

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO - AURORA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, September 21st, 2010, 8:30 pm

Present: Meredith Allan, Heather Brookes, Nancy Black, Cheryl Duckworth, Stefanie Lee, Janet Mitchell, Nancy Shaw, Lisa Wauchope

In Attendance: Total of 20 in attendance (including members of the Community Council Executive and Community Council Positions). Two of SOO-Aurora's sponsors (M. Chen, E. Whittingham) as well as District Developer (H. Rothenburg) were in attendance. Total attendance down from that of the 2009 AGM. A number of volunteers who RSVP'd that would attend were absent.

1. **Call to Order** – The Annual SOO-Aurora AGM was called to order by Nancy Black at 7:45 pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda was made by Suzanne Turner, seconded by Andrew Brookes.
3. **Minutes of last year's meeting**– Approved by Suzanne Turner, seconded by Heather Brookes.
4. **Opening Remarks** – Nancy Black, Community Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the AGM. The past year's executive was introduced (Treasurer: Cheryl Duckworth, Secretary: Janet Mitchell, Parent Liaison: Heather Brookes, Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Wauchope, Public Relations Coordinator: Nancy Shaw, Fundraising Coordinator: Stefanie Lee, Community Coordinator: Nancy Black). No elections this year as positions were acclaimed.
5. **Business arising out of the minutes** – none
6. **Executive Reports**
 - I. **Community Coordinator – Nancy Black**
 - a. This past year, the main focus areas were:
 - The development of guiding principles for SOO-Aurora with an emphasis on consistency
 - Rising awareness in the community of SOO-Aurora
 - Laying the groundwork and doing research
 - b. Announced that SOO-Aurora is introducing basketball within the next month. The team will be named "Aurora Special Dunks"
 - II. **Treasurer – Cheryl Duckworth**
 - Presented Treasurer's report
 - Nancy B explained that the budget shows fixed costs of \$9,650; total budgeted costs of what we would like to do to run programs is \$17,185
 - If there is any shortfall of budgeted wish list items, those will be met via fundraising efforts

III. Fundraising – Stefanie Lee

- Highlighted fundraising events of the past year: workout sponsorships, Christmas craft sale (new venture), Staples and Subway partnership fundraisers, as well as corporate and personal donations
- For 2010/11, these will continue; we will also explore liaisons with local service clubs
- Workout sponsorship will be extended to our new club, basketball

IV. Parent Liaison – Heather Brookes

- Outlined her duties
- Noted that role will expand as other sports come on board

V. Athlete Representative – Meredith Allan

- Attended monthly executive meetings
- Introduced herself to athletes, and surveyed the swimmers to find out what they liked and didn't like
- Next year will be the contact person for swimmers and basketball players, and will continue to be available to them if they have questions or need help

VI. Volunteer Coordinator – Lisa Wauchope

- Coordinated NCCP training
- Represented SOO-Aurora at the Canadian Hearing Society Day of Accessibility, Aurora's first Accessibility Week, fundraising events
- Admin duties relating to maintaining volunteer info
- Future plans include coordinating the recruitment process for new volunteers (all sports)

VII. Public Relations – Nancy Shaw

- This past year:
 - Launched SOO-Aurora website
 - Highlighted efforts on getting the word out about SOO-Aurora
 - Had Special Ducks clothing available for purchase
 - Created year end video for athletes and some of our corporate sponsors
- For the 2010/11 season:
 - Want to connect more with other regional SO communities and supporters
 - Will be advertising basketball; Noted we have a new logo and name which can be added to letters and marketing material
- Welcome anyone with marketing experience who would like to help with putting together a professional display

6. Sport Club Reports

1. Swimming – Team Manager Sue Deacon

- 4 new swimmers this season
- Want to be more organized this year to give swimmers/parents more heads up
- Have grown from 7 swimmers to over 20; most are returning this year
- Hope to add Muskoka and Aurora to swim meet schedule this year
- Continue to draw on coaches from the Masters program
- Noted swimmer highlights from 2009/10 season
- Will try to offer equipment for sale similar to how it is offered to the Masters
- Thanks parents for their participation
- Noted Spring 2011 is the Regional Qualifier for 2012

7. **Reports as may be directed by SOO-Aurora Community Council** – Nancy Black noted that there are no reports.
8. **Election of new officers to the SOO-Aurora Community Council** – Nancy Black noted that there are no elections as positions were acclaimed.
9. **New Business – Nancy Black**
 1. Basketball – came about from research done by Nicola McGovern. Discussions were held with the treasurer of the North York Basketball Association who will give us coaches; St. Andrews College is offering courts at discounted rates as well as offering some coaches.
 2. Thank you to Nicola for the research
 3. Floor was opened to questions

Question: (Nicola McGovern): “What is the name of the website”

Answer: (Nancy Shaw): “community.specialolympicsontario.ca/aurora”

Question: (Elaine Whittingham): Suggest we have a “Donate Now” button on the website for generating revenue

Answer: (Nancy Black): Requested that Nancy Shaw follow up on that to see if possible to do

Question: (Nicola McGovern): Suggested a mass mailing to encourage donations

Answer: (Nancy Black): Asked Stefanie Lee to look into whether that is feasible

Question: (Elaine Whittingham): “Have you looked at the cost to athlete ratio in a given sport?”

Answer: (Nancy Black): “From a financial point, we have done that somewhat with swimming, but no haven’t really. It is a combination of both cost and the number of volunteers needed. Swimming is one of the most expensive sports to offer both in terms of space and volunteers”.

10. **Adjournment** – Adjourned by Nancy Black at 9:40 pm

Minutes submitted by Janet Mitchell

