



Deerfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association

February 8, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Present: Lew Bricker, Mike Danielewicz, Michael Fjeldheim, Tom Gilbert, Adam Gold, Greg Marvy, Barry Metzger, Victor Rudo, Jeffrey Shamberg, Tom Shapira, Harry Steindler

Others Present: Howard Pattis, Ron Watson, Craig Gutman, Brian Silverman

1. Minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved.
2. The Board will consider amending the bylaws to allow for a designee to run meetings in the absence of the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner.
3. Softball. Mr. Bricker indicated that numbers are down; in Pinto about 10 players from last year and in Bronco about 20 players from last year.
4. Senior Scholarships. Mr. Steindler advised that a solicitation went out and advertisements will be placed to attract applicants for those scholarships. The deadline for a response is April 15th. Mr. Steindler noted that Warrior Softball gives a scholarship to a DHS softball player and will continue this tradition. The DYBA Senior Scholarships can go to non-players and 4-5 are typically awarded each year.
5. DHS Improvements. Howard Pattis discussed the Make-A-Difference campaign. The deadline is April 15th. He noted that a “direct” benefit won’t be clearly available to DYBA, but he believes it’s a good idea to donate and the goodwill will benefit DYBA, even unofficially. Mr. Pattis offered to have the David Pattis Memorial Foundation match any DYBA donation and suggested that DYBA make a proposal, along with its “conditions”, for any donation.
6. Registration. Mr. Gilbert indicated that registration is still open, although numbers are down between 8% and 30%, depending on the league. He also indicated that umpire forms are ready on-line.
7. Travel Softball. Mr. Marvy indicated that a few more players dropped off the 14U team, but he is confident that the team will find substitutes. He continues to work to maintain interest in the program and notes the increase in numbers at the younger levels.
8. Colt/Palomino. Mr. Watson spoke to the Board about sponsorship of the Northern Lights League. He proposed to take over administration of the league with DYBA administrative support, which would include scheduling and hiring umpires. Following a motion and a second, the Board approved the formation/establishment of a Palomino team and taking over support for the Northern Lights League.

9. Umpires. Mr. Rudo has finished the scheduling forms, which are similar to prior forms. He indicated that travel typically blocks times for practices and projected games and then releases fields as they become available. He has moved to more standardized scheduling times and the Board agreed that first games should start at 5:45 p.m. during the week. Mr. Fjeldheim distributed a schedule of potential field conflicts from the Park District.
10. Travel Baseball. Mr. Gold started a discussion of the possibility of an 8U travel team. The Board considered what the community is looking for and the competition from for-profit clubs and also considered the impact of the rejection factor on 8-year-olds and field availability. As a result of the discussion, Mr. Gold proposed a try-out to form two even strength (e.g., no A and B team) teams and one developmental team to focus on practice and play in a single tournament. Following a motion and a second, the Board approved formation of an 8U travel team for the upcoming year, subject to space being available in a league. The Board discussed fundraising for the Cooperstown trip and decided that the Director of Fundraising should develop protocols to monitor the type of fundraising that can occur. Mr. Gold discussed a player who dropped off the 11U Red team and indicated that he will not be filling the open spot on that team. Per DYBA rules, the Board confirmed that this player will not be eligible to try out and/or play for a DYBA travel team in 2011 and 2012. Mr. Gold then read a thank you note from Coaches Mayer and Downs expressing their appreciation for DYBA sending them to a coaching conference.
11. Baseball. Mr. Metzger indicated the teams are being put together at the Pinto level and that the other league presidents are prepping for their drafts. He discussed the rule changes approved by the Baseball Committee. The Board expressed some concern about changes to the fair player rules at the Mustang and Bronco levels and Mr. Metzger indicated that the Baseball Committee would re-review those rule changes. He indicated that the next Baseball Committee meeting would also review potential managers and coaches. He indicated that DYBA Spring Training will be rolled out at the managers' meetings following the draft so players can attend these clinics with their teams and he is considering adding a similar program over the summer.
12. Treasurer. Mr. Shamberg indicated that the amount available in the money market account and the checking account. He circulated a P&L statement for January, as well as a summary for year to date. The Board decided review the payment formula for the coaches for the winter clinics.
13. Fields. Mr. Fjeldheim attended the Park District affiliates meeting. He noted that the Park District is rolling out new recycling bins. New light codes will be issued that will better track usage by each organization. He mentioned that the Wooden Bat committee has asked about changes to Woodland Park and how that may effect the tournament. He also indicated that the water treatment facility behind Shepard will be under restoration this season, so parking at the field will be problematic. Finally, he indicated the Park District is making various repairs to the Thor Gard system.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted,

Thomas B. Shapira