay.

Minutes and Agenda Approval

Motion: Approval of minutes from December 15th, 2020: unanimous approval.

Motion: Approval of agenda: unanimous approval.

Committee Reports:

Finance committee: Warwick Anderson, Craig Forsyth

Warwick sent out two reports to the committee. The club is not making much money due to the Covid restrictions. The finances need to be very carefully managed going forward. However now that the club is open and there are ice sessions, the finances should improve.

Hockettes Erin Donovan

The Hockettes teams are filming their entries for Synchro Illinois over the next few days. Since they are not allowed to do connective moves on ice at the moment, they are just practicing their no-holds elements.

The next and last event is Synchro Tri-States which AAFSC is "hosting". Ann D followed up suggestions to contact Tri-States about letting us host again in person next year, but have received an inconclusive response. Their executive board will discuss it later and may put it in front of the annual meeting in June.

Registration opened on January 12 and 40 teams have already signed up. Registration closes on February 9th. Registration fees are set by the USFS Synchro Series committee: \$200 per team program and \$50 per element entry. Teams from Australia, Finland, France and the Netherlands have entered. There will be pins and sweatshirts to sell which need to be advertised. There is still some advertising space to sell too. Erin will discuss the advertising with Carmen. Erin is organizing a virtual party before the event to market the event further.

Learn to Skate: Mary Johanson

Learn to Skate groups started up again this week. There are different limits on the number of skaters for different sessions depending on type of session and other activities going on in the Ice Cube. The Learn to Skate sessions are pretty full and there are lots of new skaters.

Competitions: Ann Dougherty.

Springtime invitational, May 20-23 are the dates. Springtime is moving forward. It will be socially distanced and the organizers are still working out where the officials will be situated in the rink and how the traffic flow will work. Meanwhile, Ann is working with Pine Kopka-Ross the chief referee, and Jim Achtenberg on the announcement. New this year: The Basic Skills competition will take place on the last day of Springtime, but will be its own competition with a separate registration, referee, accountant – using Sk8stuff – per the usual Michigan Basic Skills series protocols.

The Ann Arbor Springtime Invitational is to be renamed the Margaret Faulkner Springtime Invitational in honor of our original one and only chief referee for the first 35 years.

Office Report: Craig Forsyth

Membership: The Club membership currently stands at 461 which is 10 more December and 33 more than this time last year, January 2020.

Basic Skills: Has recruited 271 members since June 1st and 31 new members since last month.

Club Communication: The club has sent out 38 email blasts with an average 49% opening rate. The email with the highest opening rate (81%) was the week 1 – 2 one about learn-to-skate private lessons.

HR Update: Bonnie Shay

Motion: Approve Elizabeth Casey as a Junior Coach. Motion made by Mary, Helena seconded, unanimous approval.

Any Other Business:

Rink Reopening: The coaches are now able to coach on the Ice, but the club is still strictly following the Health and Safety Departments guidelines. The harness can now be used on all the sessions. The club is closely monitoring these changes.

Concern was raised over coaches coaching off-ice remotely via Zoom/FaceTime in the concession hallway. The Cube will not allow this due to insurance liability issues. This club concurs. If skaters are having a lesson on the ice at the Ice cube, the coach must be coaching in person, in the ice rink.

Melody on Ice: Camille Ziolek and Craig Forsyth

Nothing to report at this moment.

Fundraising: Carmen Fox

There is now a donation button on the Club Website.

Governing Council: Ann Dougherty

The USFS Governing Council is April 30-- May 1st in Colorado Springs—IF it's held in person. The club can send 6 delegates. The board agreed to send the delegates from last year, all of whom still have airline credits from last year's cancellation of the conference Jim Achtenberg, Ann Dougherty, Bonnie Shay, Helena Schotland, Craig Forsyth. Mary Johanson may go as part of

USFS committee chairs; Kim Davis will go as observer or delegate depending on Mary. That decision does not need to be made yet.

DEI (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion) Ideas: Erin Donovan

The US Figure Skating Association just announced the membership of a DEI committee. Erin has just attended a University of Michigan webinar hosted by Dr Jessica Garcia PhD (DEI Manager,) about inclusion and how to achieve it. Erin is going to meet with her and talk about how to make our organizations more inclusive. She is hoping to organize some seminars for the Hockettes' coaches. She would welcome ideas for ways to include the skaters. Suggestions were made to compile a reading and information list. Members should send the information to Matt Oonk who will coordinate the information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm by Ranjit

Date of next meeting: Tuesday February 16th at 7:15pm. Zoom.