

**Minutes of the GLCA Meeting
April 25, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 1:03 p.m.

Present via Zoom:

Bowling Green: Scott Piroth; Phil Gohr;
Cincinnati: Jonathan Penney
Circle City: Tammy Hoffman; Rodney Ewing
Cleveland Skate Club: Kara Girvin
Columbus: Mike Coulter
Copper Country: Rob Handler
Curl Troy: Paul Robinson
Derby City: Brett Curry
Detroit: Paul Badgero, Bret Jackson
Fort Wayne: Martha Lemert
Great Smoky Mountain: Sandra Takata
Kalamazoo: Ben Levy
Mayfield: Michael Moore; Debra Horn
Midland: Michael Graves; Fred Strautman
No representatives from Lansing, Lewiston, Petoskey or Traverse City

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved from the September 28, 2019, meeting at the Fort Wayne Curling Club.

3. Regional Updates and Club Updates/Commentary

Regional Update: Congratulations offered to the teams representing the Region at the National Club Championships with the highlight of gold for the ladies and the excellent performance of junior teams with three qualifying from the Region for U-18s. Discussion was held regarding the cancellation of many national events such as mixed nationals, U-18 and other championships in light of the pandemic.

National Update. Courtney Schmidt spoke about USA Curling's coronavirus response and efforts to set up a webinar series to better engage the curling community and to encourage growth. Discussed the new CEO and his efforts to reach out to the general curling community using Zoom stacking to connect with members. USCA office is currently running but people have stay-at-home orders in place through May 25. There is one person in the office each day. Courtney reported that the National High Performance Director's title is changing to Sports

Performance and Development with more focus on general improvement in general curling performance and development, not just on high performance.

Clubs:

a. Bowling Green

Bowling Green lost three weeks of its season but has all of its spiels on schedule for next year and will be hosting the USWCA 5 and under.

b. Cincinnati

Lost six weeks of its season and one bonspiel but experienced growth in membership and a successful November spiel with the opening of its dedicated facility.

c. Circle City

Two to three weeks were lost and instead of refunding members, moved money left over from league fees into dedicated ice fund, which is over \$200,000. Discussions underway with a developer in Whitestown to break ground in September, 2020 for dedicated ice.

d. Cleveland Skate Club

Its January bonspiel sold out in ten days, but it lost six weeks of ice time on its season with the pandemic.

e. Columbus

Columbus lost about six weeks of season and two spiels as well as multiple corporate outings, totaling about \$10,000 in loss, but its membership is up to 233 and for now has plans to start on time in the fall.

f. Copper Country

Reports a steady number of members at 63. They lost a couple of weeks of their season, but is engaged in multiple facility improvements, including more bathrooms, and is planning on hosting a Copper Spiel in mid-January of next year.

g. Curl Troy

Curl Troy lost nine weeks out of the spring season but had many people come to curl outdoors in the winter and had a very successful winter season.

h. Derby City

Lost three weeks of season but is up to just under 60 members, held leagues for the first time this year and is still working to improve ice on the arena.

i. Detroit

Detroit canceled the last several weeks of its season including the last spiel event. Detroit successfully hosted the GLCA playdowns, a very competitive event topped off by the women from Detroit winning club nationals.

j. Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne reported losing about three weeks of season and corporate events as well as its closing spiel losing about \$10,000 in estimated revenue. It's opening season in the new facility was otherwise successful with increased membership and a developing junior program.

k. Great Smoky Mountains

Great Smoky lost some league play and canceled the Rocky Top Open for June.

l. Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo lost the last two weeks of league. It has on its calendar the Cash Spiel for October 2-4, but has not yet finalized the Beer Spiel in November.

m. Lansing

No report, but word is they have asked for better ice time from their arena.

n. Lewiston

Lewiston held its international spiel which was well attended.

o. Mayfield

Mayfield had to melt its ice early and lost out on its last spiel in the old club and many of the planned events surrounding it's move to new space. Lease negotiations are ongoing for new ice in the fall.

p. Midland

Midland reported that its men's team that went to club nationals were quite sick but no one was tested for Covid-19 due to lack of available test. The club lost three weeks of the season, but overall had a successful year highlighted by very successful junior teams, Team Weldy and Team Strouse.

- q. Petoskey

No report.

- r. Traverse City

They are continuing in their efforts on dedicated ice, had to cancel their Cherry Bonspiel due to the pandemic.

4. Audit/Finance Report

- a. Treasurer's report was handed out. Questions were asked about stipends issued, one of which was for the ladies team that won at club nationals. Another stipend issued to the U-18 team may need recouping as U-18 nationals did not occur. Overall there is a healthy balance in the checking account of over \$30,000. Some discussion was held regarding the rocks that are being rented out and to follow up with folks from Alpena regarding one of the sets of new rocks and getting rental for the same. Treasurer's report was accepted.

