

SABSA Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2019

St. Anthony Village Pub – restaurant side – 6:30 pm

Attendees: Katie Brustad, Erik Lindgren, Andrew Kagol, Danielle Bogucki, Rossi Cannon, Al Bates, Derek Stendahl, Aaron Rosha, Sabrina Horak, Kirsten Stendahl

The meeting was called to order by President Al Bates at 6:44 pm. Introductions were done, and Kirsten Stendahl asked to address the Board as a guest. Al expressed a goal of finishing the meeting at 9:30 pm, noting it was the first meeting since mid-May.

Guest Issues: Kirsten Stendahl came with a request for out-of-pocket expense reimbursement for the two 14U non-parent Coaches this season. Kirsten had tallied the mileage traveled to games and tournaments, and the total was over 1,000 miles (per coach). We researched (online) the IRS Charitable Mileage rate, noting it was \$0.14/mi. Discussion ensued, including the fact that the parents were contributing to a 'thank you' fund' separate from this request, the fact that the two coaches in question are the SAVHS Varsity Coach and Varsity Assistant Coach – and in general Boosters does not pay high school coaches, and our previous treatment of non-parent coaches.

Following discussion, Rossi moved, Al seconded, to reimburse the two 14U non-parent coaches Lamar Brendemuehl and Jeff Tonkin \$100 each towards the expense of their mileage. Motion passed, 5-0.

Other Agenda items to be added:

Al inquired about other items to be added to the agenda. Danielle suggested USA Softball Selects, and this was added under the Player & Coach Development update.

Approval of the prior meetings' minutes:

- Meeting of April 8, 2019 (tabled from May 19 meeting)
- Meeting of April 14, 2019 (emergency meeting)
- Meeting of May 1, 2019 (emergency meeting)
- Meeting of May 19, 2019

Rossi moved to approve the Minutes of all the Meetings listed. Katie seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update: Al –

Al thanked everyone for all their hard work this Season. Noting that the Coaches' Evaluations of Players had been sent out, Al asked if the augmentations that had been discussed in prior meetings had been adequately added, and if not, how the Evaluations still needed to be changed.

Discussion ensued regarding what to have on the Coaches' Evaluation of Players, and how to use it in future seasons. Possible additions discussed were:

- Decision-making and execution*
- Softball IQ (how to define?)
- Execution in game play
- Speed of progression of skill?
- Comments*
- Reliability

By consensus, the above items were grouped into several new columns. Al will edit the Fastpitch Evaluations, and the already-sent (and already partially returned) 6U & 8U Evaluations will use the earlier draft of the enhanced form this year, and will use the new form in subsequent years. An additional

consensus was that future revisions should be made by a Board-approved sub-committee, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Al Bates, acting Treas.

The "Bank" Balance at May 5, 2019 was \$23,026.61. This is the latest information we have from the Boosters Treasurer. Al noted that many expenses were yet to be recorded, and estimated that potentially about \$2,000.00 in additional expenses were still coming in.

Player & Coach Development Update: Danielle/Al

Al reported that the 'Novice' (10,12U) Pitching Clinics held in a 3-session format for \$45 in mid-late June, held on C1 in Central Park with MFA Pitching Coach Becca Bates drew 10 attendees, out of a possible 12 spots. At this price point, with the number of attendees, SABSA subsidized the two unfilled spots by paying MFA \$90. We received good feedback on this clinic.

Al also noted that we had indicated an interest for more Pitching Clinics – for 8U/10U, and asked if this was the right format and the timing to pursue. The consensus was to offer another round of Clinics to 8Us moving up to 10U, 10Us, and players moving up to 12U – in early August, after Villagefest. Al will follow up with MFA. It was mentioned that there are additional resources in the Coaching/Assistant Coaching pool which could potentially be tapped.

Interest was also expressed in offering more Pitching Clinics earlier in the year, ideally in the early afternoons after school, in April, starting next year.

Danielle brought up the upcoming USA Softball Selects games, and Coaches were encouraged to get their (up to 2 each) Player nominations in. The format requires a \$75 parent-paid entry fee, and Coaches were reminded to make sure the parents understand this. Parents need to sign up online with USA Softball by 7/22.

Coach Updates:

- 6U – (Bates): 6U had a scrimmage day, which was a big success. Without a Spring Lake Park "Rookies" team to play against, 6U had a scrimmage with volunteers from our 8U teams. There was a great turnout from the younger 8U kids and the 8U Coaches, enabling a very nice 1-inning game experience for the 6Us. Al thanked the 8U Coaches.
- 8U – Blue (Horak): League record: 8-0-0. Had a good season. Nerve-wracking at the start, the Players learned quickly, and were responsive to coaching; The girls worked hard. Coach Horak questioned if/when we'll stop handing out "participation awards" in 8U, or what should be earned. Following comments from attendees stressed the difference between 8U and 10U, and good conversation ensued regarding how to prepare kids for 10U transition, (where there is no tee, among other changes), and no 'participation awards'. It was recommended that we ensure that the 8U – 10U transition is covered during the preseason Coaches Meeting to help Coaches help first year 10U Players. Another suggestion was to add this 'transition content' to a Coach Outline.
 - White (Ksiazek) had a League record of: 3-4-1.
 - The 8U Jamboree Concessions netted \$395.17! Thanks to Amy Anderson for a great job on Concessions at the Jamboree!
- 10U – Blue (Kagol); league record: 5-11-2
 - Blue's State Tournament has been delayed a week due to lack of umpires. 4 teams are dropping out. State will be in Mounds View instead of Hutchinson.
- - White (Lindgren): league record: 4-14-0

White had a hot qualifier tournament. They pitched primarily one Pitcher, and received Tier 4 at State, going 1-2 at State. Their pitching was markedly improved after Becca's pitching clinic. White also made the gold bracket in all of their tournaments, going 14-12 in tournaments.

