

**Minutes of the GLCA Meeting
May 8, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 9:00am

Present:

Cincinnati: Jonathan Penney, Stephanie Simpson

Circle City: Tammy Hoffman, Rodney Ewing

Cleveland Skate Club: Kara Girvin

Columbus: Stephen Imes

Curl Troy: Paul Robinson

Detroit: Paul Badgero, Bret Jackson

Fort Wayne: Martha Lemert

Great Smoky Mountain: Sandra Takata

Kalamazoo: Ben Levy

Lansing: Mitch Raeck

Mayfield: Michael Moore; Debra Horn

Midland: Michael Graves; Fred Strautman

Absent:

Copper Country: Rob Handler

Traverse City:

Petosky:

Derby City:

Proxies: Jeff Michael (Lewiston) proxy to Ben Levy; Phil Gohr (Bowling Green) proxy to Scott Piroth;

A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved from October 10, 2020, were approved.

3. Regional Updates and Club Updates/Commentary

Regional Update:

Courtney Schmidt, President of the USCA, gave a report on happenings at the national level, most notably changing the headquarters from Stevens Point, WI to Minneapolis, MN to take

advantage of the Vikings Lake Campus and the orthopaedic resources there. Courtney reported that curling in America would be taking place this fall and in November the Olympic trials will be held at Omaha. Courtney thanked the Region for the clubs that did operate and show that curling during Covid was possible.

Ben reported that regionally that many of the clubs were able to operate at least on some level for league play and that we successfully held two championship events – the mixed and the men’s and women’s championships.

Clubs:

a. Bowling Green

Reported membership is down to about 140 members from 250 the previous year. Reduced capacity in their leagues and their bonspiels, other than their mixed doubles bonspiel but they were successful in running a full bonspiel schedule, though reduced, with proper mask protocols and social distancing. Bowling Green reported spending money in fixing their ice problems with an insulation project and is looking forward to hosting a full schedule for next year of bonspiels in the USWCA 5 and Under in January.

b. Cincinnati

Cincinnati opened with 100% masks, staggering the start times for a bonspiel that ran in the spring which created issues for the ice crew but generally had no community spread of Covid, but took a huge hit on corporate events and learn to curls because of Covid. It also reported its membership was down as a result of the pandemic.

c. Circle City

Circle City had five (5) sheets on arena; ran four (4) sheets; has \$350,000 in a dedicated ice fund and is now working on the budget for square footage on space and looking for location. In the winter, they had the problem of being over-subscribed so some older members allowed newer curlers to play and came to Fort Wayne to do a Saturday league for some of their more experienced members

d. Cleveland Skate Club

Began running curling but after broomstacking became problematic, even with outdoor space heaters, it went down to about one night per week. The club as a whole added 55 new households, it also ran a successful doubles internal bonspiel.

e. Columbus

Did not run due to governmental limitations; also had chiller issues, but is planning on continuing to raise money to build a new facility and is planning a full list of bonspiels for next year.

f. Copper Country

Copper Country's report was given by Marty Lemert, who had information sent to her by Robert Handler. Membership was down to about 50 paid members from 64 the year before. Action steps taken to minimize crowding on the ice, everyone wearing masks; no Covid incidents related to the club as far as they knew. Copper Country has a new deionized water system being purchased, new vinyl floor coverings for the playing area, and will be submitting for a Darwin Curtis Application this summer and are re-visiting their plans to host the Copper Spiel next January.

g. Curl Troy

Reported having no season because of Covid concerns and issues with arena availability.

h. Derby City

No report.

i. Detroit

Reported no Covid-related issues despite it running for a partial season, but significant mechanical issues experienced by Detroit with HVAC units needing to be fixed, the dehumidifier, roof and front door having issues, but Detroit was able to successfully hold a couple bonspiels following Covid protocols.

j. Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne successfully ran the September End of Summer Spiel at a reduced capacity of 24 teams. Fort Wayne then ran successful leagues from September through April with universal masking both in the warm room and the cold room, but has a substantially less membership from over 100 members the year before down to about 56 members. Ran 36 friends and family events but did not do corporate events or learn to curls, so had substantially reduced revenue for the year. We are planning on running the end of summer spiel in the fall of 2021 at full capacity of 32 teams with a vaccination requirement. The event has now sold out.

k. Great Smoky Mountains

No season and the Rocky Top is being planned for 2022 and not 2021.

l. Kalamazoo

Opened to a partial season with about 60 active curlers (down from about 120). There was somewhat of an involved check-in process for contact tracing purposes pursuant to state regulations. No word on whether they are planning to do bonspiels next year.

