



Softball Association

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2017

Present

Leo Lake, Paul Muldoon, Brian Radley, Joe Donovan, Tim Quinn, Michelle Harnden, Dave Nicorolo, Amy Delores, Carolyn Kipp

Meeting called to order at 8:10 PM at Jimmy's Pub. The following agenda items were addressed:

1. Previous meeting minutes were approved.
2. Leo presented the current financial statement in Matt's absence. He noted that most of the remaining expenses for the season (e.g., tournaments, umpires, balls and equipment) had been paid, and there was approximately \$12,000 left in our account. This is generally where we want to be this time of year and provides opportunities for additional equipment purchases, field updates, etc.
3. Leo reviewed the just-completed Spring SHAGS League season. Overall, it was a good year for the Mansfield teams. Most of the 10U team was new to the program, and the season offered many learning opportunities on which the team will build for the summer and next year. One of the Mansfield 12U teams made the League finals, and congratulations were noted for them. We also fielded a 14U team for the first time in a few years which was good news. There was high praise for the Stoughton facility and how well the league was organized and run.
4. The Spring Rec League also recently finished its season. There were many positive signs and achievements in each division in terms of player development, sportsmanship, and team success. There continue to be issues with the continuity of rules among towns, inconsistencies in umpiring, and the use of travel team players on rec teams. These issues will again be discussed prior to next season.
5. The umpires hired for the 10U Division again did a great job. Several coaches from other towns noted the positive difference in our umpires, and Paul was asked to thank and commend the umpiring staff for their quality and professionalism. The umpires provided for the 12U Division were improved over last year, and with one exception that was quickly and positively resolved, were also viewed very favorably.
6. Leo and Amy reported on the Rookie/Minor Leagues Jamboree to end their season. The enthusiastic group of 3 Minor League teams played 2 inning games, had team photos and received participation medals. Earlier in the day, the Rookie League had a similar celebration with photos and medals. Amy said the parents appreciated the medals and felt they motivated their daughters to play again next year.
7. Tim noted the new batting cage at East St. field was wildly popular and was something the 10U and 12U rec leagues should take advantage of, in addition to the travel teams. It seemed to be less intimidating for the younger players to take batting practice in the cage than on the field for some reason.
8. Amy Delores and Dave Nicorolo will coordinate Monday evening clinics similar to last year. The clinics will start June 19 and run through July 31 and be open to Rookies, Minor and Major League players. Clinics will be held at QMS and players will be divided by age or playing level. Paul said he

would contact the MHS softball coaches to recruit varsity and JV players who need community service credit. He also will put the word out to existing coaches looking for help with the clinics. Dave Woods will be asked to send an email and social media blast announcing the clinics, and update the website with a registration/sign-up form (like last year) for liability purposes.

9. The Summer Hock League begins next week with a mandatory coaches' meeting on June 14. The coaches are excited for the season to begin, and have enough players on the rosters to cover vacations, etc. Michelle displayed the new look uniforms, which were a nice green with the Hornet honeycomb motif, our logo, and the girls' name and number on the back. There will be separate jerseys for practice as well. The jersey vendor, Ink'd of Mansfield, was not happy with the players' name alignment on the first run of the jerseys, so he redid them at no additional charge, and gave us the both jerseys. The uniform also includes a belt and socks. Michelle did a great job designing these, and she commended the owner of Ink'd for working hard to make us happy with the quality of his products.
10. Michelle also mentioned that the hooded sweatshirts we give to "graduating" 8th graders from the MGSA program were available for pick-up. Pete Gomes, who coaches the team, will distribute.
11. The make-up Spring fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings is rescheduled and set to run on Wednesday, June 14th. Coaches were encouraged to get their teams to attend, and it will serve as uniform night for the Hock Summer League teams. Dave Woods was asked to send a reminder to parents as well.
12. As Dave Woods was unable to attend the meeting, discussion of the new website and registration system was tabled until the next meeting.
13. Discussion and a decision on participating in the fall travel league was also tabled until the next meeting.
14. Dave O'Connor will schedule a date for returning team equipment bags and identifying any damaged helmets, bats, masks, etc. He has ordered the balls and supplies needed for the summer league. Carolyn asked if, in the future, he could order scorebooks with names for more players.
15. Leo would like to send an 'end of season' survey to parents to gauge their reaction to the program and opportunities for changes and improvements. Among the topics would be skills development, playing other towns, communication from coaches, uniforms, and length of season. It was suggested we may also want to send a questionnaire to those who didn't participate this year to find out why their daughters dropped out of the program. Details on the questions and metrics will be discussed at the next meeting.
16. Carolyn Kipp and Kristen Alleruzzo will coordinate the MGSA participation at the Uptown Merchants' Family Fun Night on July 11th. We will have a booth, and Carolyn will look for some inexpensive giveaways and a contest. [Subsequent to the meeting, Carolyn provided a proposal for temporary tattoos to be given at the event, and a Dick's gift card as a prize. These were approved by unanimously by the board members via email.]
17. There were several other "new business" items brought up toward the end of the meeting, and it was decided to table these for discussion at the next meeting when more Board members were present. As a placeholder, the topics were: 1.) When to do tryouts for Spring Travel Team; 2.) How to better train the players in the Rookie Leagues; 3.) Off-season skills development (clinics, etc.).
18. The meeting adjourned, with the next Board meeting set for 7:00 pm on July 24, 2017 at Jimmy's Pub.