

Tea Baseball Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Feb. 2, 2025 • 7 p.m. • Tea City Hall

MINUTES

Board Members:

Rob Schramm, Rick Willemsen, Amy Smolik, Kevin McIntyre, Chris Vasecka, Mark Jelen, Mitch Smith, Cory Olson

1) CALL TO ORDER 7:08 p.m.

2) APPROVE THE AGENDA

Rob had items to add to the agenda. Motion by Mark, seconded by Kevin to approve the agenda with the additions. Unanimously approved.

3) APPROVE THE TEA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Mitch, seconded by Cory. Unanimously approved.

4) PUBLIC SPEAKING (5-minute limit per speaker)

Several members from the public were in attendance, primarily to listen and provide feedback about 16u team challenges.

5) REPORTS

A. 16U team splits

There are approximately 17 players for this age group. Options are to have the team play one doubleheader per week and leave as is, recruit more players and create a second team, or move some players up to Legion with the hope that some Super Seniors will also choose to play Legion.

Some questions: Can players who are eligible to play 16U but play Legion still play in the 16U State Tournament? The Tin Caps would have to play Class A in Legion with power points seeding just like state High School. With playing in Class A, Tea can also have players from other communities to fill out the roster. However, the goal of TBA is to utilize and promote opportunities for Tea players. Chris Vasecka would be the coach of the Tin Caps (Legion). The schedule for 16U is already published.

Action item: Rob will check with Legion about options to play the season but not the State tournament to allow 16U eligible players to play in the 16U State Tournament. Once he has more information, he'll reach out to 16U parents and coaches.

B. Amateur Team — Tea Steam

Jeff Portner and Jason Lundgren came to the meeting to see as the TBA grows if adding it would be willing to manage the Amateur team (Tea Steam). Currently, TBA doesn't have anyone willing to take over coaching and organizing the team. The Steam is three years old and competes in Class A but has a schedule that is more in line with Class B (Larchwood, Lennox, Garretson, etc.). It costs \$3100 to run the team for a year, which includes an 18-game schedule. The costs could be offset by player registration fees or fundraisers. Games start in June. In 2024 there were 25 guys on the roster and it was tough to get nine there, they said. Ideally more college players would be on the Tea team to help with the level of talent on other Class A teams.

C. Dakota Traffic

Digital signs are available for purchase from Dakota Traffic Solutions, which was purchased by a larger company. This is like the sign TBA has used to promote Chase the Ace at the corner of Gateway and Heritage. The auction is selling several pairs of signs that TBA could bid on and use for CTA and other TBA promotions. TBA talked to the American Legion about splitting the cost for the signs; they are meeting Feb. 3 and will discuss at their board meeting. The auction ends Feb. 27.

Cory made a motion to bid up to \$2500 toward a digital sign; Rick seconded. Unanimously approved.

Action items: Rob will check with Justin Gabbert about which signs to bid on. Rob will work with Kevin and Amy to bid up to our approved amount.

D. Chase the Ace

Pot is \$3360. It's been a slow start this year, which might be due to lack of signage at one of Tea's main intersections.

E. Sponsorship Committee

Rob hoping to have a conversation with the Sponsorship Committee.

Action items: Amy will update the Sponsor flyer and get to the Board, post online, etc.

F. Chislic Feed

There was some discussion about sponsorship options. It's time to get the auction site details pulled together, get firm numbers for food, etc. Last year there were 180 paid meals.

Action items: Rob will continue to work on the lead sponsor. Amy will set up another meeting in February to talk through details.

G. 10U coach

There are 10 players on the 10U team. Mitch will contact parents and ask someone to step up to coach and reach out to get 2-3 more kids.

Action items: Rob or Mark will send the roster of 10U kids to Mitch. Mitch will reach out to those parents/guardians to recruit a coach and two-three more players.

H. Freshmen/Sophomore team coach

Chris put together an email to TASD staff and got a response. Kade Russell who will be teaching in Tea in 2025-26. He has coaching background and is just out of college.

Rick moves to hire Kade \$2500 for the high school season, which includes two practices and/or games per week; Mitch seconds. Unanimously approved.

I. Administrative Associate

Rob reviewed the job description items on the Google Sheet. After discussion, the board recommended Rob go back to the candidate to discuss his thoughts and to potentially add anything that makes sense from his previous experience. This position comes with \$10,000 fee and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action items: Rob will communicate with Mike about his ideal job description. All board members should continue to add to the job description.

J. Hats

Mark talked to Octane Ink but doesn't yet have numbers. He will get design options to pick hats for the 8u-Legion competitive teams. TBA will order approximately double what is needed for inventory.

Action items: Mark will work with Octane on pricing and designs and then share.

6) OTHER BUSINESS/FUTURE OUTLOOK

7) NEXT MEETING DATE

March 2, 7 p.m. at City Hall

8) ADJOURNMENT 8:37 p.m.

Motion by Kevin, seconded by Rick. Unanimously approved.