



Mansfield Girls Softball Association

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2017

Present

Leo Lake, Paul Muldoon, David Woods, Michelle Harnden, Carolyn Kipp, Sandie Conley, Matt Cressey, Dave O'Connor, Eddie Jameson

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM at Jimmy's Pub. The following agenda items were addressed:

1. Carolyn volunteered to take the meeting minutes in Tim Quinn's absence.
2. Field update: Leo is looking into whether the town has a preferred vendors list to manage the softball fields. Leo noted that Eddie Jameson whose family has developed many of the fields in Mansfield expressed interest as the provider. Eddie Jameson entered into the board meeting and gave a history of how his dad was the initial developer of many of the fields and with the proper maintenance can get them back to an improved state. It was noted that since his father developed the fields, they are aware of the underpinnings and how they were initially designed.

Eddie also noted that there is a proposal at Otis Field that one of the fields there could be used for half baseball, half softball purposes. The vision is a stripped field. The board discussed various possibilities of how this shared field could benefit girls' softball (e.g.; it being an extra practice field, it being used for tournament games or "special" games, and overall what the complex has to offer such as concessions and rest rooms).

Paul noted for Eddie to contact Bob Laconte as a next step for these proposals.

In addition to the field discussion with Eddie, Paul noted that Lori Letendre, Head Coach Mansfield High School Softball, is trying to build a batting cage near the pump house. The approximate cost is \$5,000. They are going to try to build it for this year (2017). The board decided to wait until the next board meeting to determine how much MGSA will donate towards the batting cage.

3. Financials: Matt noted that insurance is due April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017. Matt will make the necessary payment. He is also going to set up electronic banking.
4. Spring Registration Update: As of the meeting there were 152 girls signed up. The in-town breakdown was as follows: Rookie =21, Minor =35, Major =22, and Senior = 22.
5. Spring Travel Update: Leo confirmed that the season will start on April 23, double headers. There will be five weeks of play up until Memorial Day weekend. There will be no games during Memorial Day weekend. There will be a final tournament the weekend following Memorial Day. All games will be played in Stoughton. There will be two teams for U12 (there will not be a "major" and "minor" team but rather the teams will be mixed to balance player experience). Because rosters do not need to be submitted and there are no standings, Leo noted this lends itself for players to be flexible to toggle between the teams if need be.
6. CORI: Sandie will be working with volunteers to capture their CORI information. She noted that last year she floated around during coaches' clinics, the draft and such to collect CORI information. She noted that if people submit their information on-line to know that she eventually shreds it with

her home shredder. Every year a CORI is needed by any volunteer. The form can be found on the MGSA web site. A copy of the front of driving license is required.

7. Recreation League: Leo noted that Norton and Attleboro will be participating although Norton will not have 8U team participation.
8. Uniforms & Thank You Plaques: Michelle noted “uniform night” will be on April 12 from 5-9pm at Buffalo Wild Wings. During this night MGSA will have apparel samples from Inked and a link by which people can pick out sports apparel. Any apparel ordered can be picked up in the store for free as opposed to paying for shipping costs. The owner of Inked will be donating a basket to be raffled off during uniform night. This then sparked a discussion that to further help raise money for MGSA- each team should be required to put together a themed raffle basket.

Thank You Plaques: Michelle noted that MGSA sponsors traditionally get a plaque made with a picture of one of the MGSA teams. This was used to say “Thank You” and to provide a gift to our sponsors. In the past, Lifetouch has provided complimentary plaques since we used them for team photos. Since we will not be commissioning any vendor for team photos, these plaques would now be a cost to us. Michelle noted that she did see an example of a generic type plaque which we could put the MGSA logo and it cost \$20 each. She wanted to note this when thinking ahead within the budget.

9. Marketing: Carolyn noted that the MGSA sign which was hanging over route 106 is housed at the Electric Department. Pete worked with Staples to create an additional sign which is currently hung on the East Street field indicating that registration is open. Pete will work with Matt to get reimbursed for the cost of the sign. Carolyn had asked whether the summer recreation league included kindergarten and the board let her know that the recreation league over the summer starts with 10U and above. Carolyn noted that in the future, marketing will be more aware of the sub-population of 4 year olds who might not be aware of registrations because they aren’t in school yet. An effort will be made in the future to hand out flyers to Mansfield pre-schools and daycares so we can try to capture this potential population of players and so that they are aware of the option to play softball starting at 4 years old. Currently, the MGSA signs do not specify 4 years of age however the web site does.
10. Pitching & Catching Clinic & Coaches Clinic: Michelle noted that she’s received good feedback about these clinics and that all is going well. Michelle noted that despite the clinics being over, MGSA will have access to the Jordan Jackson gym on Wednesdays from 6-8pm on March 15, 22, and 29. There was some discussion with the board on how to utilize this space during these dates. It was proposed to have a Coaches Clinic on March 22 and 29 run by Janelle Carlson who is the owner and coach of East Coast Pitching and Lady Sting Club Softball Program. MGSA has used Janelle before for pitching clinics. It was indicated by Michelle that Janelle was willing to run the Coaches Clinics free of charge. Michelle will contact Janelle to firm up plans and confirm availability.

Sandie expressed disagreement with utilizing Janelle as a resource for the Coaches Clinic. The board member outlined some negative experiences with her and cautioned that she didn’t think Janelle would be a good fit for these age groups. This member also questioned whether it was a conflict of interest since Janelle owns a club team. Pete noted that MGSA has used Janelle for pitching clinics in the past and expressed that he didn’t think there was any conflict of interest at those times. Pete also highlighted that Janelle will not be working with the youth during the Coaches Clinics but rather just coaches.

Ultimately, the board voted and the majority vote was to have Janelle run the Coaches Clinics if she is available.

The board also discussed that they would like to create a survey for the Coaches Clinics. David was going to look into creating a survey monkey. The survey would be anonymous. The intent is to utilize the feedback to better any future clinics.

11. Donations: Leo noted that Dick's Sporting has donated \$750 worth of Dick's coupons, 10 catchers' masks and 10 equipment bags.
12. The meeting adjourned, with the next Board meeting set for 7:00 pm on April 3, 2017 at Jimmy's Pub.