5. Membership

- a. New Club Update.

- i. Alpena. Members of the Detroit Club went up to hold multiple learn to curls where they had at least 75 people. Discussion was held regarding possibly holding a spiel in August which may or may not occur depending upon the pandemic. Discussion also held regarding the two old sets of rocks being used by Alpena needing to be replaced by the GLCA.
- ii. Grand Rapids. Some preliminary discussions and phone calls with people from the Grand Rapids area were held, but it's really only a paper club at this point.
- iii. Nashville. Information that there are people in Nashville that are interested in possibly jumping to dedicated ice, but no formal overtures have been made with the GLCA.

- b. Stone Rental Update.

- i. Traverse City still wants to keep one set of the new rocks for one more season at \$500. Alpena has the other set of new rocks and they will be charged \$300 as a newer club unless there is another club that is a member of the GLCA that wants to rent them.
- ii. Some discussion was held regarding review of the current inventory and locations of sets and the possibility of purchasing additional sets, including used sets from Canada. Ben Levy, Bret Jackson and Fred Strautman will form a committee to

discuss and strategize about getting some new or used sets for use and rental by the GLCA.

- c. Bonspiel Promotion/Pin Program. Discussion held regarding whether or not to phase out the pins as back inventory has not been labeled with the year and sent out despite reminders, and there has not been a large demand from curlers for them. Scott Piroth is putting together the list of the bonspiels and discussion was held regarding the lack of bonspiels put up on the USA Curling website and the need to get our bonspiel dates out there for people to put on their itineraries and get sign-ups in the event spiels will be able to resume in the fall.
- d. Explore New Programs. Discussion was held regarding possibly setting up new programs for juniors, developing junior programs and other training programs regionally.

6. Championship/Rules

- a. 2020-2021 Host Sites.
 - i. Men's/Women's Clubs – Midland. Midland discussed the caveat of being a city building and whether or not any shelter-in-place orders would be in place next year preventing them from being able to use the facility. More discussion will be held regarding that at a later time as we get closer to next season.
 - ii. Mixed – Kalamazoo. Still set as mixed championship host.
 - iii. U-18 – TBD. Undetermined but Fort Wayne indicated a willingness to host the event if there are no other available clubs. Discussion was held regarding juniors – that changes will be coming up to the junior championships.
 - iv. 5 and Under – Set for Columbus.
- b. 2021-2022 Host Sites.
 - i. Men's/Women's Clubs – Bowling Green. The Men's/Women's Club Championships are still scheduled for Bowling Green. Discussion held regarding potentially splitting club championships to two separate clubs if team sign ups continue to rise. Additional discussion held regarding round robin and triple knock-out formats.
 - ii. Mixed - Lewiston. The mixed will be in Lewiston.
 - iii. U-18 – TBD. Not determined.
 - iv. 5 and Under – TBD. Not determined but discussion held regarding setting up regular rotation schedule for both U-18 and 5 and Under events.

7. Governance

- a. Combined GLCA and Midwest USCA Director.
 - i. Joint Nomination Committee. Bylaws need to be revised prior to the next meeting to deal with the changes of the USCA Bylaws involving the nomination of a director to the USCA Board from both the Illinois and the GLCA regions. A committee set up of Sandra Takata, Martha Lemert and Debra Horn will go over and draft revisions to the bylaws. Discussion was held regarding having some form of joint nominating committee set up between the two regions wherein an attempt is made to reach an agreement on a joint nominee. Discussion was held regarding Courtney's current term coming up and the fact that she was just recently re-nominated to serve as Chairwoman of the USCA Board will thus be our representative for the next two years.
 - ii. Bylaws Update. Committee will draft bylaw revisions for distribution and review by the Board prior to the next meeting. Current GLCA bylaws in the USCA director process set forth in Section 22 are mooted in light of the changes to the USCA Bylaws which take precedence.
- b. SafeSport Compliance. The SafeSport update was distributed. Additional information is pending from USA Curling. It is a reminder for everyone to get their updates done online or to get into compliance on the SafeSport training.

8. New Business

Traverse City, in setting up their dedicated facility, has sought to use the name "Great Lakes Curling Center" and is asking for intellectual property purposes whether GLCA has any objection to the use of this name. Traverse City indicates they will have a link to the Great Lakes Curling Association and direct inquiries to us that are related to regional activities. No objections noted.

Discussion held regarding the pandemic and its impact upon curling in the upcoming year and how to conduct social distancing with leagues, bonspieling or with competition play. Decision was held to hold another zoom meeting at the end of June to talk specifically about those issues in preparation for the upcoming season. This Zoom meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 27th.

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 26th at 1:00 pm and is likely to also be another virtual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.