

WORCESTER SHARKS BOOSTER CLUB
MINUTES
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2009

Location: Castellana's Restaurant

Special Guest: Michael Mudd, VP Worcester Sharks

Meeting presided by Rich Lundin, President

Officers attending: Rich Lundin, President; Ernie Racine, Vice President; Chris O'Shea, Treasurer; Judi Dionne, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:12 PM.

Rich Lundin had the Officers introduce themselves to the general membership, specifically for the newer members attending.

ALL STAR CLASSIC topic

Special Guests: Mike Mudd started off by thanking all Boosters that have stepped up and volunteered their help for the All Star Classic (ASC.) There are five areas where the volunteers will be utilized:

1. Emergency/Airport Transportation: for any last minute changes and unexpected delays, 2 people will be on call to run to the airport to pick up players and VIP's.
2. Airport Welcoming Committee: 2 people at each airport on Saturday and Sunday to greet and facilitate players, VIP's, etc to their transportation from the airport to Worcester.
3. Stuffing goodie bags
4. Handouts before and after the Skills Competition
5. Hall of Fame Luncheon: coat check/security

Mike requested that anyone volunteering please remember to wear AHL gear – whether it is a previous ASC jersey, AHL team jersey, or some other gear (like a shirt or sweatshirt) while volunteering. Also, he stressed the need to be professional and courteous – please do not bother the players by asking for autographs, pictures, etc. while volunteering.

Mike then opened it up for any questions. Claudette asked about the need for more volunteers. Rich responded that the initial email requests went out to all Boosters and many responded, so they have people in place – but we are still accepting volunteers to be put on a list of backup people should the need arise.

Al asked if there would be lanyards available as merchandise. Mike admitted that those were not thought of, but he will look into the idea.

Pierce asked about any other events going on, put on by the city, in conjunction with the ASC. Mike did not know of any other than the events associated with the ASC itself.

Rich then went over the itinerary for the ASC:

Sunday: Board of Governors' Meeting
Skills Competition 4 PM
After Party (Mechanics Hall) 6-11PM
Monday: Community Outreach
Hall of Fame Luncheon 12PM
All Star Classic 7 PM
After party 9 PM Irish Times

Rich also discussed that we are still negotiating for a Hospitality Room. We received a great suggestion and will be hearing if we can rent Sh-Boom's as our Hospitality Room. The hours we are looking for are 10am-2pm Sunday and 2pm-5pm on Monday. Rich stressed that hosting the visiting Booster Club members is very important.

Rich went on to discuss the Booster Seats for the ASC. The Club has donated 145 seats for each night from the 50/50 proceeds, allowing a lot of local charity groups to be able to come to this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Rich also noted that we would be doing the 50/50 raffle during both events, Skills and Game. For those, we will have one table manned by three people and some roamers selling tickets. A portion of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will be going to the Mid State Junior Sharks hockey team.

Rich mentioned that there will be Chuck-a-Puck at the ASC only.

Again, Rich reiterated that any and all volunteers will be ambassadors for Worcester, the Sharks, and the AHL, so be polite, respectful, and professional at all times.

Mike then confirmed that the gates would open as usual one hour before event start. Mike stated again that the Sharks are very appreciative of the support and help from the Booster Club with all that is going on with the ASC. He thanked us all again and departed with the Club's gift to him of an apple pie.

-10 minute break –

Minutes: Last meeting minutes for the November meeting were not available for reading or voting on.

Treasurer's Report:	Balance as of November 31, 2008	\$5,068.29
	Income	\$7,754.30
	Expenses	\$4,367.29
	Balance as of December 31, 2008:	\$8,455.30

Income included payments on Red Sox tickets, Holiday Party, trips for SJ Sharks @ Bruins, Portland, Montreal, etc. Expenses included Holiday Party, Portland trip, etc. There are still outstanding balances to be paid on Red Sox tickets, Sharks @ Bruins trip, etc. After those, we have an approximate balance of \$5,000.00, out of which we will need funds for the hospitality room and future trips. For the hospitality room, the Club is looking for donations of food and beverages (both non and alcoholic.)

Motion to approve made by Buzz, approved by general acclamation.

