

Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by CAC member Don Skoglund at 7:00 p.m.		
Members Present	Leslie Bender Harry Kennedy Joan Masberg Don Skoglund	Stephen Gill Tim Klevar Joe Piket	Lorraine Gresser Steven Maas Kevin Rebman
Members Absent	John Beacham and Bob Joiner		
Others Present	Councilmember Erik Johnson, CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz, City of Maple Grove Community Center Operations Supervisor Frank Weber, Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association President Rob Borsch, Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association Secretary Amy Lee Olson, and Maple Grove resident Adam Bedard.		
Minutes	The minutes for the August 12, 2015 meeting were approved.		
Area Reports	The question was asked and discussion took place briefly about any members having had their water meter replaced and were there any issues.		
Presentation by Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association	<p>At the CAC's invitation, two board members of the Osseo Maple Grove Hockey Association (OMGHA) were in attendance to provide a general update on association activities and to share their philosophy and approach to various factors regarding the athletes, parents and coaches.</p> <p>OMGHA President Rob Borsch and OMGHA Secretary Amy Lee Olson introduced themselves. They had a PowerPoint presentation (no handouts) and provided an overview of the association and reviewed the following topics: quality opportunities and access; skill development; traveling team tryouts; and code of conduct.</p> <p>Mr. Borsch stated that OMGHA has over 1,000 players and is the third largest association in Minnesota. He stated they use two sheets of ice at the Maple Grove Community Center and two rinks at the Osseo Ice Arena.</p> <p>Mr. Borsch stated that hockey usually starts at a young age as older kids have a harder time. He stated that OMGHA has the largest mite (under 8 years of age) program in the state with just over 500 participants.</p> <p>Mr. Borsch provided several ways in which the association is trying to make hockey affordable including offering the first time for free and providing \$100 voucher to players for equipment.</p>		

He stated they made a concentrated focus on and recruitment for the girls program. They offered girls to play for free, and the program size doubled. He stated they also offer clinics in the fall to introduce kids to hockey and get them exposed to the game.

Mr. Borsch provided an overview of OMGHA's lawful gambling which includes locations at Malone's, Wild Bill's which are both in Maple Grove and Duffy's in Osseo. He stated that lawful gambling provides around \$350,000. He provided a background of how they use the lawful gambling funds such as introducing new players to hockey; growing the girls program; increasing the number of goalies as equipment is expensive which Ms. Olson commented on; and reducing costs for all families.

Mr. Borsch stated the most expensive part of hockey is ice time. He confirmed with Frank Weber that OMGHA pays \$185 an hour for ice time at the Maple Grove Community Center.

With regard to skills development, Mr. Borsch stated they have on-ice skills sessions for boys and girls and across all levels. They will often bring in experts for the sessions. He said they also have off-ice skills sessions. Mr. Borsch stated that OMGHA recently expanded their skills committee from two members to six members.

Mr. Borsch stated that OMGHA is currently going through the coach selection process which includes parent and non-parent coaches.

With regard to traveling teams, Mr. Borsch stated they have 27 boys' teams and nine girls' teams. He said at some point OMGHA hopes to be the same size as Edina which is the largest in the state.

For the traveling team tryouts, they hire independent evaluators but provide an exception for non-parent and named coaches. He stated their tryout information is on the OMGHA website. Mr. Borsch said that lays out exactly what happens, and they try to be transparent. He stated the board's role is to make sure the tryout process is followed.

Mr. Borsch stated that OMGHA is committed to safety, and background checks are conducted on coaches, managers, locker room parents, and board members. They are done every other year through Minnesota Hockey. In addition, all involved take a three-hour Safe Sport session/refresher through USA Hockey. No one can have contact with the players or step onto the ice until that is completed.

He also stated there is a fairly basic code of conduct required by coaches, parents and players. With a first violation, the person is required to have a week away from the rink, and Mr. Bosch stated this seems to work best.

Also, 4th and 5th grade level parents are required to take a 45-minute

session through the Positive Coaching Alliance. Mr. Borsch stated this is the second year of the module and will be growing. He said OMGHA's goal is to have all parents complete it. He stated the PCA session also is required for coaches.

A variety of questions were asked of the OMGHA board members.

CAC Q: How is the ice/facility working? Is there anything they would do differently? A: OMGHA stated the Maple Grove Ice Arena is the nicest facility in the state. They hired Diane Ness, a figure skating expert, to help coaches, and she was so impressed that she recommended the facility be featured on Fox Sports North.

CAC Q: How do you determine who plays on which sheet (Osseo rinks vs. Maple Grove rinks)? A: OMGHA stated that Osseo is not as good for games as it is very cold, but they do use the east rink for games. The west sheet is mostly for practice. However, the Osseo is harder due to the cold, and they like that factor.

OMGHA said the Maple Grove facility helps them attract tournaments. He said they will host 156 teams this winter with 30 to 40 of those being from out of town. The visitors like the community and appreciate the amenities.

CAC Q: How does OMGHA teach players to check and take a hit/fall? A: OMGHA stated that is part of the skills session at all levels. They try to teach at a younger level how to take a hit/fall and provide a smart approach. Mr. Borsch stated they do have an EMT on hand at the tryouts and feel that injuries are minimal.

