

**Russell Minor Hockey Association  
AGM Meeting Minutes  
May 7th 2024 - 6:00pm  
Russell Arena, Frank Kinnaird Hall**

<b>President</b>	Joey Abrams	<b>Director, U7</b>	Ryan Licari
<b>VP, House</b>	Jon Gillard	<b>Dir.; Ice Scheduler</b>	Christie Brock
<b>VP, Competitive</b>	<del>Dave Astephan</del>	<b>Dir.; Equipment</b>	Darren Page
<b>Past President</b>	<del>Yves Roy</del>	<b>Dir.; Merchandise</b>	Al Garneau
<b>Treasurer</b>	J.F. Gagne	<b>Dir.; Webmaster</b>	<del>Devon Kunkel</del>
<b>Secretary</b>	Carrie Asselin	<b>Dir.; Special Events</b>	Michelle Macland
<b>Registrar</b>	Amanda Nixon	<b>Convenor; U18-U21</b>	Vacant
<b>GHA Convenor</b>	Tricia Zakaria	<b>Convenor; U13-U15</b>	Jennifer Bergeron
<b>Dir.; Comm. &amp; Sponsor</b>	Angela Giekle	<b>Convenor; U9-U11</b>	Jolene Silva
<b>Dir.; Disc. Risk and Safety</b>	Josh Nixon	<b>Coach Mentor</b>	Vacant

1. Call to Order and Attendance; Meeting Start Time: 6:08pm
  
2. Approval of Minutes from AGM 2023
  - a. Motion: Michelle Macland, Second: Josh Nixon - All in Favor, Carried
  
3. Business arising from Minutes of Last Meeting (nothing to report)
  
4. Awards Presentation – Joey Abrams
  - a. Coach Phil Sportsmanship Award Winner; Grayson Thoms, U11C
  - b. Peter Kruys Volunteer Appreciation Award Winner; Billy Magee
  - c. Coach of the Year Winner; Tricia Zakaria
  
5. Presentation of Financial Reports – J.F. Gagne

The 2023-24 season was a great success both on and off the ice. The RMHA Board experienced a few changes within its ranks but it was able to deliver on its programs, tournaments and events. For the past season, the association is reporting a provisional deficit of \$6.5K, which represents 3% of our operation budget. The Board had planned for a \$8.5K deficit to start the season, to be able to keep the registration fees as low as possible. The Board is

committed to continuing to run an efficient hockey program while keeping the cost of minor hockey one of the lowest in the region, to enable kids of all ages to enjoy the game.

Registration fees for the 2024-25 season are still not set but the association is planning on keeping the fees relatively stable for the next season by identifying cost categories where we could find savings to maintain a good financial position for next year. The Board is actively looking at potential new revenue streams to cover some of the new costs. The RMHA still has funding available from the funding received from the Kin Club for the purchase of new equipment and jerseys for the association. For the start of the 2024-25 season, the balance of the fund is \$34K, which will help the association renew sets of new hockey jerseys for certain age groups.

As with every year, the tournaments were a very important part of our revenues. Luckily, we were able to once again host 2 tournaments and 1 U7 Jamboree this season. These events help the association keep the fees to one of the lowest in the district. These revenues also help to cover the cost of player development clinics. Run exclusively by volunteers, the RMHA tournaments are known to be one of the best tournaments in the Region and that is thanks to all the volunteers that participate in these events.

On the expense side, as usual the biggest item was ice rental, which accounts for 63% of the RMHA's cost. Other significant costs to the association for 2023-24 were the GHA fees (8%), HEO Minor Insurance fees (8%). By reviewing different suppliers who provide registration system, the Association was able to reduce its registration maintenance cost by 50%, reducing the cost from \$12K to \$6K.

I also take this time to thank my fellow Board Members for their continuous support during this past year.

The year-end financial statements will be posted on the Association's website later in June.

## 6. Hockey Operations Reports

a. VP: House League - Jon Gillard (full report issued by email to Membership dated April 6th, Year-End Message)

b. VP; Competitive – Dave Astephen (absent, no report received)

c. Director; U7 – Ryan Licari

Just prior to Easter, we wrapped up another successful U7 hockey season.

From when we first took the ice in mid-September till end of March, the progress each of these players have made has been truly amazing. For some kids it was stepping on the ice for the very first time at our first practice to being able to play in a scrimmage in our final ice time. For other kids, it was returning for a final U7 season to continue to develop fundamental hockey skills so they could progress to the more competitive U9 program next season.

None of this would have been possible without a great group of local volunteers. A special thanks to the 4 head coaches (B- level; Chris & Matt, A- level; Phil & Jeff) plus the numerous assistant coaches, trainers and managers. There are many hours that go into planning these practices, setting up scrimmages and fun days, in addition to the actual on ice time with the kids.

We once again hosted our Russell U7 funday this past December. It was a great success again. A big thank you to all the U7 families for stepping up with donations and volunteer hours. There was lots of positive feedback from the visiting teams. We were able to raise some money for the RMHA as well as the 4 U7 teams.

One of the main objectives of the U7 program is to keep the kids engaged and having fun so they want to continue to play hockey moving forward. We once again this year were able to find a few off ice activities throughout the year to add the fun. The U7 program once again this year entered a float into the Russell Santa Clause parade. Kids were invited to help decorate then ride in the float during the parade. A special thanks to Chris for providing a truck and float again for us this year. We were able to participate in some Fundays outside of our Russell one. The teams attended one of the association nights at an Ottawa Senators game this year and last but not least, the teams attended a 67's game where they were also invited to play a mini game on the ice before the game and during the first intermission. A special thanks to Karine for organizing that for our U7 program.

