



**Annual General Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2021 @10:00am Google Meet Videoconference**

**Attendance:** Samantha, Michelle, Tessa, Melissa, Brandi, Dan, Sue, Margo, RSC coaches, skaters and families

**Absent:** Stephen

**1. President's Opening Remarks – Samantha Roeske**

- Call to Order – **10:06am**, 46 attendees online
  - Turn off your camera and mute your mic
  - Keep cameras off unless speaking
  - Ensure that your full name is listed – can rename by clicking on 3 little dots at the top right and select “rename”
  - For motions we will use the chat feature. We will ask for someone to move the motion and to second the motion by typing in the chat
  - For voting, Jan has set up a poll feature. There will be a poll for:
    1. Approving the agenda
    2. Approving the 2020 minutes
    3. Approving the new by-laws
- Approval of Agenda - approved 100% (moved Brandi, seconded Melissa)
- Introduction of 2020-2021 Board of Directors
  - President: Samantha Roeske
  - Vice-President: Michelle Carney
  - Treasurer: Tessa Hermelin
  - Secretary: Sue Stadnisky
  - Test Chair: Stephen Karl
  - Publicity: Melissa Sargent
  - Director of Coaching: Brandi Young
  - Director at Large: Dan Gray
  - Fundraising: Vacant
  - Special Events: Vacant
  - Director at Large: Vacant
- Volunteers - There are currently 3 vacant positions on the Board: fundraising, special events and Director at Large. In addition there are other positions that may become available in the next year so if you are interested in participating on the Board, please feel free to reach out to any of us with any questions you may have. The RSC

highly depends on the contribution of its volunteers and there are many ways you can contribute with varying time commitments.

## **2. Approval of the Minutes**

Saturday, June 20, 2020 10:00 am (2020 AGM – Virtual Meeting) - approved 100% (moved Melissa Sargent, seconded Brandi Young)

## **3. Bylaw Amendments – TBD**

The proposed Board approved Bylaws were posted on the RSC webpage and were provided with the notification of meeting – approved 86%, 14% abstained (moved Melissa, seconded Brandi)

## **4. President Report – Samantha Roeske (written and read)**

- After another full year of adapting to the pandemic it goes without saying that this was a challenging year for the RSC. However I am happy to report that we had a number of successes that I would like to highlight - we were able to get our kids back on the ice, hold Winter CanSkate, and run some assessments. We were also very fortunate this year in our fundraising efforts. This year, members of our Club donated \$1,325.00 through FlipGive or personal donations, and we were also generously sponsored by South Bank Dodge. Fundraising and sponsorship were very helpful to the Club financially this year and I'd like to thank everyone who donated as well as South Bank Dodge. Finally, we were also able to invest and support short-term funding to our coaches during periods of lock down as a benefit to their professional development and to our Club's programming.
- Covid response, planning and implementation was a huge part of our year and I'd like to thank our Covid committee, our Covid screeners, our coaches and Board members for their volunteer hours and commitment to make things go as smoothly as possible. Thankfully, we can all finally see the light at the end of the tunnel and we are busy planning our safe return to sport in the coming months.

## **5. Treasurer Report – Tessa Hermelin (10:19 am, 50 attendees)**

- Written notes submitted before:
  - Our financial statements are available for all our members.
  - This year looks nothing like our previous years.
  - Our revenues have dropped from \$278K last year to \$129K this year which is more than a 50% drop. Our expenses have not been as fortunate. They had a 37% Drop. The result is that our net income was negative \$30,000 last year versus a profit of \$25,000 last year. As a Board we did make a conscious decision in the loss and we were planning a 25K loss since at least Summer - so this is not far off.
  - For notable expenses I'll just point a few things

- - our ice costs did not go down with the shutdowns. Because of the restrictions of skaters on the ice, we ended up having slightly more ice than the previous year to ensure skaters could skate. However the average skaters on the ice was substantially lower - more like 9 or 10 skaters on the ice versus the previous years.
  - - We have a number of fixed costs (bank fees, accounting fees, coaching portfolio fees) that do not change that much with the reduced seasons. Not having canskate really hurt us. That normally funds our fixed fees. It also really reduced our coaching complement. The previous year we had 26 coaches involved in our programs - and this year it was only about 6.
- On a more positive note, our balance sheet is very healthy. Past treasurers have ensured that we have rainy day funds. We have a GIC worth about \$70,000 and even though we just refunded over \$40,000 in spring and summer ice skate fees. We still have about \$60,000 in the bank.
- We have applied to Skate Canada for a grant of up to \$5000 which we hope to hear back from by the end of June.
- I know as a club that we are in better shape than most and we can weather another year like this.... Which is good since our season is already having a rough start. I look forward to having all skaters back on the ice in the fall and providing the resulting coaching opportunities.
- Our club is your club - if you have any financial related questions, please feel free to reach out to me - [treasurer@rideauskating.ca](mailto:treasurer@rideauskating.ca).
- At this time (10:23am, 51 attendees), Tessa closed the eligibility for the gift certificate draws for the AGM attendees (\$25 for CanSkate families, \$25 for StarSkate families).

