

WORCESTER SHARKS BOOSTER CLUB
MINUTES
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM.

Rich Lundin had the new Executive Board and Officers introduce themselves to the general membership.

Special Guests: Sandy Dunn from the DCU Center and Mike Lehr from the Sharks. Sandy took the floor first and filled us in on all the latest improvements that happened since April. They have confirmed that the section captains will be returning for this season. She introduced the new kid's meal with the new packaging, a "zamboni box." Sandy went over the changes in the birthday packages – the ice cream was melting, so they are going to replace that with a food voucher for a hot dog or beverage at any concession stand. Sandy went over the new group menus for pre- and post any event at the DCU. Sandy also mentioned that in accordance with the AHL, they will have two zambonis this season. There are little improvements in the concession stands, but most of the big things will not change until the major renovations are done in the next year and a half, two year period. Sandy took a question about possibly putting some handicapped seating in the Charter Zone. She also fielded a question about a more reasonably priced option for those who do not eat meat during the Lenten season – and talked about how they just taste-tested a "fish dog" – breaded fish in the shape of a hot dog (a.k.a. a bigger, longer fish stick) and she thought that maybe for the Lenten season it would be a good time to introduce the new menu item. Another Booster brought up the fact that there is only one stand that serves coffee at any given game. Another adds that only one stand serves tea. She finished with a funny story about how one employee would email her with how many requests he got each event for white wine.

Michael Lehr then took the floor, and gave kudos to Sandy & her staff, and the concessioners for all the hard work that they do. He mentioned that the Sharks will continue to take surveys of the "average joe" and the season ticket holders so that they are aware of problems and know what works well. He then introduced Matt Catachio, who will be working with us along with Mike Myers. Michael gave an overview of what has been happening with the preparations for the All Star Classic. He mentioned the pre-season games and that the fans attending those games will get an ASC preview. He also mentioned that as indicated in the survey results, the Sharks will be stepping up the entertainments – which inspired them to hire Joshua Tree for the home opener. Michael also talked about the team, and what San Jose has done to listen to our concerns about putting together a winning team. He talked about the players returning to the team and about the new affiliation with Phoenix. He fielded questions about the ASC, rookie and veteran signings, and the projected Lake Ave sports complex.

Minutes: Motion to Approve by Al, seconded by Dave J.

Treasurer's Report: Balance at last meeting \$5,934.74
Balance as of August 31, 2008: \$4,463.55

Rich noted that we have a little more in our account than this time last year. He was not particularly thrilled about how low the balance is, because we still have the filing for the 501c(3) and we do not know what sort of expenses we will have come the ASC.

Motion to approve made by John W, seconded by Anne.

Membership Report: 279 active members, 8- of which have renewed. 30 have been inactivated from the database as they do not intend on renewing or are old VIP memberships that are no longer associated with the Sharks and/or Booster Club. One member questioned Linda about VIP memberships – which were extended to Sharks staff, 2 from the Chamber of Commerce, WTAG staff, Bill Ballou, etc. Rich also noted that there is a Legacy membership, for past presidents of the IceCats Booster Club and also could be used for a longtime Booster member who may be sick but still wants to be a part of the club. He also noted that VIP and Legacy members do not have voting rights, as they are not paid members.

Events: We made one Tornadoes game this season. Some people liked the package deal of the cookout and ticket, some did not. We are going to keep trying to find a good off-season fun event for people to participate.

AHL Booster Club Convention: Worcester had 14 people attend this year. The City of Worcester sent someone from Destination Worcester to make a presentation for the ASC. We had two raffles, one basked of Sharks/Red Sox goodies and an ASC package complete with tickets for the skills competition, ASC, and the skills post party and the ASC banquet. We also sold our club pins. The winners of our raffles were both from Syracuse.

Applefest: This Saturday, we need help!

Columbus Day Parade: October 12th, please sign up!

The Holiday Party will be a mid-week event; there was no way we could work a weekend night. The Awards Banquet will be a Wednesday night at the end of March.

Trips: Lowell trip is a go, more than half full. So if anyone wants to go, now is the time to sign up. We will allow members to buy tickets with our group if they want to travel up there on their own.

Springfield: We have purchased a 40 game flex pack as part of their ticket drive to keep the Falcons in Springfield this past spring. We will be using those against a club trip; however it has not been decided which game that will be.

Providence: Linda announced that she has gotten flex packs of tickets for Providence, and games could go as low at \$10 for lower bowl seats, best seat available day of game. These seats are usually \$25 each. Contact Linda Lachance if interested in purchasing those tickets.

Norfolk/Hershey: still in planning stages.

Albany: all our games against the River Rats are in Glens Falls, 3 hour trip away.

San Jose Games: We are looking at the Boston and Montreal games. They are still in the planning stages, we will keep you apprised.

There was some discussion on a new product that we may be interested in selling called “Home Team Hands.” They basically are fingerless gloves with two plastic discs inset in the palm that are supposed to make much more noise than clapping alone.

Rich then went into a brief description of the new Booster Club products and our new partnership with a new Booster member, Matt Olivieri and his company Northeast Promotions & Apparel. We can have them run our online shop for Boosters to order merchandise.

Booster Seats: we are looking to expand our program. This is the main program supported by the 50/50 funds, which helps the community and the Sharks at the same time. Worcester has a lot of community groups that cannot afford a regular “night out” – movies or whatever. We are giving them an opportunity to see a hockey game with a family member or members – and it helps the Sharks by putting people in the seats. We pay for the tickets and ice cream (or meal vouchers), so everyone benefits. The only thing is that everything seems to always happen at last minute – so if anyone knows of a community group that may be interested in our program contact Ernie ASAP. Rich and Ernie are still trying to get a system set up so that any Booster can donate any unused season ticket to the Club and we can turn around and use them toward the Booster Seats.

Voucher Program: We will be doing that again this year – selling ticket vouchers for home games. Hopefully all will be set up so we can sell them in time for Christmas.

Newsletter: Nothing much to report, Rich did state that he was swamped and that he will get the newsletter out each month as soon as possible. He would not mind turning it over to someone else if anyone is interested.

Concessions: This is our lifeline. Please sign up to help at a non-Shark DCU event to help bring in funds for the club, so that we can keep the prices for the Holiday Party and the Awards Banquet down. Upcoming shows:

October 23rd: Alan Jackson with Trace Adkins and James Otto

November 9th: Nine Inch Nails

November 17th: The Cheetah Girls

November 26th: The Eagles

December 6th: Neil Diamond

December 11th: Trans Siberian Orchestra

December 12th: Christmas with Amy Grant and Vince Gill

December 13th: Neil Young

February 13 & 14: Monster Jam

Rich also addressed a question regarding the possibility of running two stands; the problem with that is that we need more stand managers. He detailed the responsibilities for a stand manager.

Open discussion: Chris mentioned she needed help for opening night at the doors. Judi mentioned that her concern for working the stands is that she has to be at work at 11, so usually she does not have time to leave an event, go home, shower & change for work. However, she has been a stand manager in the past and she’s willing to do so again.

Chris announced that the Broomball Team came in second again this year at the tournament. Next year the tournament is in Philly.

Mark wanted to know if we roll over Booster Bucks from year to year.

Motion to adjourn moved by Anne, and seconded by Dave J.

Meeting adjourned 9 PM.