CAC Q: What are you most proud of? A: Mr. Borsch stated he is most proud of how many kids are playing the game.

CAC Q: What is the biggest challenge? A: Ms. Olson stated making it affordable so more kids can play. She mentioned the vouchers that parents can receive for staffing the concession stand, which is what she does, and then those can be used towards program expenses. She was also asked about the cost for goalie equipment. Ms. Olson provided an estimate of the various pieces needed, and stated that it ends up being around \$5,000.

CAC Q: Is OMGHA getting the ice time needed? A: OMGHA stated they are and talked about other options as they supplement with some space in Osseo and Brooklyn Park. Mr. Borsch stated they are pulling in some players from Brooklyn Park as Brooklyn Park has dissolved both their girls program as well as the bantam program. Should OMGHA absorb their programs, they could also probably use their ice.

CAC Q: Has OMGHA considered setting up their program similar to football and using school boundaries. A: OMGHA officials stated that hockey is not as competitive as football, and they don't see splitting up the association. If they did, the girls program would be in dire straits. Ms. Olson stated they want kids to have fun and play with their friends.

CAC Q: How do they ensure equal access to ice for travel teams as well as for in house? A: Mr. Borsch stated the most competitive teams get more ice time, but they do not get first pick on the time. He said it is maybe an hour more. He said the younger kids get the better ice times as they do not want them playing late in the evening or early morning.

CAC Q: Who plays who? A: Players in the house program play each other. Those on the traveling teams (4th through 9th grade) play other western suburbs.

CAC Q: Does the Maple Grove High School have a new coach? A: OMGHA official stated it was Todd Berglund, and the girls' coach spot is open.

CAC Q: What are some of the challenges? A: OMGHA official stated parent behavior after tryouts. Ms. Olson said that the hardest question a child should be asked after a game is what they want on their pizza. It should not be a time to analyze or talk about how they played. They do not see any big glaring problems and said it is very helpful to have good facilities and resources.

CAC Q: Do any other programs look at OMGHA lawful gambling as an example? A: Other boards have had problems. They cited St. Louis Park as an example of a successful program.

CAC Q: Does OMGHA entertain sponsorships? A: Mr. Borsch stated they have ads in programs and on the OMGHA website. They also have sponsorships for dasher boards which brings in around \$30,000 and tournaments which brings in around \$50,000.

OMGHA officials stated their organization is all volunteer, and they are very proud of that fact. Ms. Olson stated that if a family has two or more players they are required to provide 20 volunteer hours; those with one player provide 14 hours. The question was asked if people can buy out. OMGHA stated they can for \$500, and those funds then go towards the voucher program.

CAC thanked the OMGHA board members for attending.

**Area Reports
(continued)**

The request was made for additional area reports.

- Drivers, particularly those who put fliers, etc. in paper boxes,

speeding through neighborhoods.

- Door-to-door solicitors and if the City ordinance does not require them to display their license at all times, it would be recommended. (It was later determined the City requires the solicitor to display the license at all times.) In addition, it was stated that if a solicitor is overly aggressive, the Police should be able to pull their permit. Mike Opatz stated the Police Chief is planning an article on this topic for the spring edition of the City Focus newsletter.
- Request for stop sign in area of Nottingham Parkway and 77th/78th. Mike Opatz stated the Assistant City Engineer took a look at this area, and Mike will provide his email response to the group.
- CAC member Joe Picket said he received a response on his area report regarding the Maple Grove Days Parade and concerns about parental control and children's safety.

CAC Member Applications

Mike Opatz stated 13 applications were received from residents interested in being part of the Citizens Advisory Committee. He stated the committee agreed to expand their membership by up to four. He shared the applications with the committee members but stated the information is not public, and all applications must be returned at the end of the meeting.

He stated the group needs to decide on a process, the number of applicants to interview and create a timeline. He recommended narrowing the 13 applications to 8 to interview.

A map was also shared showing where the current CAC members live as well as the candidates as the group may wish to look at geographic location to help determine membership.

CAC members spent time reviewing the applications.

It was stated the November CAC meeting would be a visit from City Councilmember Judy Hanson as well as a presentation from Maple Grove Football Association.

It was decided the December 9, 2015 CAC meeting would be for interviewing applicants. Joan Masberg and Tim Klevar offered to interview any applicants who could not make the December 9th meeting if needed.

The statement was made that geographic location should be taken into account when making selections.

Mike Opatz stated that interview questions would be provided in advance.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of adding more than the up to four members the committee previously agreed upon.

The statement was made the group needs to look at the boards/commissions attendance policy recently put into place. They should also keep in mind the larger the group the more members needed for a quorum, and group has had problems getting a quorum.

The decision was made that all 13 applicants will be interviewed. The committee will break into three groups for interviewing. Applicants will be randomly assigned to the interview groups.

Applications will be provided to CAC members for their use in the interviews.

The decision was made that the group will stay with adding up to four new members but may change that after the interviews. Each group will rank their applicants and use that as a basis for discussion and decision making.

To provide for enough time for interviews, the December 9th CAC meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. There will be three interview groups—two will have four applicants and one will have five applicants. The interviews will be 15 minutes in length.

**Other Business /
Updates**

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris
Minute Secretary