



## **Iowa Lacrosse Association Board Meeting**

Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 7:00 pm - Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Beech Turner (West Des Moines), Sean Mahoney (Waukee), Marc Schulman (Ames), Jeff Kueter (Iowa City), Bruce Maxwell (Ames), Dave Hankins (Ankeny), and Vince McGee (Quad Cities). Guests included Edie DePhillips (West Des Moines), Max Gula (ISU club president), and Caden Link (ISU club VP).

Meeting was called to order by Beech at 7:07 pm. A quorum of members were present.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Approval of the June annual meeting minutes was tabled for a later date. Jeff advised the minutes couldn't be approved until next year's annual meeting. Beech will research.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bruce advised we have \$3,971.75 in the bank account with no recent expenditures and a few small deposits from the TryLax clinic registration fees. One member club owes \$228.83 in officials fees and is being collected. Beech said there would be USA Lacrosse expense for any unused TryLax sticks from the upcoming September clinic.

### **Old Business**

**TryLax Clinic** – Beech advised that the September 14 & 16 clinic registration was open and that to date 11 new players had registered. He asked participating clubs to help promote the clinic as their own new player recruiting effort. Jeff drew the board's attention to some recent emails from ILAX to the participating central Iowa clubs that outline steps they can take to promote including reacting to ILAX Facebook posts, club-wide emails, and running FB ads for their club's territory.

Dave asked about the ability of each participating club to recruit registered players in their territory, Beech said that information is being captured that will allow ILAX to pass that information onto each club after the event. Beech reminded those clubs of their commitment to support the event with coaches and volunteers, and all responded that they were planning on it. The extent of support necessary will be known as we get closer to the event and see what the registration numbers look like.

**Summer camps feedback** – Some discussion ensued about the lacrosse camps & clinics that took place this summer. Beech said that the Nike Accelerate Camp on July 12-15 in Grimes had over 40 boys registered, but unfortunately overlapped with the PLL clinic for boys & girls on July 13 in Ankeny. The Nike camp was set up without ILAX members' prior notice and Ankeny was unaware of the conflict when they made arrangements for the PLL clinic. Beech emphasized the importance of communication and coordination to try to prevent conflicts from happening in the future.

Ankeny Parks & Rec held a lacrosse camp this summer. Also, Jeff said that Kingfisher had multiple summer sessions for their players as well with excellent turn-outs.

**ILAX committees** – In an effort to recruit more volunteers from member clubs to help with the work of ILAX, the board has discussed the prospect of setting up committees made up of such volunteers. Jeff & Bruce will be coming back to the board with more specific ideas with the hope the committees can be up and running before next spring season. Beech appealed to the board members to identify people from their own clubs that would be willing to serve and would make good committee members.

## **New Business**

**Fall Ball Plans** – Waukee, Ankeny, Kingfisher and WDM plan to have fall ball seasons. Ames will have a Flex Six format event. Jeff reported that Quad Cities and Dubuque had no fall plans at this point. Britt Mitchell reported earlier that Meskwaki has no fall plans due to his football coaching responsibilities. At the outset of fall ball in early September, clubs will have a better idea of their numbers and hope to arrange some games or scrimmages.

The board briefly discussed the uptick in COVID cases especially with youth. Marc advised that with the state curtailment of mandates, there was little uniformly an organization can do except encourage parents & players to use good judgment. Edie echoed that approach and said WDM planned to do the same. If you're a coach or player, and don't feel well, stay home. If you've been knowingly exposed, get tested and if positive, quarantine yourself and

advise those you may have exposed. Also, fall sports in schools are proceeding as normal as schools will be open.

**2021-22 Budget** – Beech advised the the Board they will need to start to consider ILAX budgetary needs for the upcoming year. Bruce will begin to outline a potential budget and share in advance of the next meeting. The goal is to advise clubs on expected ILAX membership fees before they set their spring registration fees.

**Officials Recruitment & Training** – Beech reported that he and Kevin Hawn recently met virtually with Bob Hoffer of Omaha, our area’s USA Lacrosse Officials Development coordinator for the men’s game. They discussed the need for more officials in Iowa and that current Iowa-based officials still need to be fully credentialed. Bob also said that existing officials needed annual refresher training and rules updates going forward.

They also talked about arranging for training this fall. Bob plans to hold multiple virtual classrooms and an on-field training opportunity during the October 15-17 weekend in Omaha. He said he would also try to come to Des Moines before then to observe any scrimmages we might arrange with new officials from Iowa.

Beech said that around 30 existing and potential officials candidates have been identified, and that he and Kevin planned to reach out to them to let them know about possible upcoming training this fall, and to gauge the interest of potential candidates going forward. Beech closed by citing the need to redouble ILAX’s efforts to recruit candidates to the women’s game, and that will probably fall to a new ILAX committee to tackle.

**Miscellaneous** – Beech advised the board that there was a recent inquiry from a coach representing a youth football league in Carroll, Iowa about offering lacrosse to area kids. Beech followed up and offered ILAX support and also introduced the coach to Shawn Maloney of USAL.

Beech was also contacted by a representative from the new sports facility being built in Grimes asking about future lacrosse field space needs. He was told fields would be ready for next season, and they planned to line the fields for lacrosse especially if area clubs were to rent space. Beech asked the rep to send more info which he would share with area clubs.

Finally, Beech reminded the board of its commitment to approach member clubs about meeting with their individual club board during the upcoming year. Such meetings would improve communication with member clubs and the broader lacrosse community.

**Next Meeting - Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.**

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm with a motion to adjourn by Marc seconded by Jeff.