

**Ottawa Pacers Annual General Meeting  
June 1, 2008  
Ron Kolbus Lakeside Gardens**

**1) Call to Order**

2:55 pm

**2) Announcement of the Number of Voting Members Present**

As per a sign in sheet there were a total of 32 voting members present at the start of the meeting. By end there were 40 voting members.

**3) Introduction of the Board of Directors**

Board introduced a motion was put forth by Jacqueline Colin-Demers to start meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marc Brisebois. Carried

**4) Review of the Agenda**

No comments and Motion put forth by Rhonda Elliot to accept agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Grant Edgar. Carried

**5) Adoption of the minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 AGM**

Ashley Thriscutt pointed out that a change to section 6 should be made to change “Sarasota” to “Saratoga”. Motion to accept the minutes as amended made by Rhonda Elliot, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martha Shires. Carried

**6) Consideration and Adoption of Reports**

i) President – Paul Landry reviewed the presidents report focusing on the changes proposed by the Sensplex that affect our new ice times and the increase in our rates. Questions then put to the floor. Steve Lappin asked what change, if any, will there be to our city ice costs. Paul responded that there is a 5% increase in city rates for ice next season. Ashley also noted that we will be saving some money as we will no longer be paying for the rental of Rocky’s room for the next 3 years. Paul also announced that he is resigning as President. Steve

Lappin also asked if the board was informed of all reports prior to the AGM. Paul responded yes. Lauren Lappin asked if we considered the change to starting the development hours to the new 4:15 time slot and the board responded that we had considered that but that coaches are not available at that time slot right now. Marc Brisbois asked if we can sublet the ice times and Paul let him know that it is not possible for us to confirm this at this time. Rick Muise motioned to accept the president's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jacqueline Colin-Demers. Carried.

ii) Meet Coordinator – Presented by Kathie Gauthier. Questions put to the floor. Colleen Walsh questioned what ideas and recommendations toward the collection of food for camps and meets are being done. Kathie informed her that it is being looked at now and will be considered at a registration item. Leslie Derro talked about how this is systematic throughout the club and the lack of response is being felt at the volunteer level as well. Jacqueline Colin-Demers motioned to accept the meet coordinator's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Bouchette. Carried.

iii) Long Track/Oval – Report was given and Paul commended Pete Gauthier on how seamlessly he performed this job after taking over for Ted Huffman. Paul also commented on how we would be increasing our skater usage of the oval next January due to the fact that we will be losing ice availability at the Sensplex then. It was also noted that we need to add that the Pacers received a \$7500.00 seed grant from Speed Skating Canada to improve the facilities and Brewer Park. With this money a snow making machine was purchased, new coaching tools were purchased and improvements were made to the safety boards. A thank you to Sheila McGinn and Tom Simper was acknowledged for putting together a successful request for funding. Gail Bouchette asked how are we addressing the issue of volunteering and she was told that we will be addressing this on another item. Grant Edgar continued the volunteer discussion and mentioned that we should be approaching it from a different point of view. That we should be looking at the positive aspects of volunteering and how we need to change the attitude to promote the positive side of it instead of trying to force or push for volunteers. Tom Shires brought up that we have a requirement for a cab on the tractor that the volunteer uses to clean the ice surfaces and surrounding areas. The board

acknowledges that we will be supporting that recommendation made by Pete in his report. Grant brought up a point that there was representation from the local community to that we could use to promote volunteering. As an example there may be students from Carleton University who could be available to help as well and that someone should contact a representative from the student union. Marc Brisebois suggested that we go to the high schools to assist the students in getting their 40 hours of volunteer hours in. Gail Bouchette motioned to accept the long track/oval report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Colleen Walsh. Carried.

iv) Fundraising – Vivian McGuire reminded everyone that there were also the Bulb sales and Silent Auction that raised funds this year and that we will have to increase our fundraising efforts next year to offset the increase in fees. It was also pointed out that there was still pridewear and jewelry available for purchasing. Colleen Walsh motioned to accept the fundraising report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marion Chase. Carried.