## 6. Board Member Reports

- Vice-President Report – Michelle Carney
  - Michelle reported that due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the club did not hire any new coaches this year. As well, with minimal CanSkate numbers, there was no hiring of new CanSkate coaches either. She noted that these are often some of our senior high school and university students and we're all missing out on the interactions.
- Publicity Report – Melissa Sargent
  - It was not a busy year for publicity as a number of the events we normally get involved with did not run due to covid.
  - Fortunately, some of our skaters were still able to participate in a showcase for the City of Ottawa's Family New Year's Eve celebration at Ben Franklin Place. Due to covid, the event was pre-recorded this year. A special thanks to Jan for organizing and Laura for her amazing video skills.

- Like everything else, we shifted to having a stronger online presence. We encouraged the use of our buy and sell page on Facebook, help quizzes on Instagram and Facebook and posted a few videos on our Youtube page.
- We recently held a colouring contest. We were happy to see entries from skaters of all ages and levels. Congratulations to Flora Lu. A \$20 credit will be applied to your account for use on future registrations!
- We are constantly looking for content for our social media platforms so if you have old or recent pictures or videos of your skaters that you would like to share with us, please send to [publicity@rideauskating.ca](mailto:publicity@rideauskating.ca)
- We are hopeful that the 2021/2022 season will allow us to attend more events and start to build our CanSkate program back up.
- Thank you to everyone who helped make this season the success it was and helped spread the word about how great RSC is this year.
- Special Events Report – position vacant
- Test Chair Report – Stephen Karl
  - Stephen could not be present, therefore Sam read the written report that Stephen provided
  - It would be impossible to describe this past year as anything other than impacted. What this meant and means for our figure skaters from STAR 6 and above is that opportunities to advance their achievement levels through testing have been reduced by more than half. Of the 5 test days scheduled by the club since the beginning of the pandemic, only 2 have been able to go ahead - the first one in mid-August and the second in late November. Test days planned for February and April were cancelled due to re-imposed lockdown restrictions. The test days that we were able to hold were successful, in no small part to the extraordinary efforts of our coaches, volunteers, and our club skaters all of whom ensured that we conducted our events in strict compliance with the latest Skate Ontario and City of Ottawa rules and protocols. My hope is that when we can resume our on ice activities we can once again welcome our Rideau Skating Club STAR skaters and STAR skaters from our area clubs to our test day events, as they welcome our STAR skaters to their testing events.
- Fundraising Report – position vacant, Samantha Roeske reported \$1325 by our members  
\$2000 by South Bank Dodge

- Epidemic Emergency Management Committee Report (name changed for records from the informal Covid Committee) – Melissa Sargent (10:29am, 52 attendees) (written and read)
  - It was a crazy year for the COVID committee. I would like to start by thanking the other members of the oversight committee – Sue Stadnisky and Jan Calnan. Without the two of you, this year would not have been possible.
  - RSC has been in a COVID hotspot for most of the pandemic with 4 lockdowns, and various restrictions (25 weeks with no programs running, 8 weeks with 8 skaters/sessions and 19 weeks with 16 skaters/ sessions). We had over 50% drop in revenue, 92% drop in canskate no precanskate or adult learn to skate (which subsidizes our overhead costs). Our coaching staff dropped from 26 to 6 coaches with no new canskate coaches. We ran only 2 assessment days instead of 3-4. We spent 70+ hours on covid preparations, 40+ hours on ice rescheduling and 40+ hours on modifying registrations.
  - I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with screening, cleaning, policy review and protocols which made this season possible. This includes all our coaches and board members as well as many other volunteers. This includes but is not limited to: Sue, Jan, Margo, Brandi, Robyn, Kaitlan, Laura, Karen, Gaby, Sue, Sam, Jennifer, Tessa, Amy, Kathy, Andrea, Gina, Sean, Natalie, Tamara, Maggie, Dongmei, Claire, Janine, Mike, Joanne, and so many more.
  - We are very proud to say that we received a significant amount of praise from staff at both facilities throughout the year for how Rideau Skating Club followed the always changing policies and regulations and we are very happy to say that we have not heard of any transmission that occurred at the club! So, thank you to all skaters and their families for the extra time and attention you took to ensuring all our skaters, coaches and volunteers had a safe and happy season.
  - Moving forward, regular on-ice training will not be part of stage 1 of the provinces reopening plan for non-high-performance athletes. Skate Ontario announced yesterday that the July hubs for the Sectional series will be cancelled. The club will be working over the next few weeks with Skate Ontario and the City of Ottawa on different ways to get our skaters involved in person both on and off the ice. In the meantime, we encourage our skaters to participate in the virtual off-ice programs we are currently offering.
  - We cannot wait to be back on the ice and are hopeful that this upcoming season will look a little more like a pre-covid season with special events, competitions and more CanSkaters and skaters filling the ice.
  - Once again thank you for all your hard work in helping keep all of us safe.
- Coaches Report – Brandi Young (written and read)
  - As we all know this past season was challenging for all our members.
  - We are so proud of our skaters for the many achievements and personal bests our skaters had this year especially considering the constant changes and long breaks in our training schedule.

