

BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, December 13, 2021

Meeting Time: 8:00 pm

Meeting Location: (Virtual) Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

8:07 pm

Present:

Co-Chair	Steve Hanson
Co-Chair	Troy Rushmeyer
Director	Wade Haapajoki
Director	Jeremiah Piepkorn
Director	Mandy Vanek

Absent:

Assistant Treasurer	Mike Eidenshink
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OPEN FORUM

Time allocated for non-members to bring matters not on the agenda to the attention of the Board. Time limits may be imposed.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Troy Rushmeyer would like to move new business item #1 to the top of lists for tonight's meeting.

Motion to approve this agenda, with addition, along with the meeting minutes from 11/08/2021, was made by Steve Hanson, seconded by Troy Rushmeyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Survey follow-ups
 - a. Interests in Sponsoring: Steve, Wade, and Eric expressed interest to follow up with:
 - i. **Mike DeRosier** (repeat sponsor)
 - ii. **Heather Johnson** (Domino's)
 - iii. **Jeremy Miller** (repeat sponsor)
 - iv. **Becky Wirtz** (repeat sponsor, Nisswa Cabinets)
 - v. **Eric Barnum**

Wade provided a draft of a plan to address sponsorship in general (2022 Baseball Advertisement letter) as a way to become a part of the association with sponsoring; look at partnering with the high school coach and have banners at all fields. Invite Trent Grams and Derek Owen to a future meeting to gain their insight on a program/media guide to drive sponsorships.

Jeremiah spoke to new reservation contact at Cragun's. Their contribution to the Association hinges on the number of nights that the teams who attend our tournaments are booking for tournament stay.

BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- b. Troy and Steve approached candidates for open board position (IT -Marketing skills) and volunteering in general – additional board positions open now due to resignations
 - i. **Velasco's (Survey)** – Responded: I am willing to help wherever needed to make sure we can make this association become a well-rounded and informative association that parents and players can rely on for quick answers and organized tournaments moving forward. Let me know how I can help!
 - ii. **Dave Badeaux (Survey)** – willing to help in whatever facet we may need him – specializes in fundraising and expressed willingness to work as a liaison in this area (behind the scenes due to potential conflict of interests with Community Action)
 - iii. **Matt Castle (Survey)** Responded: If you're looking for IT and Marketing for the board role, I'm probably not the right person for that. I've been on several boards and have some baseball IQ if you're looking for someone down the road with a different skill set. Bottom line I guess is that I'm willing to help out, I just want to make sure it's in the right spot for both sides.
 - iv. **Nate Olson (Survey)** – Coaching - I plan on coaching the 9U group this year, I'm sure that will be more than enough volunteering for me.
 - v. **Heather Johnson (Survey)** – Responded: I do not have any background in Marketing. I do have some baseball knowledge. I can help with some Volunteer activities when needed. Let me know the dates so I can get them on my calendar as it fills up quickly. Thanks for reaching out. Heather
 - vi. **Matt Means** – Coaching?
 - vii. **Phil Berg (not part of survey)** – is very interested in (IT -Marketing) board position after 1st of year – large projects to complete at work in December
 - c. Troy to draft and send “thank you” email to all clients related to survey results and BBBA news (i.e., skills clinics, upcoming tryouts, partnerships and tourney volunteer requirements)
2. Tournament Sub-committee (New coordinator needed) – items still to be ironed out listed below
- a. Volunteer requirements - Post our needs early and let teams choose. Steve shared that Heather Johnson and Chris Velasco did reach back and state they were interested in serving on a tournament subcommittee. Dibs is an app available to us on our website. (See November meeting minutes) Mike and Steve did have a conversation on the app. More to come.
 - b. Concessions, Food trucks
 - c. Marketing guide/plan: Wade offered to create something for this. (See notes under Old Business, #1.)
 - i. Banners at fields for display during tournaments?
 - ii. Lodging capacities for potential increase of team #'s per tournament
 - iii. Grill burgers/hot dogs, sell pizza, etc., for sale during normal Baxter rec games.
 - d. Meet with ISD 181 and new CE Director, new AD related to tournaments - Last year worked out well for field maintenance at Forestview and HS – (concessions, food trucks)? District policy changes are an option, need to address with the School Board.
 - e. Form group (doesn't just have to be board members), start meeting and report to entire board at regular scheduled monthly meetings

BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Business

1. Resignation of board members Zach Heidmann (Co-Skills/tryout coordinator), Jim Haakonsen (Treasurer) and Eric Fenstad (Tournament Director) due to work and personal reasons. (We cannot thank them enough for their contributions to the BBBA)
 - a. Very valuable positions to be filled – prudent for us to act quickly in feeling these roles
 - b. All have expressed willingness to ease transitions of their positions
 - c. Create a board member application form for use in selecting new members Troy will draft and send to members for approval). Applications will be sent to those who have expressed a desire to serve on the board. The Board will review submissions and vote anonymously by mail.
2. Skills clinics – Steve, Jeremiah: updates
 - a. Attendance report: Night one ages 9-11 saw 26 participants, older kids was at 29. At the second session, 28 participants in the 9-11 group, and 30 for the older group. Brett Kramer has ideas for arm care, etc. We'll check with him before posting to the website or handing out copies, and look to having him come to our January skills sessions. Discussion also took place surrounding pre-registration option for skills sessions to assist in planning. Consider adding ½ hour to each session for intensive sessions.
 - b. Pre-tryout skills week and try-outs: Steve will connect with Jennifer to secure dates.
 - c. Purchased L screens: \$768. 2 were received, 2 are in transit. They have been used and worked very well. Easy to store and transport.
 - d. Swing Kings proposal – (Tabled)
 - e. Coaches and umpire clinics – Recruiting at skills clinics is an option, especially when parents are present. Involve Joe Pohlkamp to help.
3. Additional tournaments per CRBR regional request -Steve Hanson and MSF per Mike DeRosier
 - a. Cal Ripken 9U regional tournament opportunity (Steve Hanson): Reference provided Word document "CRBR Regional Tournament agreement 2022"; last weekend of July. Current 15U Gopher State tournament is two weeks prior. They are looking for a decision as quickly as possible. A review of the tournament agreement should precede any vote on hosting.
 - b. MSF Youth Baseball Qualifier Hosts: The 2022 MSF Youth Baseball State Tournaments will be held July 22 - 24. The fee to obtain MSF Baseball Qualifier status is just 35 dollars per age division / two berths. Reference provided PDF document "MSF Application". After discussion, it was decided to look at this as a possibility for next year.
 - c. New for MYAS 2022: If selected as a qualifier, an association must:
 - i. Pay a bid fee of \$60 per age and level to MYAS
 - ii. Agree to use Tourney Machine for the brackets/game schedules at a reduced rate of \$2 per team. Tourney Machine is the Official Bracketing Platform of the GSBA
4. Coach's application for 10U received from Jeremiah; Matt Means and Eric Bolt to submit for 14U

NEXT MEETING

Meeting Date: Monday, January 10, 2022

Meeting Time: 8:00 pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

**BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

ADJOURNMENT

10:00 pm

Motion to adjourn was made by was made by Mandy Vanek, seconded by Steve Hanson. Motion passed unanimously.