v) Equipment Report – Rocky Lamontagne was not in attendance to present report.

vi) Youth Skater's Representative – Leo Landry not in attendance so Paul reviewed on his behalf. Martha Shires mentioned that often hockey players came into the rooms prior to skating and were rude to our girls. It then prompted discussion on why our girls were separated from the boys in the change rooms. Gavin mentioned that it is easier for coaches to have together to address issues and discuss them with the skaters. Ron Grossman wanted to know if there is room for all the skaters to be together and there is. Colleen Walsh mentioned that it is easier for parents to be able to access their children of both sexes when they are in the same room, that it is hard for one parent to be helping more than one small child in two different places. Kelly Ball indicated why it started and that it can go back to the way it was provided that skaters have more modest attire in the dressing room. Grant brought up the point of how bottlenecked the rooms can be as skaters go on and off. And that it promotes more team community when the skaters are together. Alicia Weiss indicated that the masters are not segregated. Paul brought up the discussion of the suits. Kelly Ball mentioned that all suits should say Ottawa on them. The board

will be looking at what our possibilities are. Rick Muise suggested that we put the club design on the website for any manufacturer to have access to when producing skin suits for our skaters. France Chevalier mentioned that Barrie has changed their suits and they are almost the same as the Pacers now. She suggested that we create a removable sleeve that skaters can put over their leg to identify them as Ottawa skaters. Mike Rivet mentioned that skaters change their suits sometimes and they make it hard for coaches to identify them. Louis L'Arrivee asked if we were going to put forward a motion regarding the skin suits and Kathie Gauthier replied that the new board would have to look at this issue and have something ready for registration. Mike Rivet motioned to accept the skater's rep report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kelly Ball. Carried.

vii) Master Skater's Representative – Alicia Weiss presented and no questions or comments were put forth. Gail Bouchette motioned to accept the master's rep report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Rivet. Carried.

Motion to accept all reports make by Jacqueline Colin-Demers, Gail Bouchette 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried

## **7) Presentation of Financial Statement**

Ashley Thriscutt reviewed the financial statements and thanked Jacqueline Colin-Demers for her efforts in raising money at our last meet. Questions to the floor. Steve Lappin asked what our club mandate is. Ashley informed him that we are incorporated and that we run as a not for profit club. Rhonda Elliot asked if we aim to make money at our meets. Ashley concluded that we do attempt to get profit from our short track meets but not long track due to various reasons such as cancellations due to weather. Rhonda also asked if we always do two meets each year and the board answered yes. We aim to do the first meet of the year and one long track meet. The goal is to never loose money on a meet. Gavin asked if OSSA had set their rates yet for next year. Paul answered yes. OSSA will allow up to a maximum of \$55.00 per meet per skater. Gavin suggested that we let member know what portion of their registration fees go to OSSA each year. Paul let everyone know that OSSA is increasing their fees from \$75.00 and \$25.00 for associate members to \$80.00 and keeping the associate member fee the same.

## 8) Presentation and Adoption of 2008-2009 Budget

Ashley Thriscutt reviewed items and asked Pete Gauthier if there would be any increases made by the city in the oval grant we receive each year to maintain the skating park. Pete replied that no notifications had been sent yet. Vivian asked where the money for the cabbed tractor would come from. Ashley responded that it would come out of the money received from the city and that Pete would have to still keep within his budget to include this expense.

Martha Shires motioned to accept the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Muise. Carried.

