

St. Anthony sports Boosters Softball Association (SABSA) Minutes
March 25, 2015 Meeting
Village Pub – 6:30 pm.

Call to Order:

President Al Bates called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Attendees:

Al Bates, Jerry Welch, Danielle Bogucki, Lamar Brendemuehl, Rick Ballot, Dirk DeWester

Meeting Ending Goal:

Al shared a goal of ending the meeting around 8:30

Approval of the Prior Meetings' Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 meeting by Jerry, second by Rick; motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 3 virtual (online) meeting by Jerry, second by Rick; motion passed.

Budget Update:

Al shared that we have \$14,918.83 in our account with the Sports Boosters as of the end of February, but that number is not really meaningful before expenses start coming in. Al will present a budget after Registrations for 8U and up have closed.

Nomination to fill Vacant Board Position:

Al nominated Danielle Bogucki to fill the remainder of the term for the vacant Director at Large, second by Dirk. Nomination approved.

Team formation, Coach selection, and Timing Update:

- 8U is tentatively final, with 33 players and 3 Coaches – awaiting finalization of 10U and 1 player deciding between Intro & 8U.
- 10U currently has 29 players, to make 2 very fat, or 3 thin teams.
- 12U – currently has 20 players; we will be making 2 thin teams. 4 10U players have replied with willingness to 'play up' as needed to help out. They would not be available for Qualifier & Sate.
- 14U – 1 team has been formed with 11 players (7 STA & 4 Irondale) and Jim Zusan Coach. The Evaluations Committee recommends acceptance of this team. Any late potential players to be added would not be accepted without consultation with the Coach. Motion to accept this team by Danielle, second by Dirk. Motion passed. Jerry offered that while school ball was in session, if Jim wanted, any non-school-ball players at 14U would be welcome to practice with the 12Us. Rick asked Jim to let him know when he wants to practice.
- Team payments are due to the Suburban League by March 31. We will again this year pay for the HDC team (there is only 1) to register, and be reimbursed by the HDC.
- Teams need to register with the Suburban League by April 1.

Registration Update:

- 14U – closed.
- 12U – remains open; looking for 2 more players.
- 10U – remains open; can handle/may need 1-3 more players.
- 8U – remains open with ability to handle a couple more players.
- 6U/Intro – closes April 18

Refund Requests:

(Policy is “no refunds after Evaluations have begun”).

- 1 Pre-Evaluations refund request has been processed.
- 2 6U/Intro refund requests have been submitted. Dirk moved, Jerry seconded, to approve these refund requests (less the \$10 registration processing fee), as even though we are past the Evaluations, the 6Us do not participate in Evaluations. Motion passed.
- 1 “borderline before evaluations” request was received via email, after Evaluations, but had been sent 28 minutes before the player’s age group was to start General Evaluations. Danielle moved, Rick seconded, to approve this refund (less the \$10 fee), because of the timing of the request and the vagueness of the “Evaluations have begun” language. Motion passed.
- 1 After Evaluations refund request was received. Discussion ensued on the reasons for the “no refunds” language, and that technically, this player is not eligible for a refund. Danielle moved, Lamar seconded, to approve a 50% refund, as an exception to the policy, noting that this player is not playing somewhere else, but has decided that softball is not for her. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate level of refund, if any. Motion passed.
- Dirk recommended reviewing the “deadline for refunds language” before next year. Perhaps “Friday before evaluations begin” should be the cutoff? Tabled for a future meeting.

Coordinators Updates:

- Uniforms – Al – Will be ordered as soon as teams finalize. Rossi and Kirsten (via email) brought up a desire to change the replacement jersey for the discontinued Tsunami – away from the Supernova, which appears “too Racerback-y” for younger players. A ridiculous discussion of player undergarments ensued. Al shared samples of the Tsunami (wide shoulder fabric) and the Supernova (skinny shoulder fabric) and screen prints of the Archer and the Zebra models available from the same manufacturer and vendor. Consensus was to pursue the Archer, if it is not going obsolete soon. Need to check on how many players may have already ordered the Supernova already – it may be too late to change our minds. Al will follow up with Tahoe Sports.
- Online Store w/Taho Sports – Al – remains open through April 13
- Yard signs – Danielle – will finish collecting and bring to Al for storage.
- Field Scheduling – Rick – Schedules will go out tomorrow to Softball & Baseball. HS Football practice field, soccer’s primary practice field, is being redone, and not being used, putting pressure on Wilshire Park. Softball & Baseball will have Tues, Wed, & Fri practice times on WP & home games will be affected (fewer).