m. Lansing

Lansing reported it had been using a new arena (Suburban Ice); had run several learn to curls this spring and summer; and had a friendly in Fort Wayne with Circle City. Its goal is to try and get its numbers back up to pre-Covid and for the Olympic year.

n. Lewiston

Ben reported that they did not hold any spiels this year but are open to do the mixed play-downs in the upcoming year.

o. Mayfield

Reported that they had an early January grand opening of their new facility and were successful in running leagues and some learn to curls. It is open to sponsoring the 5 and Under GLCA tournament next year and has received its alcohol permit and did hold a successful internal spiel at the end of the year. They have four (4) sheets.

p. Midland

Reports that it had a limited season of about eight (8) weeks and was down from 270 members to about 80 members, including six (6) people requesting refunds. The running season from January through mid-March showed no spread of Covid noted. They will hold the October 22-24 Midland Open with the standard format of sixteen (16) teams. Midland reports that there is a new community center being built that may attach to the curling center so there may be some changes coming up for the 2022-2023 season. Mike Graves, the VP of US Junior Curling, indicated that there was a huge summer camp scheduled for this year.

q. Petoskey

No curling

r. Thunder Bay

Did curl, but we have no report.

s. Traverse City

Had to cancel their Cherry Bonspiel but are moving on land for dedicated ice.

4. Review of Actions Taken by Executive Committee

- a.** Discussion held regarding Executive Committee waiving dues for the last season. Deb Horn moved to accept and approve this action by the Executive Committee. Jonathan Penney seconded the motion and it passed.

5. Audit/Finance Report

Tammy shared the financial status which included the waiver of dues and stone rental fee received from Traverse City of \$500.00. Discussion held regarding obtaining rental fee from Alpena for the other set of new rocks and the need to obtain a U-18 Team voided check for playdowns and the lack of data back from playdowns and any reimbursements for that.

The balance in the checking account is over \$34,176.66.

6. Membership

- a. Working on Stone Purchase from GNCC. Brett and Ben reported on a possible deal with the GNCC to obtain five (5) sets of used stones for approximately \$3,200.00 for over five (5) years. We would also have to obtain our handles which would be an additional \$3,200.00 one-time expenditure in the first year. Motion made to proceed if the financial impact is along these lines with the purchase of those five (5) sets of stones. Motion seconded and passed.
- b. Bonspiel Circuit for Next Season. Scott Piroth is stepping down as the organizer for collecting this information. Kara Girvin volunteered to work on compiling the list. Clubs are to provide lists of their spiels to Kara for publication as a region.

7. Championship/Rules

- a. Review of Past Season Championship Events. The mixed was held in Kalamazoo. The men's and women's was held in Bowling Green. Both were held successfully. A discussion was held regarding whether or not to split the men's and women's events up if four (4) or more women's teams continue to compete or to extend the event into Thursday and the impact on clubs of that. Championship Rules Committee to follow up on recommendations and to conduct a survey of both competitors and clubs regarding their thoughts on this. Also discussion held regarding the issue of the women's team at women's championship and what to do about competition expectations if someone withdraws from the event.
- b. 2021-2022 Host Sites.
 - i. Men's/Women's Clubs – Midland.
 - ii. Mixed – Lewiston.
 - iii. U-18 – No determination made yet. BD.
 - iv. 5 and Under – Mayfield has volunteered but discussion held regarding setting up a rotation for the 5 and Under event and bonspiel format. Mayfield proposed the dates of February 11-13 for the GLC 5 and Under.

8. Governance

- a. Proposed Bylaws Changes. Proposed bylaws changes were distributed in April to the Board to review. Discussion held regarding the bylaw changes being necessitated by changes to the USCA bylaws on the selection of a director from our region and from the Midwest Curling Association (“MCA”) region. The motion was made to accept the bylaws and seconded and was passed.
- b. SafeSport Compliance Reminder. A SafeSport Compliance Reminder was made to refresh your SafeSport Compliance online and discussion held re some issues regarding when getting the renewal done.

9. Election of Officers

- a. Nominations. Marty Lemert is stepping down as Secretary. Kara Girvin submitted as a nominee for Secretary. No other nominations were entertained. Other officers were interested in continuing to serve: Mike Moore – at large. Ben Levy – as President. Tammy Hoffman – as Treasurer and Sandra Takata as Vice President.
- b. Vote. A new slate of officers was voted in with Paul Badgero abstaining.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2021 with a goal to try and do a live meeting. Cincinnati volunteered to be available for it, although they probably won't have ice.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.