Membership Report: Linda Lachance reported that we have 245 current members fully paid. We are looking to increase membership by offering non-members the opportunity to join through our trip to the Red Sox on July 5th and possibly other trips. Linda took the opportunity to remind everyone that other benefits currently available to members are ticket vouchers for Providence at a reduced rate, and discounts for Springfield tickets. Gerry noted that we also have a discount available to any Club member wishing to go to the Sharks/Lowell game on January 24th.

Rich stated that the incentive program held in December would have a full report in the newsletter, including all winners of the prizes. He reminded anyone who has not received their membership package to contact Linda, and that every Club member has a membership in Corporate Perks, a discount program covering a lot of goods and services for online businesses. Linda stated that Club members also have discounts to a lot of local businesses as well, and that info is in the membership packages.

Events: Rich noted that the Holiday Party was great, and he made a new friend in Claude Lemieux. All the feedback from the Party was positive, and the next party, the Awards Banquet on March 25th, will be in the same venue.

Trips: Rich noted that Gerry has been terrific in putting together the van trips. All trips are noted on the Club website.

SJ Sharks @ Bruins, February 10th: we have 50 people going. Our seats are in Section 317. We depart from the Millbury Mass Pike/Rte 20/Rte146 Park-n-Ride lot at 4:30 PM. If this is a problem with anyone going, please contact Rich to see what we can do.

Wilkes Barre/Scranton, February 15th: President's Day weekend, overnight van trip. Transportation & tickets \$53, hotel room (not per person) is \$56.

Montreal, SJS @ Canadiens Feb 27th – March 1st: this trip is through Games Away Tours. It is a 3-day 2-night trip that includes transportation, hotel, breakfast, and tickets to the game. We need a minimum of 9 more people to have this trip go. If interested, please contact Rich to sign up.

Game Night: Chris (who still does not have a voice) passed a note to Rich that she needs volunteers for the upcoming games for handouts at the doors. Please email or see her to sign up.

Rich also reviewed some changes to the procedure for anyone working the doors: When going through Door 5, hand your ticket stubs to the intern working the booth. They may not be aware that they need to collect this from you, but they do so give it to them anyway and mention that Suzanne specifically requested this. Also, anyone getting the comped tickets for working the door must stay at the doors until all materials are given out, or are released by a Sharks staff member, or 7:15 PM, whichever is first.

50/50: Rich reported that we have basically emptied this account to pay for all the tickets for the ASC Booster Seats, but we expected to do that. The raffle to be held during the ASC could potentially earn us back all those funds.

Rich also reported that the Club made a \$200 donation to the March of Dimes when they had their game day booth next to the Booster Club, and we will be doing the same for the American Heart Association.

For the ASC, the groups that will be getting the Booster Seat tickets include the Worcester YMCA, Worcester Boys & Girls Club, Webster/Dudley Boys & Girls Club, Rainbow Development Center, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Cross Crusaders for Children, and Why Me.

Mike Myers noted that the AHL has taken note of the Booster Seats program, and really likes it, and will probably suggest that future Booster Clubs do the same thing for future ASC events.

Kevin spoke up and said that the Booster Seats have been Ernie's pet project, and he deserves a round of applause for all his efforts with this program. All attendees agreed and applauded.

Rich then reported on the Holiday donations the Club made. From the Holiday Party, all toys that were donated were then added to by an additional \$1,000 shopping spree at Toys-R-Us. Toys-R-Us, through a Club member who is an employee there, additionally donated 4 shopping carts worth of toys that were purchased for the Toys 4 Tots program but were not picked up.

Concessions: Upcoming events that we need volunteers for are:
Monster Jam Feb 13th through 15th for a least a couple of shows
Nickleback March 5th
The Dead April 18th & 19th.

The next General Membership meeting will be on February 19th at Castellana's, at 7 PM.

Open discussion:

Nick asked about possibly having season ticket holders donate unused tickets for local military. Rich noted that that could be a possibility, and would look into that. Mike Myers stated that any military persons do get a discount for tickets if they go through the front office; the Sharks have now extended that discount to police and firefighters as well. He also went on to note that the former Guns-n-Hoses game is now going to be the Heroes Night, as this event is being opened up to military as well as police and fire.

Nick also commented that he will be working on setting up a match between the Broomball Team and the Booster Club, and asked Mike to see if we can get ice time between periods during a game to hold the match. Mike stated he would look into it.

Meeting adjourned 8:39 PM.