- Lamar expressed distress with the damage that has been inflicted to C1 from the use when the fences were down. Football? The damage is in the middle of center field.
- Rick will ask the city if C1 has been overseeded in an attempt to repair the damage.
- Dirk brought a concern from the Huskies Diamond Club that the 16/18U team be granted as equitable field access as possible.
- Umpires – Al/Dirk
 - Al – negotiated rates of \$80 for 10U and \$85 for 12U & up for 2015 with Tim Klein, our Umpires scheduler.
 - Dirk – noted this is the second year in a row that we had increases, and that we seem to be at the high end of the spectrum. Suggested that we do not accept an increase next year.
 - Dirk – will arrange for HS Players to Ump 8U games, suggested pay: \$25/night. Danielle will help push the new 8U league members to likewise use HS players for their home games.
- Facebook – Danielle – we have 66 “likes” now.
- 8U Tournament – Danielle (for Rossi) – 8U just needs one tournament per year; we are zeroing into hosting a July 25 tournament. Need to follow up with Central Park field reservations (Al).
- First Aid Kits – Can we get a Coordinator?
- Villagefest Parade Coordinator – Danielle volunteered to coordinate. Thanks, Danielle.

Player & Coach Development Update:

- Open Gyms, March 1 & March 8 – how did they go?
 - Jerry: March 1 – about 25 players, split the group, used divider curtain, went pretty well.
 - Danielle: March 8 – had a LOT more players, split the group, but too crowded. Having the multipurpose room was a lifesaver. Many expected a ‘clinic’, not an open gym. May have to structure more for next year. Need to look into more time with designated hours/age group and/or HS gym instead of Wilshire Park.
- Evaluations/Tryouts – Record numbers – about 80 girls.
 - Pitching Evals – need more pitches per Pitcher, different ‘tests’.
 - General Evals – need more volunteers, especially at 8U & perhaps 10U. 8Us should be evaluated throwing to/catching from a Coach, not another player.
 - Further discussion tabled for another meeting.
- Coach Clinic – S&C Sports (Sean Hall & Anthony Dress) – March 22 – 16 STA Coaches/Assistant Coaches attended. Good feedback. Well worth it. \$600 cost; asking Huskies Diamond Club to subsidize. May not need to be an every year, but perhaps an every-other year thing. Maybe a bit over the heads of 8U Coaches, and we may need to do an in-house Coach Clinic for 8U Coaches. Perhaps do an in-house Clinic with Lamar & Jeff also (not just for 8Us).
- Coaches Pre-Season Meeting – TBD after teams finalize.
- Requirements for Coaches:
 - Background Checks (Sports Boosters) – AND – (Suburban League) Again!
 - ACE Certification (Suburban League)

- Fundamentals Clinics – Tuesday Nights in April – email went out 3/23.
 - Invitees were changed to just 10Us and 12Us (some 8s may have registered early)
 - Dirk suggested perhaps we could do something for the 8Us outside, later?
 - Some 10Us may be practicing Tuesday nights.

President's Update:

- Suburban League Coaches Meeting (Scheduling meeting) –
 - Monday April 6 – 10Us @ 6pm; 12Us @ 8pm
 - Monday April 13 – 14Us @ 6pm; 16/18Us @ 8pm
- Boosters Meeting – was March 11 – Jerry attended for Softball – Background checks were stressed.
- New Logo, with Softball! Now on the Website ☺ (depending on what browser you use ☹)
- SABSA night at SAVHS Varsity in Central Park – scheduled for April 30
 - Consensus to repeat Popcorn giveaway
 - Can we announce player names?

