

BRIDGEWATER BASEBALL & SOFTBALL BOARD

Recreational & Travel Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

Board Members in attendance: Mike Brewster, Katie Franklin, Bobby Capaldo, Tom Cannizzo, Steve Lang, Eddie Alonso, Marianne Larson, Thomas Calistri, Ralph Calistri, Phil Confalone, Dan Pan

Guests in attendance: Brooks Newell, Gary LaSpisa, Debbie Saez, Gabby Clauer, William D'Angelo, JR Lobisco, FX Brown, Tony Aloe

Call to order at 8:03pm by Mike Brewster

Approval of Minutes from 11/12/2024

- Minutes reviewed but no board quorum present, so vote postponed to February meeting

Current Business

- Treasurer's Report – Joe Plank/Paul Santiago
- Cooperstown Update – Gabby Clauer
 - Gabby shared that they've raised \$46,727.35 so far which means that they've got about ~\$25k to go
 - Upcoming: a few shake a cans, Chimney Rock frozen pizza sale, big event
 - Big Event: 52 tickets sold so far (30 are non-player tickets) and they've already broken even. Targeting 150 tickets for max occupancy
- Marketing/Social Media – Paul Santiago / Katie Franklin
 - Rec registration ads in Breeze publication
 - Marianne confirmed that rec registration notifications are added to school district's weekly email about community events
- New sponsors, banners
 - Dicks Sporting Goods confirmed sponsorship for 2025 (via gift cards)
 - Please spread the word that we need team sponsors and bigger sponsorships as well!
 - Ralph Calistri has volunteered to take over sponsorship role from Paul Santiago
- 2025 Spring Season updates
 - 220 total registrations to date, ahead of this time last year and expect volume to pick up as the holidays are over
 - Reminder to Travel Managers that all travel players must be registered for rec

- Ask Rachel at the township rec to send an email out to registered basketball players to alert them to baseball and softball rec registration being opened
 - Decided we would keep rec registration open until Opening Day
- League commissioners
 - Need to confirm these in February meeting
 - Need a Pre-K TBall Commissioner
 - Looking for softball commissioners as well: Pee Wee, Minors, Majors
- Baseball Rec/Travel Round table
 - 8U: winter training at Gamers and Hillside. Playing USABL spring league and 2 tournaments in March
 - 8UB: winter training at BSC and OOP. Doing 2 tournaments in March
 - 9UA: winter training at Gamers and Eisenhower. 2 new team additions this year. Tentatively planning for a March tournament. Playing USABL spring league
 - 9UB: winter training at Hillside and Gamers. Almost all the kids are new to travel but coming along
 - 10U: winter training at BSC and Hillside
 - 11: winter training at BSC. Looking at tournaments for March. Planning spring league play
 - 12UA: winter training at Zoned. Tournaments start in March. Ripen in May on rec weekend off. Cooperstown Week 10.
 - 12UB: winter training at BSC. Cooperstown is Week 11.
- Softball Rec/Travel Round table
 - 16U: winter training underway, no full spring season due to high school season winter training. Pitcher injury so recruiting a pitcher
 - 10U: winter training underway at BSC and Zoned
 - 12U: winter training at BSC with Coach Julia. League and tournament schedules planned, recruiting for additional pitcher
- Babe Ruth Update – Tom Cannizzo
 - March 10 starts BRHS try outs, so will finalize roster after try outs complete.
- 2025 Calendar Upcoming Events/Updates – Tom Cannizzo
 - March 9 – Evaluations for softball and minors baseball
 - March 10 – Coaches Meeting (TBall – Majors)
 - March 30 – Games begin (weather permitting)
 - April 5 – Opening Day (parade, ceremony, games --- everyone plays on Opening Day)
 - April 12th week is Spring Break – no games
- Facilities Update - Mike Pikulin/Mike Brewster
 - Turf repairs for PR 2 and 3 have been completed (patch work in sliding area and near pitching mound)
 - Batting box patch work previously done

- Reconditioning the turf and turf testing needs to be scheduled
- DPW Updates – Paul Santiago
 - Mike will be meeting with them in February and presenting our wish list. Top of the wish list is fixing the lighting. Bulbs have been replaced at PR2 and 3 and NB; but there are ballast issues that need to be addressed
 - Discussed that we need to push for the light fixing while the ground is frozen so that the trucks can get in and out with minimal damage
 - NB1 home plate/pitching mound alignment is also a top priority as well as dirt for NB 1 & 2
- PR/NB facility upgrades- needs and wants
 - Wood benches between PR 2 and PR3 is rotted and needs to be replaced – likely we'll do that ourselves
 - PR3 scoreboard
- PR Corridor Revitalization Project – Tom Cannizzo
 - Still no word but if anyone in the league has connections at State Senate that might be able to nudge the topic, please connect with Mike
- Tournament/Cal Ripken Update – Ryan Flessner
 - Uniforms are moving along, went with Zoned again. They brought price down and they had a very good hat
 - Game jersey will be black and practice jersey will be gray
 - Reminder that any individual teams' alternate jersey needs to be approved by the Board before production
 - Board wants to make sure items stay on brand
- Equipment/Uniforms – Bobby Capaldo/Dan Pan, Dave Gross
 - Baseballs have been ordered and picked up
 - Work bond to be scheduled in Feb for pole barn clean up
 - Helmets will be picked up for donation during the pole barn clean up
 - Sending bids out for spring rec uniforms. Currently with BSN
- Auxiliary
 - New volunteer taking over – thank you Marianne Larson
- Snack Shack – Tom Cannizzo/Mike Brewster
 - Cannizzo is seriously done
 - Lenny Kathar will be taking over the snack shack in the spring. He'll be running the kitchen and staffing registers
 - Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays to coincide with peak volumes
- New Business
 - Phil made a suggestion to leverage the 2024 varsity baseball championship in marketing the rec registration materials try to get more interest, particularly at the lower leagues
 - Suggested asking high school baseball and softball team to help at clinic

- Next meeting February 11, 2025 - 8:00pm
- Adjournment at 9:05 pm