- Our skaters had a great season completing a total of 133 CanSkate Ribbons and Badges. 15 of our skaters completed Stage 6 and graduated from the CanSkate program this season.
- Our StarSkaters had a very busy training season and despite many of our assessment days being cancelled due to closures. They completed 58 Dance, 36 FreeSkate and 43 Skills assessments for a total of 137 assessments completed this season! We would like to congratulate all our StarSkaters for their outstanding work this season!
- We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight our elite skater Liam Carney who proudly represented the Rideau Skating Club at the Ontario Sectionals placing 11th in Junior Men and at Skate Canada Challenge National Competition placing 18th. Liam continued to train throughout the many closures and achieved 2 dance tests, landed 5 new triple jumps and is the first ever Rideau skater to land a Quad jump. He will continue to represent Rideau next season in both Junior Mens and Novice Pairs with his partner Avery Blundon. Congratulations Liam on these amazing accomplishments.
- We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to our skaters, parents, board members and volunteers for your assistance, positive attitudes and hard work making this season great.
- Covid has presented us with many challenges but also the opportunity to remember why we love our sport, provided us with more time to train and improve without the pressure of event preparation and allowed us to work more closely together as a team of coaches, volunteers, parents and board members to create a positive and safe training environment for our skaters.
- The coaches are looking forward to getting back on the ice as soon as possible. We have no doubt the Rideau Skating Club family will have an amazing 2021-2022 season regardless of what the future holds.

**7. Elections – 2021-2022 Board of Directors** - Samantha Roeske (written and read)

- Fortunately, we do not have any Board members that are officially stepping down from their positions this year and everyone is acclaimed in their positions. At this time, I would like to thank all of the Board members for their hard work and dedication this past year.
- No new volunteers at this time

**8. Introductions / Acknowledgements – Samantha Roeske** (covered above, #7)

**9. Draw for Gift Certificates – Tessa Hermelin** (10:35am, 53 attendees)

- CanSkate winner: Liam Hayes
- StarSkate winner: Madeline Dean

## **10. Closing Remarks / Adjournment – Samantha Roeske**

- Open for any comments or questions
- Conclusion: appreciation for attending, etc – **10:38am**

## **2021 RSC Awards – presented by Brandi Young**

**CompetitiveSkater of the Year** – Liam Carney

**StarSkater of the Year** - Kiera Karl

**Program Assistants of the Year** - Penelope Gibb, Devon Rose, Gaby Palomeque

### **Shining Stars Future Stars, Star Group, Off Ice:**

Tuesday: Olivia Liu, Samantha Wang, Avonlynn Long

Thursday: Jovie Brittan, Brielle Fromow, Lily French

Saturday Future Stars: Kayleigh Schnare, Lillian Arsenault

Off Ice - Gina Rattary

### **Most Improved:**

**Future Stars** - Stacey Chen, Alexander Craig-Browne

**Junior Star 1/2** - Scarlett Lee, Mia Dubreuil

**Intermediate Star 3/4** Hailey O'Brien

**Senior 5-7** - Lea Brossier

**Senior 8+** - Aidan O'Connor, Liam Carney

**Adult** Angela Justason

**Adult Skater of the Year** – Chantal Renaud-Masson

**Ambassador Award** - Kathy Gibb

**Volunteer of the Year** - Tessa Hermelin & Margo Guerette