

2015-2016 Findlay Silver Blades Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2016

Present: Amy Boes, Amy DeMarsh, Mike Fenema, Christie Lammers, Mary Pat Longo, Michael Lutz, Tim Manley, Cassie Muzy, Lindsay Thames, Jennifer Warner

Not Present: Meredith Pitt, Nate Webster, and Rachel Gregory.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of last meeting's minutes:

Michael Lutz moved to approve the meeting minutes. Amy Boes seconded the motion. All in favor=10. All opposed=0. Motion passed.

Music playing guidelines: Amy DeMarsh reported that they were still in process and will be ready for review at the next board meeting.

Cassie Muzy and Michael Lutz reported that they are in the process of increasing the number of club participants for the competition. Revising job descriptions for all positions and committees. She will have those completed before next meeting. Michael also suggested having a master calendar at February's meeting. Update to be discussed during the May meeting.

Michael Lutz also brought up that more information would be brought to the next meeting on concussions with a possible policy and any concerns that would need to be addressed with our coaching staff.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Pat Longo presented an "Ongoing projects-Action Report" to keep us focused and accountable to all of our ongoing projects. Mary Pat will update this report at all of our board meetings. This report shows the responsible party, the date, the description of the project and the initiation date. Once the project is complete, it will be removed from this report. Current projects on the report include the Jump Harness repair (Tim Manley), the Music Cart Cover (Tim Manley), the Music Playing Guidelines (Amy DeMarsh and Mike Fennema), the Refund Policy update (the Executive Committee) and the past 5 years of Board Minutes compilation of Board minutes. (Mary Pat Longo).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

COMPETITION/TESTING: Next test session is 6/23/2016. Deadline for application is 6/13/2016. A suggestion of placing all of our trophies out in a trophy case or even on a table during our competition and during show. Tim will look into this.

RULES AND ICE: Spring Ice is set up. We currently have 38 paid punch cards. Power class has 15 paid members and Zone In class has 21 paid members.

MEMBERSHIP: Nothing to report.

SPECIAL EVENTS/SOCIAL: Working on Kick-off date party. We will be scheduling first meeting once new board is in place.

TEAM SKATING: The Synchro packets and the "Try-it-Out packets are completed.

PROFESSIONALS: The head-pro application has been updated and is due by 5/30/2016. It is currently on the website and will be communicated to current coaches via e-mail.

WAYS AND MEANS/FUNDRAISING: Current on-going fundraisers include Amazon Smiles. Jennifer is looking into Kroger shopping points/key tags.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Tim voiced concerns about "Sign up Genius" and ease of use, especially ability to see who has already signed up. A quick tutorial was given. All questions were answered satisfactorily and recommendation was to continue to use this application.

HEAD PRO/SHOW DIRECTOR/2016 SHOW WRAP UP: A wrap-up on the show was discussed. Joining the board already present were Christy Wronkowitz and Molly Kerr.

Christy and Molly said that in their opinion the show was very well received and they heard many compliments. They thought the skaters did a great job and they were proud of all of them. They also thanked the Board and all of the parents for coming together to make this year's show a success. She also praised Molly on her first show as director. The Board agreed that the show was "fabulous" and stated that Christy and Molly did a superb job.

Christy recommended that the show director and the lighting coordinator should meet before the technical run-through night and then afterwards as well to make sure all issues are resolved before show nights.

Christy also commented on the lack of business ads in the program and that the Board should consider soliciting more business ads. Cassie Muzy recommended that we should start soliciting business ads sooner and that we leave copies of our old programs with them so that they can get an idea of what they will be getting for their the money.

Cassie Muzy also commented that the "Poster Blitz" was very successful this year. We look at starting our Poster Blitz earlier for the next year. During this time, the businesses can also be asked to place an ad for the program. Billboards, newspaper ads and radio were successful this year thanks to Christie Lammers.

