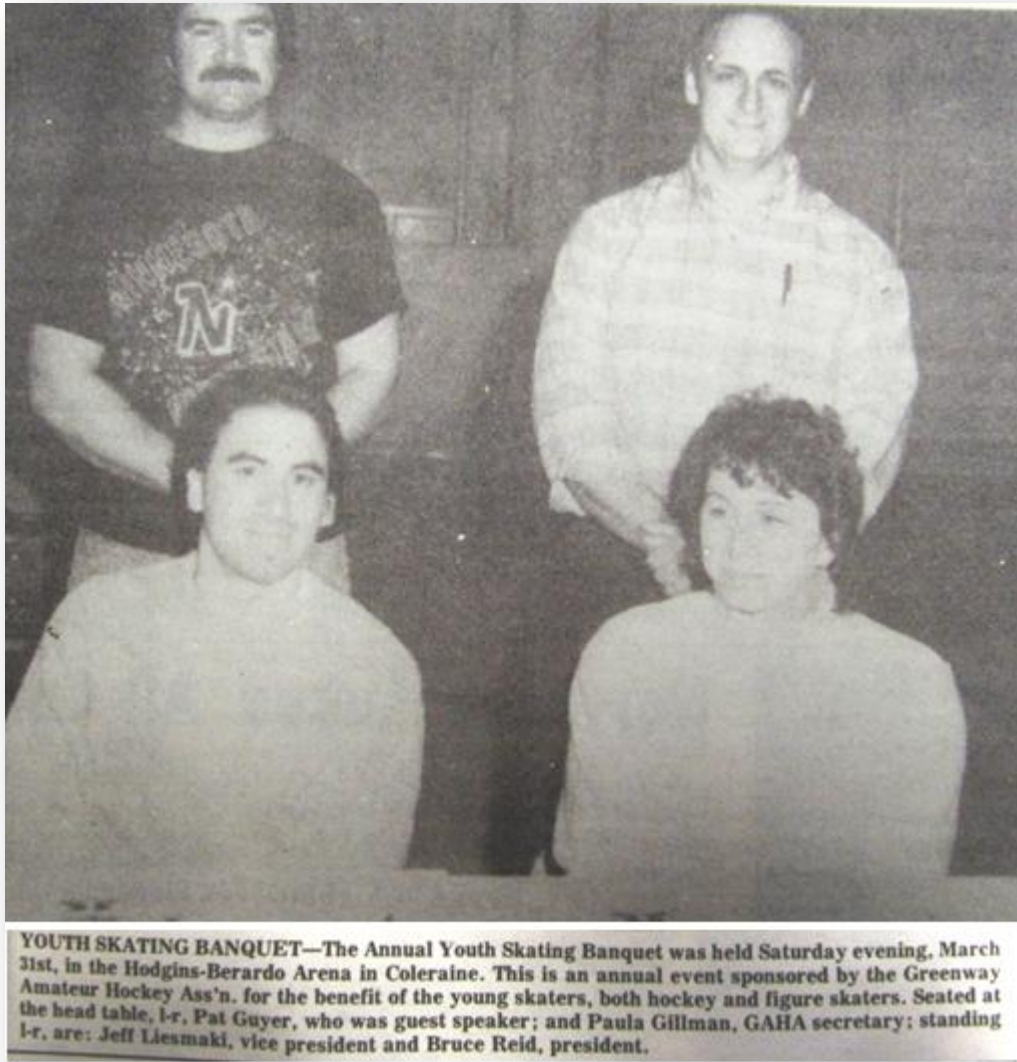


Greenway Emerald Ice Figure Skating Club – The Years Up To Its Formation

Greenway Joint Recreation Association has always budgeted for a figure skating recreation program. But in the beginning, spending of the figure skating funds ebbed and flowed depending on participation levels and the availability of coaches. For any program to be sustainable, there needs to be community support, and that support appears to have come from the same parents that had children in the hockey program. The Greenway Amateur Hockey Association organized and boosted both hockey and figure skating, and they had a joint annual banquet as shown in this photo from the *Scenic Range* newspaper on April 5, 1990.



An article was published in the *Scenic Range* newspaper on December 6, 1990 that announced an upcoming meeting and stated that “the amateur hockey association was formed to subsidize the high cost of hockey and figure skating. The Association is very fortunate these programs are affordable to residents of this school district. The Association urges parents of all children participating in the hockey and figure skating programs to attend this meeting”.

An item of discussion was probably the newly organized Greenway Figure Skating Committee (November 24, 1990). Resident Holly Guyer recalled that “the girls wanted to compete with the Greenway name” and hence steps were taken to make that happen. Here is a photo taken that same year when competitive figure skaters from the Greenway area were not recognized as an official group.



FIGURE SKATING COMPETITION— Eight figure skaters from Greenway recently participated in the North Country Skating Competition in East Grand Forks from Feb. 8-10th. Those skaters receiving medals were Aaron Miliander, second in Freestyle and second in Compulsory; Erica Miliander, second in Freestyle; Allison Greniger, second in Freestyle; and Danielle Gross, first in Freestyle. Other skaters participating in the competition included Andrea Rauzi, Melissa Shoemaker, Simone Castle, and Betsy Olson. Pictured are: back row, Betsy Olson, Andrea Rauzi, Erica Miliander, Allison Greniger, Simone Castle, and Pro Michelle Sorenson; front row, Danielle Gross, Aaron Miliander and Melissa Shoemaker.