## 9) Discussion Items

i) New Ice Time Contract with Bell Sensplex for 2008/2009 – Susan Halvorsen asked if there was a formal plan yet for what to do with the new ice times. Paul informed the members that the board is working on a few ideas including Gavin putting together learn to skate programs. Colleen Walsh asked what exact amount the 4:15 time would be costing us and Ashley responded with the figure \$14,250.00 for 53 ice sessions @ \$250.00 a session. We will need to come with more fundraising efforts as well to offset these costs. Gavin asked if people who paid for only for long track membership have any of their fees go to OSSA. Rick Muise responded that yes, \$75.00 of their fee still goes to OSSA. Questions ensued as to whether Olympic style long track is needed at meets and the response was yes for safety reasons. Rhonda Elliot asked if it was a 3 year contract, would it offer us some consistency now and reduce big changes to our club in coming years. Paul responded yes that was the plan.

ii) Proposed OSSA Competition Changes – Paul informed the members that OSSA announced at the AGM changes to the regional versus provincial stream competitions. They are going to now post lists of top 20 skaters and only the top 20 of each category will be eligible for cup meets. This will set the number of skaters at each cup meet to approximately 160 skaters. Skaters no longer have to be at 3 of 4 etc. meets, but will instead collect points to qualify for provincials. You can only collect points for the meets you attend and only the skaters with the top number of points will be allowed to go to

provincials. 60% of points plus results at provincials shall determine top 4 for Canadians. Martha Shires asked what changes were made to the age classes. Paul confirmed that they are moving to the ISU standards with SSC's approval. This means it is one year older than what we have been doing. This means that our children will stay in the same category for next year. Alicia asked if Masters are affected by this change and Paul answered that at this time it is only the youth affected. Rhonda Elliot asked if any of the top 20 don't go to competitions will alternates be allowed to attend. Mike Rivet responded yes but within reason (i.e. their times must be within reason).

iii) Volunteers – Paul leaving this open to discussion by the new board. Kathie Gauthier requested that we need volunteers to come forward to take on the responsibility of getting sponsorship for our mats. Shelly mentioned that we should be using our youth more, that it is their club too. Grant brought up that our youth were not present when work is needed to maintain their part and safety stuff at the oval. Rachel McKinley brought up how intimidating it is for new parents and how busy they are with their kids and we need to look at a mentoring program. Mary Weir-Weiss asked if we would put up a list of jobs that people can then volunteer for. Kathie Gauthier mentioned that the board will be addressing that at registration. Pete Gauthier recommended that we have a volunteer coordinator for both long track and short track. Andrew McCallum that more emphases should be put on the fact that not all jobs are weekend jobs and there are lots of necessary jobs that are ongoing and need to be done each time the skaters are on the ice. Mary Weir-Weiss asked if we are allowed to set up a canteen to help collect funds for the club. The board responded no, that the Sensplex requests that we purchase and use the facilities at the complex.

## **10) Election of new Board of Directors**

Phil Bolger nominated by Ashley Thriscutt for treasurer. Phil accepted. Gail Bouchette nominated by John Piller as Director-at-Large and then be Master's Rep. Gail accepted. Pierre Gauthier nominated Ashley Thriscutt as secretary. Ashley accepted. Colin Steeves nominated by Gavin as Director-at-Large. Colin accepted. Paul Landry nominated Vivian McGuire as Director-at-Large. Vivian

accepted. Andrew McCallum nominated by Kelly Ball as Director-at-Large. Andrew accepted. Ron Grossman nominated by Gavin for Technical Director (not board position). Ron accepted. Leslie Derro nominated by Pete Gauthier as Vice-President. Leslie accepted. Since no nominations came forward for President. Leslie Derro nominated for President by Ashley Thriscutt. Leslie accepted. Marc Brisbois nominated for Vice President by Jacqueline Colin-Demers. Marc accepted. Board presented as follows.

Past President – Paul Landry  
President – Leslie Derro  
V.P. – Marc Brisbois  
Treasurer – Phil Bolger  
Secretary – Ashley Thriscutt  
Director – Gail Bouchette (Master’s Rep)  
Director – Andrew McCallum  
Director – Vivian McGuire  
Director – Colin Steeves

Motion to accept the new board by Pete Gauthier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Rivet. Carried.

#### **11) New Business**

No new business

#### **12. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting put forward by Colleen Walsh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy L’Arrivee. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.