



Iowa Lacrosse Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 7:00 pm - Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Beech Turner (West Des Moines), Sean Mahoney (Waukee), Jeff Kueter (Kingfisher), Dave Hankins (Ankeny), Vince McGee (Quad Cities), and Britt Mitchell (Meskwaki). Al Palensky of Iowa City was a special guest.

Meeting was called to order by Beech Turner at 7:05 pm.

Minutes Approval

The February meeting minutes were approved with Jeff Kueter making the motion to approve and Vince McGee seconding.

Treasurer's Report

Beech advised that the Association has \$4160.60 in its checking account. No major expenditures anticipated over the next 30 days although activity may pick up with the start of the ILAX Youth League in April as the Association collects and pays out officials and trainer fees.

Old Business

New Officials Training

Beech said that online training for new mens officials has been completed, but sessions are archived for those that couldn't attend all sessions. Kevin Hawn updated Beech recently that he thought 5 new Iowa-based officials had taken the training. Need to find an opportunity to do on-field evaluations yet this spring. Beech said that Meghan Gruver advised that WDM board member and girls manager, Paul O'Connell, completed some recent women's game training and they both were reaching out to a couple more candidates.

Spring Season Preparations

Clubs that had HS teams reported they were underway with their seasons and continuing to gear up for their Youth seasons. Additional details shared:

West Des Moines – Beech reported that the club has 124 registrations to date. Have 32 HS Boys players and will field both Varsity & JV teams with some swing players. Also plan to field U10, U12 and U14 Boys and MS & Youth Girls. A few Adel girls (7th & 8th grade) plan to register with WDM this season, and as the Roosevelt HS Girls are not playing this spring, interested girls have been invited to join WDM too.

Waukee – Sean reports that their club has just over 100 boys registered and roughly 30-35 HS players. They are also planning for U10, U12, and U14 Boys teams, and may have enough for two U12 & U14 squads. Outdoor HS practices are just starting.

Ankeny – Dave Hankins advised that registration numbers look good. Good HS Boys numbers similar to WDM and Waukee's and Girls HS teams have decent numbers. They also plan to field U10, U12 and U14 Boys teams.

Ames – Per Bruce Maxwell's update after the meeting, the club does not have the numbers for any Youth teams this spring, but are planning to have a HS Boys JV team.

Iowa City/Cedar Rapids (Kingfisher) – Jeff Kueter told the board the new club has 20-25 regular practice attendees and a wide variety of ages. He is hoping to have up to 40 boys total in their first season. He expects to field 14U and 12U teams, and will look for ways to get players from other age groups involved.

Quad Cities – Vince McGee reported that the club got a slow start with registrations through their new USL website. Hopes to have HS Boys & Girls and U14 & U12 Boys & Girls. Unsure of U10 prospects. Said the club has good field space with Bettendorf Parks & Rec.

Dubuque – The club was not represented so no details were available.

Meskwaki – Britt Mitchell said registrations have been slow, but that they hope to field a Boys U12 and possibly a U14 team. He may also have some younger U10 boys and Youth girls that want to participate too. He said he may open registrations to students from Tama-Toledo School District.

ILAX Spring Youth League – Vince advised that St. Ambrose University is unable to host a jamboree on May 1-2 due to lack of field space. Jeff reminded the board that Solon Parks & Rec and the Kingfisher club are anxious to host and would look into whether May 1-2 works for field space.

Sean had earlier shared a tentative schedule outline for 14U/12U/10U Boys and the board felt we could continue to work with that going forward knowing it would need to be tweaked as club registration results became more clear. The games are mostly on Saturdays and begin April 10 and end the second weekend in June. It is unclear whether the Meskwaki Settlement will be open to hosting a jamboree in early June, and Britt hoped to communicate with the Tribal Council during the week of March 15 to see if that would work.

Iowa Games – Dave continues to handle our participation in the upcoming competition for U10, U12 and U14 Boys. Some discussion about when to schedule the games, either June 5 or June 12 in Ankeny. Dave is working with Ankeny Parks & Rec to see what would ideally work for scheduling, but needs to be clarified soon.

New Business

Slack Connection app – Al Palensky made a short presentation to the board about this direct messaging platform that he and the Kingfisher Lacrosse organization are using. Jeff Kueter also was supportive of the software saying they both thought ILAX and member clubs could use as a planning and collaboration tool. The board was open to trying the software amongst board members, and Jeff will come back to the board with trial set-up.

TryLax event – Beech reminded the board of the US Lacrosse grant ILAX received for calendar year 2021. He will talk more to Shawn Maloney of US Lacrosse about getting this set up for an event in central Iowa probably in early September. He hopes to have more details for the April meeting.

Annual Meeting – Beech reminded the board about the pending annual June meeting where officers are nominated and elected. Directors would be starting the second year of a two year term. Unclear whether the meeting will be virtual or in-person. More discussion to follow.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with a motion from Sean, and seconded by Dave.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm via Zoom