

KNOCH YOUTH BASEBALL

August 27, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Name	Position	Present	Absent	Name	Position	Present	Absent
Justin Thompson (JT)	President/ TWP Rep	x		Josh Harbison (JH)	Twp. Liaison	x	
Steve Tuzikow (ST)	V. P.	x		Jamie McSwaney (JM)	Colt/Legion		x
Melissa Stobert (MS)	Secretary		x	Curtis Walbert (CW)	Pony	x	
Tom McDougall (TM)	Treasurer		x	John VanLenten (JVL)	Bronco	x	
Josh Harbison (JH)	Field Maint.	x		Mike Hedglin (MH)	Minor	x	
Ali Ciz (AC)	Concessions		x	Joe Brose (JB)	Farm	x	
Zak Sobotka (ZS)	IT/Web	x		Cory Tucek (CT)	T-Ball	x	
Angie Shoop (AS)	Sponsorship	x			Tax Preparer		

JT opened the meeting at 7:34p.m. – Minutes from the July 2025 meeting reviewed and approved.

MONTHLY UPDATE –Justin Thompson (JT) reported:

Reviewed minutes, minutes from last meeting approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Tom McDougall (TM) reported:

Fencing - ST talked about charge for AI summarized withdrawals

CONCESSIONS – Ali Ciz (AC) reported:

No report

FIELD MAINTENANCE – Josh Harbison (JH) reported:

JH- have a few bags of field dry left in inventory, (JT) said we will probably need to order some more to have on hand for fall ball, (JB) (MH) we have about 75 home games for fall ball (JH) we should probably order about 20 bags of chalk to have on stock for the fall season as it won't expire for next season. We have a sufficient amount of field dry for the season, and can order more if needed. Times on ABI will need to be replaced (CW) are we able to reach out to a welding company to look into having it repaired and get an estimate. We have a few bags of seed left, should we use it on the pony field and order more. (JVL)- used one previously (JT) if we spread it we should focus on an area that needs more grass and get a spreader and do the labor ourselves to save on costs. The cub cadet has a tire that needs replacing that we can have ready for next season and can transport it using a trailer. (MH) we should cover it over the winter using tarps (JT) suggested using the storage shed in Concordia to store it for the winter since we have the space (CW) used fuel and both tanks on the zero turn are fuel, we can fill up one fuel tank to have on hand.

TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVE – Justin Thompson (JT) reported:

No update

WEB/IT/SOCIAL MEDIA – Zak Sobotka (ZS) reported:

(ZS) There are 7 Fall Ball coach clearances still needed, shared list of coaches that need to submit them to Commissioners so they can monitor and inquire for each age group.

SPONSORSHIP – Angie Shoop (AS) reported:

(AS) plan to create a newsletter to send/hand deliver to local businesses for 2026 sponsorship, also hand out thank you cards and framed photos to 2025 sponsors.

LEGION/SENIOR COMMISSIONER – Jamie McSwaney (JM) reported:

(CW) Legion field has had a lot of improvements to the conditions including leveled infield, grass has been maintained and groomed, talked to Coach Rhett and Nagley- interested in bringing high school events back to the Pony Field if conditions permit. Improvements to grass would help make it more playable and attractive

COLT COMMISSIONER – Jamie McSwaney (JM) reported:

No report

PONY COMMISSIONER – Curtis Walbert (CW) reported:

7 home games are coming up, practices are Mondays and Friday, all going well with fall play. Field maintenance (CW) will spray the fence and weed-it, infield will need to be sprayed, will get a tarp for the mound, infield will need some work, due to lots of additional people using it because of improved field conditions. (JT) we can store the mounds in the Concordia storage unit. Infield needs softened up, will continue to work on it, there is a product called Wet Saw, that allows moisture to penetrate dirt and decreases the dust amounts. Grass seed needs to be placed in center and right fields. The first game of the Fall season is Thursday, September 4th. Umpires are scheduled, season is ready to go.

BRONCO COMMISSIONER – John VanLenten (JVL) reported:

Fall ball is under way, practices have started. Two teams partnered with Center Township and Butler, it will provide good competition, Mars will play a few games with Bronco. 14 games per team for fall ball season, games start next week. There is a hole on the Bronco field right behind 3rd base, that has been dug to expose a pipe in the ground, looking for the cause, wants to address it for safety concerns, will look to fill in with dirt (CW) There is dirt that can be used from the pony field near the bull pen. It was suggested from the public that it could be due to erosion, (JVL) dug a trench to the dugout to attempt more drainage.

MINOR COMMISSIONER – Mike Hedglin (MH) reported:

Minor backstop thanks to penn fencing looks great, suggested we put some sort of belting to help prevent the beating of the fencing behind home plate to maintain fencing conditions. Looking into options to implement before games begin. 3 fall ball teams, starting September 3 through October 10th - 13 game schedule, each team playing 3 games under the lights on the road at Mars, CT and East Butler. Post fall ball season, (MH) would like to put a step in from the dugout to the field, and make it a goal to accomplish after the fall ball season

FARM COMMISSIONER – Joe Brose (JB) reported:

11 games scheduled, teaming up with freeport and east butler, all teams will get to play under the lights at East Butler.

T-BALL COMMISSIONER – Cory Tucek (CT) reported:

St. Luke's ready to go for the fall ball season thanks to Dave, who helped work on field 4 teams for fall ball

VICE PRESIDENT – Steve Tuzikow (ST) reported:

Jerseys for fall ball will be ready this weekend for all teams for fall ball (JT) they should be labeled and ready to hand out. Has game balls to hand out to commissioners and T-ball (CT) we don't need to order gameballs for T-ball anymore to cut back on expenses, all the balls are mixed in.

New Business Not Noted Elsewhere & Open Forum:

(ST) player Gannon Biedenbach's father would like approval to play up two age levels for all stars for the 11 U travel team (JT) we need to assess the situation to see if it is fair and appropriate to stay consistent with league expectations (CW) it may be a safety issue (AS) asked Paul Milliron for his opinion he expressed it is a safety factor to increased level of skill that exists in this league. Would like to prevent kids from getting hurt, and protect safety of the player

(JT) Jake Turner gave a report for how much dirt we need on each field- Bronco field needs 2 loads, farm needs $\frac{3}{4}$ of a full load, minor needs 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ loads, about 6 loads total. Due to the dirt being placed in 3 different locations, it will be an additional cost- will cost \$10,000 estimate to complete including discount. (JH) how much would it cost if they were to use \$19,000. (JT) it could be a good long term goal to mention for field improvements to possibly consider for 2026. (AS) I will add it to the newsletter to send to local businesses.

(JT) closed open meeting to public at 9:32 to begin closed board session for travel team coaches voting

- Gannon Biedenbach joining 11 U Travel Team unanimously- not approved
- Rhett Stobert for Middle School Coach for 2026 has been unanimously approved
- Travel U Coaches Selection voting- ballots were dispersed to all members for the following: unanimously

JT ended the closed meeting at 9:55 pm.

Next meeting (Closed): Tuesday, October 7th 7:00 PM @ The Field House