

VANCOUVER THUNDERBIRDS HOCKEY Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Hellenic Centre, 4500 Arbutus Street
June 19, 2017

1. Call to Order

The Annual General Meeting of the VANCOUVER THUNDERBIRDS HOCKEY was called to order at 7:10 pm on June 19, 2017 in the meeting room at the Hellenic Centre, 4500 Arbutus Street, Vancouver, by the President of the Board of Directors, Chantal Cotton. Forty-seven (47) members were officially registered.

2. Introductions

Chantal Cotton, President, welcomed all present to the AGM and introduced Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey staff, Board members and guests:

Staff Members: Tanya Foley
Natasha Breland
Chris Eliopoulos
Mike Todd (absent)
Trevor Boudreau (absent)

Board Members: Angelique Blunk
Frank Nishi
Michael Goehring
Steve Gully
Steve Yan Klassen

Special Guests: Leanne Smith – Managing Director Presidents “C” League - PCAHA
Rob Nasato – President, New Westminster MHA
Kristine Simpson – BDO Audit Partner

Cotton recognized Past President Dan Tung and Director of Rep, Bruce Weisner, for their time and commitment to the Board. Both had resigned their positions during the course of the season to focus on other aspects of life. As well, Cotton thanked Joyce Gillespie (Associate Director Recreational and Dan Miller, who are not seeking re-election to the Board, for their service and leadership to Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey over the past two years.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to adopt the 2017 AGM agenda as circulated.

Motion: Chantal Cotton

Seconded: Peter Tolensky

Approved

3. Approval of Minutes from 2016 AGM

Motion to adopt the 2016 AGM minutes as circulated.

Motion: Chantal Cotton

Seconded: Steve Gully

Approved

4. Awards

Seven Thunderbirds were selected as very deserving recipients of the Dale Cheney Scholarship. Congratulations to:

- Christos Cunning
- Dimitri Cunning
- Jackson Aitken
- Jared Lynd
- Mitchell Barret
- Nolan Lee
- Ryan Carrusca

5. AGM Presentation

President's Report

Cotton gave recognition to significant Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey events as well as individual and volunteer accomplishments over the past year:

- Highlights from on the ice:
 - Initiation: September Jamboree, Family Day Weekend Initiation Tournament
 - Recreational: 12 teams played in Championship Days (5 winners), 3 PCAHA team achievement selections
 - Rep: 5 teams made Final 4, 3 President's Series Winners
 - Thunderbirds hosted two Midget Scholarship Games
 - Officiating Program: 15 supervisors including 6 new, 2 new leadership positions created, Hockey Canada Officiating Award recipients - Rupert Xu (Most Deserving Official) and Megan Howes (Most Promising Official)

- Highlights from off the ice:
 - Fundraising initiatives: Athletix and Thunderball helped raise over \$80,000 for the program
 - Partnership with Cyclone Taylor (clothing/store discounts)
 - Community Events: UBC Thunderbird Winter Classic and Scotiabank Hometown Hockey Jersey reveal
 - Governance Priorities - new mantra, mission, vision, values were unveiled with official launch to occur at the start of the season
 - Staffing updates: new Executive Director (Tanya Foley), Mike Todd focusing on Recreational division, and departure of Jim Strang
 - Updates from BC Hockey AGM (cross ice hockey, alternate season discussions, multi-sport athlete, Coach 1 certification, 100 year logo launch, 2019 World Junior Hockey Championships)

Cotton identified the projects that will be focused on over the summer and the start of the 2017-18 season:

- Summer camp program now available for registration
- Rep tryout information to be distributed by end of June - will be starting August 26th as previously communicated
- Balancing of teams process being reviewed to develop consistent approach across divisions
- Different approach to on-ice skill oversight with Jim's departure - contracts with on-ice skills providers currently being negotiated and will be communicated once complete
- New T-Birds website will be launched on the TeamSnap platform
- Thunderbirds Manager Support Network is being developed to assist our team managers at all levels
- Coach informational seminars will occur throughout the year
- Start of season informational sessions will be held for players, parents, coaches and team managers
- T-Birds will host coach and officiating clinics

- BC Societies Act transition will continue to ensure compliance in advance of the November 2018 deadline
- A higher focus will be placed on community involvement across the organization
- Enhanced resources in Safety and Risk areas (concussion, mental health, anti-bullying, etc)

