

## **SaddleBrooke Senior Softball Board of Directors**

### **Meeting October 10, 2023 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM. Present were Peter Romeo, Paul Auster, Len Gann, George Corrick, Barry Emmons, Chuck Kill, and Rick Ervin. Also present were Nick Longo, Debbie Seguin, and Phil Cavicchia.

Peter announced that the November Board Meeting would be moved from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> because of a conflict. It was suggested that it be moved to the 13<sup>th</sup> because two board members were participating in the World Championships that begin early that week as well. Peter will announce a decision by email.

George announced that our finances were up by \$5000 because we had a large influx of sponsor payments and new players. We also have some additional money available because money earmarked for batter's box repairs won't be used this year, as well as money earmarked for softballs because of the surplus of balls already purchased. Also, we are about \$850 of income less expenses ahead of last year's totals for tournaments. One reason is that we had two sponsors per tournament this year instead of one as in past years.

Paul discussed the disposition of the sponsorship program. DS Builders' 5-year freebie has expired, so he's trying to solicit a paid sponsorship from them. He has two new sponsors still waiting to go up on the fence. Jim Click has a lifetime banner because of his generous donation of the scoreboard, but Paul is hoping to convince him to spring for some more money to upgrade his sign. Community Church of SaddleBrooke offered to pay \$150 instead of the usual \$350 to be a tournament sponsor, but the Board rejected it. We don't want to negotiate prices down from what other sponsors are paying. The new certificates of appreciation for existing sponsors are being printed and will be delivered soon.

Peter announced that all storm damage from the monsoon has been repaired by HOA2.

2024 Club Registration - Peter will register Saddlebrooke Softball on October 16th.

Peter also announced that the Employee games were a big success despite HOA1 dropping out. We still had three teams, and there was good attendance for

all the games. All our volunteers, including field maintenance, received gifts cards for their help.

Proposed Bylaw changes from the Bylaws Change Committee were passed out to the Board. Each member needs to express agreement or disagreement with each change, and the change proposals that have unanimous agreement will be designated as such on the ballot.

The new Music on the Field rule will be in two places, in the Code of Ethics section and in the Rules of Play section. Peter will announce it to the constituency by email next week.

Brief discussion about a last-minute substitute umpire wearing a bright colored vest was clarified.

Mitch Mitchell has resigned as our news correspondent, as well as our tournament sponsor chairman. The Veterans Day Tournament will be his last, and it will be held November 11. An announcement from Peter will go out soon after Board Members make suggestions in the wording.

Nick asked to discuss the courtesy runner rule part "C" which allows a courtesy runner from home plate to specific batters who have a disability that prevents them from running. The rule was originally adapted for Rick Maki, who was unable to run. But, since he's no longer playing, and there are no other qualified players, the rule was deleted.

Paul asked if umpires return their shirts when they're no longer working for us. Barry had not received any in his tenure as the uniform guy, so it appears that they don't. It was agreed that when a new umpire is trained, they will be told to return their shirt when they have stopped umpiring.

Rick asked the Board to consider making the infield playable during the first week of any hiatus in the schedule, cancelling practice until it is finished. This would allow infielders to work on fielding, as well as hitters working on hitting. Our practice now takes place while the infield is in the process of being tilled, so infielders are unable to practice. Consensus was that the field would be worked on as soon as the time off began, and practice would not start until it is game ready.

Barry asked George if the budget could be expanded for signboards, since we need more boards and we're already maxed out. George said that there was no money available for it right now.

Len asked for clarification on a situation in a game this week. A player left, requiring a courtesy catcher for his team. A player in the stands wearing the same uniform was available, but the umpires would not allow the addition. The rules prevent that from happening, and the umpires were right. There is a time when a player from the stands can be conscripted, but it's at the beginning of the game.

Submitted by

Rick Ervin