The Greenway Joint Recreation Association made the Figure Skating Committee a permanent committee of the Greenway Amateur Hockey Association on December 17, 1990.

The founding Figure Skating Committee officers were:

Chairperson Barbara Willis

Co-Chair Maryann Buckley

Secretary Diane Gross

Treasurer Debbie Lorenz.

Other members of the founding board were:

Cathy McIlwain, Jan MacNeil, Paula Sorenson, Laurel Miliander, Barbara Unger, Peg Prestidge, and Gail Shoemaker.

The Committee then presented a budget request.

GREENWAY SKATING CLUB BUDGET REQUEST

1990 Budgeted Amount

Coaches - \$2,500
Equipment - 250

Total - \$2,750.00

1991 Budget Request

Coaches - \$2,500
Equipment - 250
Student Teachers 300
Lights 500

Total \$3,550.00

We respectfully request the following:

1. In hiring a joint recreation director, consideration be given to a candidate who is qualified to work with the figure skating program needs and would be open to communication with the committees for figure skating parents.
2. Permission to rehire last year's coach, Michelle Sorenson, to allow our committee groups time to work out changes in the skating program prior to registration.
3. Request that our committee be allowed to choose two additional youth coaches to assist the Pro with the exceptionally large classes of young skaters.
4. Request of budgeted funds being transferred to the Greenway Hockey Association for easy accessibility. Any money remaining at the end of the season will be turned over to the Hockey Assoc. to return to the Joint Rec Board. The Hockey Association has offered to hold our funds with their account balance to avoid need for another Treasurer.
5. Consideration of allowing two extra days for retest of all skaters early in the season to set up correct testing records.
6. Consideration of a Friday night and Sunday afternoon skating show rather than two shows in one day.

Diane Gross
Committee Member

By the time spring of 1991 came around, this group of "Greenway Skating Club Precision Line" were bubbling with community enthusiasm as they zipped out on the ice to perform between periods of the annual Beefy Lawson Memorial hockey game – March 7, 1991. The newspaper article did not identify the skaters.



The Figure Skating Committee worked diligently and presented to the GJRA board on April 15, 1991, their requests for the program. In response, the GJRA board formed a committee “to plan a program for figure skaters for the coming year and to advertise for availability of Pros in Itasca County and Hibbing”. The president of Greenway Joint Recreation Association appointed himself (Joe Miskovich), Barb Unger, Dallas Miliander, Pat Guyer, Peggy Prestidge, Joanne Rauzi, and Jim MacNeil to the planning committee.

FIGURE SKATING REQUESTS

April 15, 1991

Presently have:

-Approximately 150 skaters in Greenway Skating Program.

35 - number of skaters skating in two precision lines.

115 - number of skaters taking weekly group lessons.

We presently have one Pro who handles the group lessons, private lessons and show preparation.

Comparisons: (approximate numbers provided by each Club)

Hibbing Skating Club- 150 skaters with 4 Pros instructing.
Grand Rapids Skating Club - 200 skaters with 4 Pros
Chisholm Skating Club - 160 skaters with 4 Pros
Virginia Skating Club - 180 skaters with 4 Pros

Our Needs:

Permission to begin hiring search for two Pros for next year. (impossible to find Pros at last minute and we need to work out many issues that were problems this year so that next skating season progresses more smoothly).

Permission to again use the highest testing skaters as assistants to Pros. Those skaters are in order of level of testing that each is working on:

1. Lori Unger - Junior Gold Level - 2nd figure test.
2. Erica Miliander - Intermediate- 2nd figure test.
3. Tricia Prestidge - Intermediate - 1st figure test.
4. Andrea Rauzi - Intermediate - 1st figure test.
5. Allyson Buckley - Intermediate - 1st figure test.

Permission to establish a fee schedule to equitably assess skaters for the amount of time that they use the ice. (meet with Pat Guyer to work out this schedule).

Consideration of allowing committee members to be present at the interviews to express the skating needs along with Mr. Guyer.

Request of immediate advertising for Pros to meet the time requirements prior to next fall.

On May 20, 1991, the 1991-1992 Recreational Figure Skating Plan was adopted by GJRA, as submitted by the director, to serve as a skeleton policy for the program.

This is the 8-Point Figure Skating Plan:

1. Allocate 8 hours and 55 minutes per week.
2. Offer 1 hour sessions.
3. Schedule 15-20 skaters per group.
4. Provide 1 instructor per group.
5. Provide helpers with younger groups.
6. Give badges when individual and group objectives are met.

7. Offer extra session for Junior and Senior lines.
8. The Recreation Director and the Pro will organize the rest of the program.

Two years passed, and on May 17, 1993, Paul Cleveland, Kris Gustafson, and Holly Guyer, representing the figure skaters, came to the board requesting permission to form a United States Figure Skating Association club for the Greenway Recreation Skating Program. [<http://www.usfsa.org/story?id=58998>]

Almost two years passed, and on March 20, 1995, the board of Greenway Joint Recreation Association recognized Greenway Emerald Ice Figure Skating Club and Greenway Amateur Hockey Association as two independent clubs. Therein, from that time forward, the club has progressed to where it is today.