



Mansfield Girls Softball Association

Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2017

Present

Leo Lake, Paul Muldoon, Tim Quinn, Dave Woods, Sandi Conley, Michelle Harnden, Dave Nicolero, Matt Cressey, Brian Radley, Carolyn Kipp, Joel Katon, Eddie Jameson, Mark Higgins, Pete Gomes

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM at Jimmy's Pub. The following agenda items were addressed:

1. Previous meeting minutes were approved.
2. Matt presented the fiscal year-end financial statement. Cash balance is \$11,720.67, which is about \$3100 less than the close of 2016. Matt explained this is largely due to the rolling registrations we began last year, which shifted revenues normally received in 2017 onto the 2016 books. He believes there are incoming registrations for clinics and 2018 leagues, not yet reflected in the financial statement, as well as minor expenses for fall uniforms and fall league umpires.
3. Michelle announced details for the pitching and catching clinics, which will begin in early November. The pitching clinic quickly filled with 7 girls, aged 8-10. These clinics are always well-received, and well-run by the hired outside coaches. There were still openings for the catchers' clinic, and those at the meeting were asked to recruit participants. Michelle noted that she was negotiating with the schools to hold the second session of the clinics. There were numerous school activities that presented conflicts with scheduling a weekly clinic.
4. Carolyn discussed our upcoming fundraiser at Jimmy's Pub on October 23rd. Jimmy's will donate 15% (excluding alcohol) of all evening dine-in and take-out food purchases. Carolyn coordinated announcements that were published in the local newspapers, cable TV, signage at the high school, police station and DPW, flyers at local merchants, social media, etc. Carolyn also is promoting a softball "spirit day" for October 23rd to raise further attention to the fundraiser.
5. In other Marketing matters: The Electric Light Dept. will no longer store the large banners organizations had made to hang across Chauncy St., so Carolyn has all the MGSA banners at her house. The Board briefly discussed an invitation to participate in the Veterans Day parade, but respectfully declined as it was too difficult to get players to participate in the off-season. Carolyn asked for a final list of 2017 business sponsors so she could order Thank You plaques as appropriate. On a motion by Paul Muldoon, the Board unanimously approved the cost to order plaques to those businesses that contributed over \$250 to the MGSA.
6. Leo gave an update on the Spring Travel League. There was good registration which allows for 12-15 girls on each team. This works well as there are generally some conflicts with club team schedules, family commitments, etc. There was no need to have tryouts or make any cuts. The League generally begins the beginning of May, but it is not yet known if Stoughton will host the League again. Leo mentioned participating in tournaments could be an alternative or a supplement to the schedule, especially if Stoughton does not host.

Pete Gomes will coach the 14U team, Leo Lake will manage the 12U team, and Dave O'Connor the 10U team. Generally, some money is allocated to allow the teams to have indoor practice during the winter. Eddie Jameson proposed a set program focusing on fundamentals to help the players stay sharp and improve over the off-season. He suggested clinics for the players and coaches conducted by the

MHS softball staff, club coaches, etc. With the encouragement of the Board, Eddie will research interest and pricing, and return at the November meeting with a proposal.

7. Leo has had numerous discussions with the heads of Mansfield Little League about a possible merger or cooperative relationship. There are several advantages and disadvantages to such a move, and Leo explained what would be involved, timelines, opportunities, etc. While it would take many months to effect a merger, there may be some short-term things we could do if we wanted to move in that direction, including utilizing the Little League on-line registration system instead of updating ours, and taking over one of the Little League fields at the Otis St. complex. There was cautious interest in learning more, and Leo will continue discussions with the MLL.
8. Related to fields for next season, Eddie Jameson presented a proposal to upkeep and improve QMS and J-J fields. Initially, this would involve weed control and tilling the infield, then a more rigorous renovation in the Spring. Conversely, if we were to assume responsibility for a field at Otis St., it would need to be retrofitted for softball. Knowing the field in discussion, Eddie suggested that field would need the infield skimmed and dug up, then redone with stone dust and a new irrigation system to accommodate the softball dimensions. He will present a quote for both possibilities and the Board tabled any decision until further discussions with the Little League Board.
9. Leo provided a review and assessment of the Fall Travel League. The 10U team finished with a 2-6 record, while the 12/14U team was 4-2. Stoughton did a very good job coordinating the league, and the coaches felt the girls learned from and enjoyed the season.
10. Dave Woods continues to formulate a parent survey to assess strengths and opportunities of the Spring programs. This will be sent to all parents of current and former players when completed.
11. October marks the beginning of the MGSA Board and fiscal year, and, as such, all board positions are open for election. Paul Muldoon announced his retirement as Vice President of the MGSA, and those in attendance heartily expressed their admiration and appreciation to Paul for all his work and positive contributions. There was significant discussion about roles and responsibilities, the need to involve more parents of younger players, and transitioning to a different board focus if we were to merge with Little League. After considerable conversation, the following slate of candidates was finalized and, upon a motion by Paul Muldoon, was approved unanimously by the outgoing Board members for a one-year term commencing immediately:

President:	Leo Lake III
Vice-President:	Matthew Cressey
Secretary:	Kristen Higgins
Treasurer:	Brian Radley
At-Large Board Members:	Dave Woods
	Carolyn Kipp
	Sandi Conley
	Michelle Harnden
	Tim Quinn

Various Coordinator positions were also selected for the coming year:

Marketing Coordinator:	Carolyn Kipp
Uniform Coordinator:	Michelle Harnden

Equipment Coordinator:	Dave O'Connor
Information Systems Coordinator:	Dave Woods
CORI Coordinator:	Sandi Conley
Weather Coordinator:	Tim Quinn
Spring Rec League Coordinator:	Dave Nicolero
Rookie League Coordinator:	Mark & Kristen Higgins
Minor League Coordinator:	Amy Delores
Major League Coordinator:	Joel Katon
Senior League Coordinator:	TBA
18U League Coordinator:	Sandi Conley
Spring Travel League Coordinator:	TBA
Summer (Hockomock) League Coordinator:	Leo Lake
Fall Travel League Coordinator:	Dave Nicolero
Fundraising Coordinator:	TBA
Instruction/Player Development Coordinator:	Michelle Harnden and TBA
Field Coordinator:	TBA
Tryout Coordinator:	Pete Gomes

12. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, with the next Board meeting set for 7:00 pm on November 6, 2017 at Jimmy's Pub.