- 12U – Black (Bogucki); league record: 9-12-1

Had a good season. Assistant Coach Aaron indicated that overall, it was a really great experience. Every game was competitive. It was fantastic for the players to have to face good pitching all the time and pitchers to face good hitting. As the season progressed, they really started to catch up; Aaron said he would be surprised if there was someone who wasn't glad to play at that level. There was speculation that we might have had enough talent to have fielded 2 A teams, but then there would be implications regarding what to do about the 'third team'.

Danielle expressed that seeing the level of pitching at those higher levels now indicates that the lack of doing so earlier could be one of the reasons we're 'behind', and expressed that it's imperative that we continue to see that pitching. The team experienced great growth throughout the season, going 22-17-1 in combined league and tournament play (not including pre-season tournaments with borrowed players). Danielle's suggestions/thoughts for the future included asking whether A-team expectations should look different than lower tier teams (i.e. number of tournaments/nationals participation). Danielle also expressed that she thought that if possible, having tiered teams is better and was curious about others' thoughts, and speculated that we possibly should re-visit fielding a C team, or A, B, and C.

- Blue (Cannon); league record: 9-9-2

Had a positive season, finished 1 above .500, all games considered. The Players were resilient, and had a blast.

- White (Pollard); league record: 11-11-0. Went 2-2 at Qualifier, 0-2 at State.

- 14U – State is coming this weekend; league record: 5-10-1. 19-16-1 overall.

14U won the Bloomington Bash, took 3rd in another tournament but beat the team that took 1st. They got into the silver bracket in another tournament and won it easily. Kirsten reported that the 14U parents thought A was absolutely the right level for this team, that everyone got to learn how to hit against good pitching, and expressed there was value in playing A and losing rather than playing B and winning. Playing mixed A/B tournaments worked well. The team went 1-2 in the Qualifier. Kirsten expressed that the parents were happy with the coaching and that Coaches Lamar and Jeff went above and beyond, with additional tournaments.

Coordinators Updates:

- Equipment – Al

With a need to set up the Equipment Return Date, we set a tentative date of Aug 12. The feedback from Coaches on replacement/additional equipment needed was:

- Catchers mitts.
- A Pop-up net broke, some may need to be replaced (esp. bags)
- Rolling bags
- Triangular hopper
- Pop-up back stops
- Temporary batting cage at Wilshire

- Coaching screen
- Pitching machine
- Radar gun

- Fields - Pat/Al

The feedback on fields was that the needs are:

- Gates on Wilshire Park – immediately.
- Additional netting at Central Park.

We discussed buying Lunch at Jersey Mike's for the City Groundskeepers, and the consensus was to again do this, in keeping with tradition.

- Umpires – Derek

The Board thanked Derek, for the help and support this season. Although there were some hiccups at the beginning of the season, once those were behind us, having Umpires for our games was not an issue.

There were some concerns expressed about the main Umpire (Tim) at 12U and 14U. Among the concerns were Timing of the Games & Breaks, and an Erratic Strike Zone. Derek did mention the timing issue to Tim, who seemed to respond.

It was reported that there were also complaints from other communities, and suggested that the Board should explore if there are other options for Umpires for next year.

- Spirit Wear & Online Store – Erik/Rossi

We still have not received the rebate check from Dave's. Erik will follow up on this.

The next sale will be around the holidays.

- Uniforms – Erik

Mentioned that we will need to explore options for new Fastpitch jerseys for next year, as ours have been discontinued.

- Fundraising – Andrew/Kirsten/Erik/Al

Jersey Mike's raised \$1,293! Thanks, Jersey Mike's!

DQ Night was a success, in the \$350 range! Thanks, DQ!

- HDC Liaison Update: – Scott

No report.

- Old Business:

- Parking Lot/Back Burner Items:

- Ice Cream Social – still no traction
- Volunteer Post-Season Celebration
- Video announcement for Wilshire Park?

- New Business:

- Villagefest Parade: Erik will ask for a coordinator and send out an announcement.

- Rossi/Katie will take it on if no one else steps up.
- The designated pickup spot at the end of the parade will be at the Jersey Mike's, where there will also be a photo shoot.

- End of Season Coaches Celebration (Danielle)
 - The End of Season Coaches/Volunteers celebration will be at Grumpy's in Roseville, from 5 – 7 pm July 28th. There is a \$200 budget available for food.
 - If that doesn't work, West End, Katie can help arrange a private dining room.

- Post-Season Parent Evaluation of Coaches -
 - After discussion on the format and delivery of the Parent Evaluation of Coaches, the consensus was to tweak last year's Evaluation to:
 - Remove the 3 questions which were added last year
 - Remove the name submission
 - Add "we value feedback; please contact a board member to discuss further."
 - & "Combined data and comments will be presented to the coaches for their growth and development".
 - And to go with last year's questionnaire after the above changes have been made.

- Parent Survey of Evaluations/Team Formation Process –
 - After discussion regarding evaluations and team formation feedback on the processes, the consensus was that we need to follow a process with a sub-committee and board approval.
 - Also, it was reported that 10U Coaches and parents are offering feedback that we should consider tiered teams at that level, even if it's by age or High B/Low B.
 - The consensus was to address concerns in another listening session – similar to last year's, targeting October - post Fall-Ball season.

- Recruiting for Open Positions for Next Year
 - It was suggested that we recruit at the Listening Session to be held in October.

- Next meetings' dates:
 - (This was the June 23 meeting, postponed until today).
 - The next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Monday 7/22 @ 6:30, will be moved to Monday, August 12th @ 6:30 at the Village Pub, Restaurant Side.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Rossi Cannon, VP & Al Bates, Pres.