Cassie Muzy provided the following statistics for this year's show:

- 3,000+ guests watched the show
- 96 local skaters performed
- 6 "world renowned" guest skaters performed
- All Sat and Sun night reserved seats were sold out and almost all of Friday's

Christy Wronkowitz provided the following statistics for the 2015-2016 season:

- 96 skaters
- 110 test passed including 2 high level test-- FS9-Megan Muzy and FS7 Madalyn Gephart

- 2 successful try it out sessions
- Junior and student instructors together volunteered 215 hours
- Continued education with our coaches, obtaining bronze judging certifications were -Annette Lutz and Madison Williams and Cody Towell obtaining his gold judging certification
- 1 synchro team, 1 production team and 26 skaters attending Worlds 2015 where our club placed 20th out of 79 clubs
- Our club placed 2nd at Miami competition and 3rd at Newark competition

Christy also started a discussion of possible changes in show try-outs for the 2016-2017 year with raising the FS level to a FS5. Christy went on to state that our club is currently top-heavy with many skaters in group D and with the potential of even more testing into the group by the time of the show try-outs for 2016. It was recommended that the try-outs be a FS5 and above, and solos are FS6 and above. She asked for board discussion on the recommendation. Tim Manley asked if we can wait till the next meeting. Christy recommended that *IF* we were going to consider this, it would be a good idea to do it now in order to be fair to the students and coaches. By making this change now, it would allow students and coaches 8 months to train and test before show. There was also a discussion generated in the previous coaches meeting in the fall of 2015 to prepare coaches and skaters that due to a high volume of skaters trying out for show, that there would be a high failure rate, since approximately 50 skaters would be able to try-out and only 20-25 features. At that time Tracy Koehler asked if we had considered raising the FS levels for try-out. Both Tim and Michael felt that it was not a good time for such a change due to it being so close to show try-outs in the fall. Attendees outside of our Club have also stated that they would like to see the “whole package” with our feature skaters. The “whole package” was defined to mean: skill, showmanship, entertaining, fluidity, personality, firm foundation in skating, body awareness, interpretation to music and connection with the audience. Christy stated that she had heard the same things along with Jennifer Warner, Amy DeMarsh, Lindsey Thames, Tim Manley and Amy Boes and a few of the other coaches. Christy reported that at the current time, we have 13 group D skaters with the potential to add 8-10 of the group C students that are very close in passing FS5. Along with those 8-10 students, there are about 5 wild card students that may also pass FS5 before the show. That being said, we could be looking at a possible 28 group D students for the 2016-2017 show. Therefore, the decision to make these limit adjustments makes logical sense and allows the maximum amount of time for those currently in FS4 to move in to FS5 level.

Tim Manley called for discussion in this matter and a full discussion occurred. Amy DeMarsh, who has a FS4 student, said that she agrees that this would prevent the stress of many of the group C from feeling that they have to test and perform when they may not feel confident enough yet. Lindsey Thames and Jennifer Warner also agreed to this same fact. Jennifer felt that it would decrease some of the drama within group C, since only a few, if any at all, would actually get a feature. Amy Boes voiced agreement in that it would allow group C to become stronger skaters. Cassie Muzy stated that the group C students that did receive a part in the last show did a fantastic job and this has nothing to do with them. She also stated that this is how our club stands as of right now, due to being so top heavy. Concern expressed for seniors and FS4 skaters who made of had a part in the past as to “hurt feelings and disappointment”. But since this change may occur, it was giving them the optimal amount of time to make the necessary changes. In the future, depending on the number of students in each level, we may have to go back to allowing FS4 and potentially FS3 skaters to try out for a feature. Mary Pat Longo felt that if we were going to make this change, then we should notify the Club as soon as possible. Michael Lutz and Amy Boes and Amy DeMarsh all agreed with this. Tim Manley then called for any further discussion before a vote would be taken, and there was no further discussion. Jennifer

Warner made a motion to change the limit for show try-outs to FS5 and above for a feature and FS6 and above for a solo. Mike Fenema seconded the motion. All in favor=10. All opposed=0. Motion passed.

After Show Parties:

- It was also discussed that we would look in to possibly using Tokyo Steak house again for an after party. It would probably be similar to when Lisa Towell used to organize the party. Discussion on finding a parent in the Club who would be willing to organize the event or Social Event Committee
- This year some of the Senior and parents wanted the Guest skaters to attend a private party. The Board feels that while Guest Skaters can be invited to private events that it must be by the individuals. The Show director, Chair, or Board are not responsible for extending an invitation on anyone's behalf, so as not to create a feeling of obligations by our Guest Skaters.

2016-2017 Board of Directors: A huge thank you was given to our out-going Board members, which include: Meredith Pitt, Lindsay Thames, Rachel Gregory and Nate Webster. Your hard work and dedication was much appreciated! Four new Board members were announced and included: Mary Goebel-Komala, Jen Keys, Robin Ayers and Mindee Heater. Please make them feel welcome.

Next meeting to be held on May 17th 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Cube.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn by Jennifer Warner and was seconded by Michael Lutz. All in favor=10. All opposed=0. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Amy DeMarsh