NAHA Board Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2026

Meeting called to order at: 6:04 PM

Board Members in Attendance:

Amy McWilliams, Tory Tollefson, Tony Guzzo, Forrest Merrill, Mike Brown, Matthew Longley, Paul Snell, Craig Bushey, Eddy Conlon, Matt Parker, Jared Ross

Board Members Absent:

Ryan Simons, Nick Lavenant

Guests:

Bill Benitez, Paul Leigh, Dita Dotson-Bowser, Chantay Gonzales

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve April meeting minutes by Matt Parker, seconded by Eddy Conlon. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

- March and April financial reports have been uploaded to the shared drive.
- SOL scorekeeper fees are the only anticipated expenses through the end of the summer.

Facility Update:

- Dita Dotson-Bowser reported that construction continues to progress well. The project is currently experiencing a 16-day delay due to a construction item that was placed on hold until the appropriate phase of the project. The revised projected opening date is December 12, 2026. Two sheets of ice are still expected to remain available throughout construction. Hockey office storage may be temporarily impacted and could require relocation. Dita will work with Martin Kubaliak to develop a plan to minimize disruption. The next construction update meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday.

League Reports:

- House League
    - Focus remains on summer programming.
    - 18U programming has opened.
    - Three spring and summer teams have been formed.
    - Forrest Merrill inquired about additional practice ice opportunities for the 8U A All-Star team.No additional weekday ice is currently available for next season. Additional opportunities may become available after the third sheet of ice opens, with possible weekend ice availability depending on scheduling.

• Chargers

Coach selections for the upcoming season were presented:

- Tryouts are scheduled for the upcoming weekend.

- Proposed player fees remain between $3,250 and $3,750.
- Tory Tollefson will distribute the season prospectus.
- Four friendly games will be included in each season schedule and may be used for practice opportunities.
- Interest in an 18U team continues to grow, including players from Knoxville and potentially Birmingham. Thirteen players have currently expressed interest. The team is expected to operate on an abbreviated tournament schedule, with many players also participating in Nashville programs.
- No jersey changes are planned for the upcoming season.
- Returning players will retain their previous jersey numbers whenever possible.
- Current 10U tryout registrations include eight goalies and twenty-eight skaters.
- Martin Kubaliak presented three player play-up requests for consideration.

• Thunder

- Budget has been completed and approved.
- Four teams have been established: 12U, 13U, 14U, and 16U.
- A revised player notification and selection process was implemented during tryouts.
- Players received selection letters following the second skate and completed uniform fittings immediately upon acceptance.
- August ice requests have been submitted to Huntsville but have not yet received a response.
- Birmingham weekday ice has been secured and scheduling for the full season will begin in early June.

• Adult Hockey

- Registration for the SOL Summer Season opened less than one week ago and is scheduled to begin June 14.
- Registration is open for the Wednesday Night Summer Skate A Division.
- The Adult Development Program (ADP) remains at full capacity with 26 skaters enrolled.
- Two new goalies are currently participating in ADP, and an additional goalie coach has been added to support development.
- The Adult Development League (ADL) remains at full capacity with 28 skaters enrolled. A new session began last week.
- The 2.0 program remains at full capacity with 26 skaters and has successfully returned to the intended pace and skill level.

- Across all adult hockey programs, there are currently 24 adults registered who are new to NAHA.

Bylaws

- Ryan Simons distributed revised bylaw drafts for board review.
- A working session will be scheduled to review the proposed updates.

Coaches Committee

- The coaches meeting originally planned for late April did not occur. The committee plans to reconvene after Chargers tryouts are completed.

SafeSport

- No report.

Disciplinary

- No report.

New Business

Social Media Policy: Amy McWilliams presented the proposed Social Media Policy. Motion to approve by Eddy Conlon, seconded by Tory Tollefson. Motion passed unanimously.

SAHA Nomination: Tory Tollefson nominated Mike Fairbanks for reappointment to the SAHA position. Motion by Mike Brown, seconded by Forrest Merrill. Motion passed unanimously.

Alabama vs. Auburn Hockey Event: Discussion was held regarding the Alabama vs. Auburn Division I hockey game scheduled for November 20 at the Ice Plex. Anticipated attendance is approximately 1,000 spectators. Ice Plex will manage concessions. The University of Alabama will handle ticket sales and social media promotion. Discussion included creation of a rivalry trophy tentatively named the Rocket City Iron Cup. A proposal was made to dedicate the trophy as the Doug Ross Memorial Trophy. Discussion also included establishing a Fred Hudson Player of the Game Award. Funding options for the trophy and awards will be explored.

Dual Rostering Discussion: Discussion was held regarding dual rostering and SAHA guidelines. Matt Longley expressed concerns regarding communication surrounding dual roster approvals and requested clarification regarding the process, particularly for players released from Tier II programs.

Tory Tollefson motioned to allow Andy Longley and Ryan Longley to dual roster with both the Chargers and Marauders in accordance with SAHA guidelines. Seconded by Amy McWilliams.

Votes in Favor:
Amy McWilliams
Matt Parker
Mike Brown
Tory Tollefson

Votes Opposed:
Eddy Conlon
Paul Snell
Craig Bushey
Forrest Merrill

- The motion resulted in a tie vote and was referred to an electronic vote of the Board.
- Eddy Conlon requested that Matt Longley and Tony Guzzo be excluded from the electronic vote.

Executive Session: Motion to enter Executive Session at 9:03 PM.

During Executive Session: The Board reviewed the proposed TPH contract. Motion to approve the TPH contract by Tory Tollefson, seconded by Paul Snell. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:
Motion to adjourn by Amy McWilliams, seconded by Tory Tollefson at 9:19 PM.

Electronic Votes:

Thunder Budget Approval – May 8, 2026
- An electronic vote was conducted to approve the Thunder budget for the 2026-2027 season.
- Motion by Eddy Conlon, seconded by Tory Tollefson.
- Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 2 votes opposed.

Dual Rostering Request – May 14, 2026
- Following the tie vote at the May Board Meeting, an electronic vote was conducted regarding dual rostering for Andy Longley and Ryan Longley with both the Chargers and Marauders under SAHA guidelines.

- Motion failed with:
  - Yes: 3
  - No: 7
  - Abstain: 2

Director of Youth Travel Hockey Position – May 26, 2026

- An electronic vote was conducted regarding the appointment of Dom Procopio as Director of Youth Travel Hockey.
- The Board reviewed Dom Procopio's resume and cover letter prior to voting.
- Motion by Eddy Conlon, seconded by Amy McWilliams.
- Motion passed with 9 votes in favor and 1 vote unaccounted for.