Questions from the membership:

- Various questions around information about and expected impact of St. George's starting a hockey academy. Information provided by Cotton, Tanya Foley and guest Rob Nasato.
 - St. George's will play in the Canadian Sport Schools Hockey League (CSSHL) and, along with all the other academy programs, will not play against Thunderbird teams. They will recruit from within the Thunderbirds and the expectation is the impact will be felt slightly higher in the initial stages of the program until they become more established and their draw will expand across Canada and internationally (northern USA and potentially overseas). As of the time of the AGM, ten athletes had requested transfers to St. George's. The reality of the situation is that the academy system is endorsed by Hockey Canada and it will remain as an option for players. Our goal is to ensure we provide a quality program for the players that do not wish to pursue the academy option, many of whom simply cannot do so due to financial requirements.
- Why do we need to offer balanced teams in recreational as opposed to tiering to allow for later starting players to have an easier transition? Information provided by guest Leanne Smith and Cotton.
 - Pacific Coast does not tier due to large associations, such as the Thunderbirds, would ice too many teams in comparison to other smaller associations. This would mean teams would not have other teams to play.
 - Cotton added the association will be exploring programs such as First Shift and alternative seasons that could create stronger skill development for those players coming late to the sport.

6. Director Reports

Cotton referred to various Director reports distributed, and asked members for any questions or comments on those reports. No questions were asked or comments made by members.

7. Financials

Frank Nishi, Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Secretary/Treasurer, provided a summary of the financial statements. Highlights reported included the organization is in a strong financial position with a strong reserve of \$181,000. The 2016-17 season finalized with net revenues over expenses of \$10,822. For the 2017-18 season, a break-even budget is being developed.

A question was raised regarding the decrease in net revenue over expenses from the previous two seasons. Nishi and Steve Gully identified that standard operating practices for a non-profit organization is to operate a break-even budget. The current reserve is being held in the event that the organization were not to receive the gaming grant, a program that is not a guarantee as it is government directed funding. While we have received this grant for many years and have no indication it will be altered, the reserve was built to the current level to strengthen the association's position. As a non-profit organization, if our reserve is a

significant amount or we continually bring in excessive revenues over expenses, we will be questioned both by the government and BC Societies.

Kristine Simpson from BDO next summarized the work and findings of the financial audit conducted by BDO. In common with many charitable organizations, Vancouver Thunderbirds Minor Hockey Association derives revenue from donations and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donations and fundraising revenues, excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2017 and 2016, current assets as at March 31, 2017 and 2016, and net assets as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2017 and 2016 years. In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Vancouver Thunderbirds Minor Hockey Association as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

8. Board of Directors Elections

Nominating Committee Report

Paul Langley, Chair of the Nominating Committee, described the process followed by the Nominating Committee in identifying suitable candidates for Board positions. The Committee was comprised of representatives from the membership along with three current non-renewing Board members (Steve Gully, Angelique Blunk and Frank Nishi). It reviewed the current Board membership, determined the skill sets needed by the Board going forward, and reviewed Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey membership for suitable candidates. The committee came up with a list of five suitable candidates for Board positions.

Steve Yan Klassen reported that there were five open positions and that the Board had reviewed the list of candidates brought forward from the nominating committee and approved all five as a slate to be put forward to the membership.

Request for any additional candidates from the floor was offered. None was received.

The five candidates put forward by the nominations committee were identified: Chantal Cotton, Baukje Edamura, Grant Gibson, Bruce Gregg and Peter Tolensky. Backgrounds for these candidates were included in the 2017 Annual General Meeting information package.

Motion to elect the above five candidates named by the nominations committee.

Motion: Steve Yan Klassen

Seconded: Steve Gully

Majority approval

9. Other Business

Peter Tolensky recognized the significant efforts of the previous Board who had brought the association to a better position.

Steve Gully announced a partnership with Cyclone Taylor has been reached in order to offer a full starter package of equipment for new to hockey players. Packages will be offered at a

starting price of \$270 plus tax (without skates) and \$325 plus tax (with skates) and pieces can be exchanged for higher priced items with the appropriate upcharge.

A member suggested the Thunderbirds explore the opportunity to conduct an equipment swap. This will be investigated.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion Chantal Cotton Seconded: Steve Yan Klassen

Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.