Equipment Update:

- Need to schedule an Equipment night – early April!
 - Softball will have a tractor to drag the fields!

Fields Day:

- Baseball is doing Saturday, April 4 & hanging slats. Should we do Softball Fields Day then, too?
 - Consensus was to do a different day, when warmer, after Spring Break.

8U 2015 Season Development Work:

- Danielle – Fridley is in, Irondale is working on the numbers for a thin team, and SLP we think, is in (AI to follow-up with SLP), Columbia Heights is a “no” this year, but will send 8Us to Fridley. Columbia Heights and Roseville have expressed interest in next year.
 - Roseville is sponsoring an 8U tournament this year, but our 8U fees do not cover an in-season tournament. Perhaps a “combined team” would be interested on a Player-pay basis? To be discussed with the 8U Coaches.

Fundraising:

- Basketball Tournament – AI will be finalizing the split of money received (for “Softball Volunteers”) with the Huskies Diamond Club, depending on the age of the Players whose families volunteered.
- Jersey Mike's – fundraiser will happen again this year; Jamie Larson coordinating. Nothing new to report.
- DQ – Danielle – We need to pick a Tuesday night after the Season starts for “Softball night at DQ”.
- Spirit Wear – Danielle –
 - The first water bottle order sold out, and we had pre-sold 10 of the 2nd 50, so Danielle/AI decided to accept the risk of ordering another 50. We sold Spirit Wear (incl. Water Bottles at Baseball Evaluations; THANKS, Baseball! Only about 15 water bottles remain unsold now.
 - Was selling Spirit Wear at Evaluations something we want to repeat? Yes.

- Do we want to order Hairbands for sale? Upfront cost of ~\$200. Discussion ensued. Dirk moved, Jerry seconded to purchase the hairbands. Motion passed.

Huskies Diamond Club Flower Sale: – Al - we've asked for the language "proceeds to help defer the cost of new varsity uniforms" to be removed from the flyer (as we understand the HDC has reversed their previous vote to so dedicate the proceeds). Willing to distribute the flyer and ask for SABSA families' participation in the selling effort when the language is removed. Al to follow up with HDC.

Scholarships: Al- There is current interest, at least at the 12U level, of "scholarships" for SABSA Player Registration Fees. Should we offer scholarships? Full? Partial? Should we create a Fund? Should we have a separate appeal to raise money for the fund? Donations would be tax-deductible. Much discussion ensued, including: Can we put donation requests/acceptances online? How would we prove eligibility? We need to hammer out details in the future, but for now – Al moved, Jerry seconded, to provide Scholarships this year at 50% of the Registration Fee, with no needs testing. Motion passed. Fund details and fundraising deferred to a future meeting.

Pitching Assistance:

Al - With so many young players at 10U and 8U, there is interest in getting some pitching assistance. Kirsten (wrote in): Can we provide Pitching Scholarships? Tabled to a future meeting.

Contribution to the City or Groundskeepers: Rick – We have discussed making a contribution to the City, or at least a "Thank you" to the groundskeepers. Contribution has been thought to be beyond our means. Rick moved, Al seconded, to buy lunch, up to \$100, for the Groundskeepers. Al offered an amendment, Jerry seconded, that the lunch be purchased from Jersey Mike's, a fundraising partner. Amendment passed. Motion passed. Rick will follow-up.

Base Plugs:

The base plugs at Central Park are worn out. Lamar will handle C1. Rick will investigate to see what he can get, and whether Wilshire Park & Emerald need them also.

Should we designate Fundraised money?:

Tabled for future discussion.

Evaluations Committee Meeting:

Scheduled for Monday, March 30 at 7:00pm, tentatively at Al's house. There was consensus for the Board Approval of the Evaluations Committee's recommendations for Team Splits and Coach Selection to be done via Virtual (Online) Meeting.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Sunday, April 12 at 6:30 pm at the Village Pub.

Meeting adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm. Thanks to all for their time!

Respectfully submitted, Al Bates, President