Moving forward in the years to come, we want to continue to emphasize teaching the beginner fundamentals for hockey players while finding fun ways to do so. By doing this, it keeps kids coming back, attracts new players to the program and develops good hockey players when they move on to the next levels of their hockey journeys.

7. Constitutional Amendments/Ratify By-Law Changes (nothing to report)

8. Election of Directors and Officers as nominated by members in good standing \*\*Amendment from posted nominations to date: Jamie Cote removed from VP ballot and Jason Gillies removed from Sponsorship and Communications ballot - both positions are 2nd year of two-year terms

a. President: Matt Dickie

b. VP; House League: Jon Gillard, position held - Acclaimed

c. Registrar: Shaunna Lucas

d. Director, Special Events: Michelle Macland, position held - Acclaimed

- e. Director, Equipment: Darren Page, position held - Acclaimed
- f. GHA Convenor: Tricia Zakaria, position held - Acclaimed
- g. Director; Web Services: Chris Stanton
- h. VP Competitive: Chris Burns (ballot vote)
- i. Director of Sponsorship and Communications: Jamie Cote

## 9. President's Address - Joey Abrams

Dear Warriors,

As I leave my role as President of our beloved RMHA, I am filled with a mixture of emotions—gratitude, pride, and a touch of nostalgia. Serving alongside each and every one of you has been an honor and a privilege, and I am writing this letter to express my deepest thanks for your unwavering support and dedication over the years.

To our players, coaches, and parents: Thank you for being the heartbeat of our association. Your passion for the game, your determination to succeed, and your unwavering commitment to sportsmanship have been the driving force behind our success. It has been a joy to watch each of you grow and develop both on and off the ice, and I am immensely proud of all that you have accomplished.

To our volunteers: You are the unsung heroes of our association, the backbone upon which everything else rests. From organizing events to managing finances, from running team logistics and working time clocks, your hard work and selflessness have not gone unnoticed. You have given your time, your energy, and your hearts to this association, and I am forever grateful for your tireless efforts. You are all truly Warriors.

To my fellow board members: It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals. Together, we have faced challenges head-on, made tough decisions, and celebrated countless victories. Your wisdom, guidance, and camaraderie have been invaluable to me, and I am grateful for the companionship we have formed along the way. The job continues in earnest with fresh new faces and a new found determination to continue improving on our already a great association.

I want to give a special thanks to our departing board members.

Thank you to Dave Astephan who provided balance and calm in a very difficult situation where we lost one of our most knowledgeable and hard-working volunteers. Dave stepped in and didn't miss a beat from the start of the season to now and leaves his role in a strong place as we continue to grow the Canucks brand.

Thank you to Devon Kunkle who served two terms on the board as U7 director and most recently the Director of Web Services. Devon changed the way we provided our program to the U7's in an effective meaningful way providing insightful development techniques to produce great young talent to which we are just beginning to see the fruit of. He followed that up by revamping our online systems which have become more streamlined and user friendly for our board. His efforts will ring through years to come.

Thank you to Amanda Nixon who took on one of the tougher roles of the board as our registrar for the last two terms. Professionally speaking, her work ethic and attention to detail was paramount in getting us through COVID and out on top after the pandemic to numbers we have never seen before at the RMHA. Personally, it's no secret that Amanda and I have not always seen eye to eye on all the items we discussed over our years together. However, there may not be anyone, inside of hockey or out, who I have grown a deeper respect for through our disagreements. Thank you for all your hard work, Amanda. This board will miss you immensely.

Thank you to Angela Oickle who has served on the board for the better part of a decade in multiple rolls. No matter the task at hand Ang always found a way to not only get the job done but done at an extremely high level. Her dedication to the kids first has been and always will be the driving force to why we do what we do as volunteers. Whether it was Special Events and running our immensely popular Breakfast Program or her countless hours behind the desk at our two

tournaments we run a year, her commitment is and has been the benchmark for our association. Ang was the recipient of the Peter Kruys Volunteer of the Year Award last year in a unanimous nomination and it speaks to her level of passion, care and love of Russell Hockey.

Finally, a very special thank you to long time Russell Warriors Head Coach, Peter Kruys. Peter's devotion to Russell Warriors hockey has transcended the game and culminated in one of the greatest careers in minor sports in the history of Canada. Spanning 50 years, Peter has touched the lives of countless individuals through his time behind the bench and has given back to his community by putting Warriors hockey and its members first for 5 decades. There isn't a more deserving human being to have our volunteer of the year award named after than Peter Kruys. As I reflect on my time as President, I am filled with gratitude for the memories we have created together—the thrilling victories, the hard-fought battles, and the countless moments of camaraderie and sportsmanship, even the back door political battles that are inevitable through minor sports. Though my time in this role may be coming to an end, my love for this association and its members will endure forever.

I leave you all in the very capable hands of long time Russell Warrior, Matt Dickie (who, by the way, was coached by Peter Kruys), knowing that the future of our association is bright. Together, I am confident that you will continue to uphold the values of teamwork, respect, and dedication that have been the hallmark of our organization for the last few years. Please remember that at the worst of times, things will get better; and at the best of times things will get worse but how you react to the people who surround us will determine the direction in which this new board steers.

Your passion knows no bounds by putting your names forward to be a part of this board and regardless of your position you are needed, you are welcome, and you are an integral part of this team.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me the privilege of serving our members as your President. It has been an honor that I will cherish always.

“Once a Warrior, always a Warrior.”

10. Adjournment; Meeting Ended 6:42pm

