

Plum Baseball & Softball Association

Board Meeting Minutes: February 12, 2015

7:00 PM

John Anthony's

Board Members

Present: Bob Sekerka, Dave Seitz, Eric Seigh, Bill Rumcik, Jay White, Mike Bostard, Mike Norcutt, Rick Napoleon, Dan Maciocie, Greg Foster, Mark Dargay, Ken Kolenik, Greg Bohatch, Rob Carnahan

Absent: Jim Poe, Matt Desantis, Greg James, Steve Zummo, Mark Proviano

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present:

Proceedings

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Bob Sekerka.

Last month's meeting minutes were previously approved via email.

Treasurer Report

- In Jim's absence, Bob provided an overview of our recent finances.
- Current balance is around \$40k. We had about \$11k in registration income this month.
- Discussed several scenarios for funding the purchase of a SandPro for the facility. Various options involving cash, the S&T line of credit, and separate financing were debated. The Board approved the purchase of the equipment and reserving as much as \$10k in cash plus the S&T credit line to fund it. See motions below. A decision on the exact amount of cash to put down versus finance will be determined later.
- The February financials have been posted to the PBSA web site

Committee / Board Reports

Building and Grounds Report

- Following up on the borough's approval of a budget to repair the batting cages, they are looking to start on this project soon. In the meantime, we need to clear the shed in this area immediately.
- Old wooden bleachers have been removed and replaced with aluminum ones from the football field.
- Change in plans for dugouts on front four fields. The borough is planning to complete them on fields 3 and 4 before the start of the spring season, but the ones on fields 1 and 2 will not be torn down and replaced until August.
- We received our first resume for a grounds intern from Penn State.

Concessions Committee

- Bill Brash offered \$6k in rent to remain the concessions vendor in 2015.
 - His proposal included an expanded menu and agreement not to sale pop bottles which compete with our own vending machines.
 - He offered to allow Tom Gentile to run the other concession stands near fields 5 and 8 but Tom is not interested.

- The Board voted in favor of Tom Gentile's proposal at \$3,200 in rent. Concerns about Bill's ability to focus on the PBSA, the quality of service last year, and Tom's menu offering were key factors in this decision.

Reports of Baseball League Representatives

- Last August the Board recommended condensing the baseball tournaments to 3 days to draw more interest. Tonight we discussed the pros and cons of this.
- One of the major reasons these tournaments are scheduled over a week is to provide flexibility for inclement weather and to teams playing in other tournaments. Reducing our tournament to 3 days would limit the amount of flexibility we have.
- We decided to advertise these tournaments as 4 days, but allow 2 extra days in case of weather issues:
 - The A tournament will be advertised as July 9 – 12, while the 13th and 14th are available if needed.
 - The B tournament will be advertised as July 16 – 19, while the 20th and 21st are available if needed.
- In 2014 the Board voted to amend the "Born On or Before" date for T-Ball by adding 4 months. This allows some 4 year olds to play in T-Ball. However, if this same rule is applied in the fall, when we advance our age cutoffs to the following year, it has the effect of allowing a child who is 4 years and 1 day old to play T-Ball in the fall. The baseball Board will review this rule in time for the fall season.

Reports of Softball League Representatives

- Penn Hills is aligning with our age structure this year. Our minor league is for ages 9, 10 and 11, while our junior league is for ages 12, 13, and 14. Previously the equivalent Penn Hills leagues were ages 9 and 10, and then 11, 12, 13 and 14.
- However, Penn Hills approved the inclusion of 20 year olds in their senior league this year. They believe that this could possibly allow them to field another team.
 - While there are some concerns about 15 year olds playing against 20 year olds, Jay is going to contact Penn Hills to get assurance that they will spread their 20 year olds evenly across their teams.
- The softball Board has had 2 meetings during the off season to discuss tournament rules. We have tentatively agreed to the following items, but the softball Board still needs to vote on these and then document them:
 - Maintain the same age groups as last year: 8U, 10U, 12U, 15U, and 18U.
 - All tryouts must be open to any girl in our association who qualifies by age group.
 - Players and parents will sign a waiver at the tryouts agreeing to play for the team they are chosen for. If a girl decides to opt out of playing for the team she was chosen for, she will be ineligible to play tournament softball through the PBSA for that year plus the following year.
 - All teams across all age groups must adopt the same uniforms.
 - We will schedule a meeting with parents of tournament players before the season to share this information.
- We are going to schedule softball all-star games one-after-another or at separate times so that we can have an announcer for each game.
- Last year we discovered a gap in our age restrictions whereby a girl who played rookie softball the previous spring and/or 8U fast pitch the previous fall may only have the option of playing minor softball in the spring because she is not old enough to qualify for 10U in the spring. We do not offer 8U in the spring. We amended the "Born On or Before" date by 4 months to include more girls in 10U back in 2014. Recently we discovered that there is still a 4 month gap and so we voted to amend the "Born On or Before" date in the spring to eliminate this gap entirely. Now the 10U cutoff will be August 31 to allow some 8 year old girls to play 10U. In the fall, the 8U cutoff will remain as December 31.

Old Business

Spring Registration

- We reviewed the number of registrations for each league thus far.
- We moved the registration deadline back to February 25. After this date we will use an online waiting list. If there is room to register players who have been wait-listed, they will be invited to register online but with an additional \$25 late fee.
- We approved the registration flyer. Bob will take care of having them printed and distributed to schools.

- Discussed the need to capture birth certificates electronically and upload them into LeagueToolbox. Mike has a portable scanner that we will look into. Eric will determine how we will do this during registration at St. John's.

Carnival Update

Mike Norcutt presented information about having an end of season carnival. He presented information on setting goals, planning a budget, assembling a team, advertisement, sponsorships, and types of games and entertainment to consider. We need to decide by the next Board meeting if this is something we want to pursue in order to give us time to plan the event.

New Business

- Bob and Dave approved a \$300 expenditure to purchase a Juggs pitching machine from Monroeville Sports Center.
- The first General Membership meeting of 2015 is scheduled for February 26. Dave will reserve the borough chambers.

Motions

A motion was made to purchase a SandPro for field maintenance. Estimated cost is in the neighborhood of \$20k - \$23k. Per Article VII of the PBSA By-Laws, this motion requires approval from 2/3 of the Board. The price is in accordance with approved state guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to spend up to \$10k in cash on the SandPro. The exact amount will be determined later and will be combined with financing through our S&T Bank line of credit. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to vote on the concessions vendor for 2015. After reviewing proposals from Bill Brash and Tom Gentile, the Board voted unanimously in favor of Tom Gentile's proposal.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Eric Seigh.