

**St. Anthony sports Boosters Softball Association (SABSA) Board Meeting Minutes
2019, November 11**

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

Attendees: Rossi Cannon, Al Bates, Andrew Kagol, Katie Brustad, Danielle Bogucki, Sara Strain, Andrew Lindgren, Steve Munson, Natalie Dougherty

The meeting was called to order by President Al Bates at 6:37 pm. Al expressed a goal of finishing the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Approval of the prior meetings' minutes:

- Meeting of October 14, 2019 - Motion by Rossi Cannon, Seconded by Danielle Bogucki, to approve the minutes with a language change to the draft to more properly place an ensuing discussion outside the listening session comments. Motion passed.
- Virtual Meeting of October 25/26, 2019 - Motion by Rossi Cannon, Seconded by Danielle Bogucki. Motion passed.

President's Update: Al – reported on the follow-up communications regarding the Pitching time distribution on the 2019 12U A team, with the Parents who raised the issue (of their Pitcher being “shorted innings” in the listening session), and with the team Coaches:

- Following email conversations between Al & the Parents involved, Al & Andrew Kagol had a meeting with 12U A Coaches Danielle Bogucki and Aaron Rosha to review the coach's stats game-by-game and discuss the decision-making process for determining pitching time and the pitching time “1/3 of the innings” rule as it had been communicated prior to the season, and also discussed other concepts which merited consideration: “a balance of fairness to players and the team”, and the “practice of playing tournaments to win”. Al also reported that he had sent a communication to the Parents of the Pitcher in question with an apology and commentary on the design flaws (of the “1/3 of the innings rule” and the communications) which led to this situation and our intention to revise how this should be handled in the future.
- Al reported that he had sent our Letter of Support for a turf field in Central Park, including financial support, to Troy Urdahl. Al & Rossi attended the Boosters Board Meeting, where the details of the Turf Field in Central Park Grant Request were discussed. The Grant request was ultimately written up to turf the varsity

football field and add a track. In total, this could be a multi-million dollar project, with a 3 million dollar grant request to Hennepin County.

- Also at the Boosters Meeting, there was a significant discussion of Gym Time use by Spring Sports – to be discussed further under to New Business.
- Al also reported that the Fence Improvement Project was presented to the Boosters Baseball Board, and deferred more comment to the Fields Report segment of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Al Bates, acting Treasurer.

- The "Bank" Balance at November 5, 2019 was \$14,877.84, putting the YTD "profit/loss" at a loss of <\$2,822.74>. This does not include a small 'receivable' from the HDC for Fall Ball.
- An Actuals vs. Budget review was distributed, and discussion followed, including overspent areas and implications for 2020 Budget and Fees, which must be set in the next few weeks.

Coach Updates:

(none)

Coordinators Updates:

Player & Coach Development Update: Danielle/Al

- Winter Skills Clinic Update:
 - MFA Winter Skills Clinics will be on Jan 5, Jan 26, & Feb 2
- Open Gym will be Feb 1
- Evaluations dates will be Feb 8 (Pitching & Catching) and Feb 9 (General Evals). Al will follow-up to reserve the gym space online.

Equipment – Al

- Need an Equipment Coordinator for 2020. Erik has volunteered to serve as acting equipment coordinator.
- Equipment should be inventoried and purchases made in January.
- Pop-up nets will need attention in the coming year.
- Erik Lindgren volunteered to be acting Equipment Coordinator in the interim without an appointed Equipment Coordinator. Thanks, Erik!

Fields - Steve/Al

- Al & Steve discussed the Fence Project presentation to the Boosters Baseball Board, and potential commitment of funds before the anticipated final presentation to Parks Board. The Boosters Baseball Board's response, via BB President Joe Wax, was to increase the A&B Priorities by \$1,795 for additional gates at Wilshire Park, while committing \$1,000 to the project.
- Discussion ensued about how to reconcile Baseball's "asks" and potential financial contribution with SABSA priorities. The SABSA Board reaffirmed that priority should be to support the primary safety upgrades at Wilshire and Emerald (which does not include the additional gates at WP asked by Baseball.
 - Al Bates moved, Rossi Cannon seconded to authorize up to \$3,400 in SABSA funds to support fence upgrades.
 - Andrew Kagol offered an Amendment, Rossi Cannon seconded, that SABSA would contribute up to \$3,400 towards the R4 (version) of the Fence Project, parts A and B totaling \$7,880 (which would include the additional gates at WP, *contingent upon baseball providing \$2,000* (which fully funds the additional gates request). The Amendment passed.
 - The original motion, now amended, passed.

Umpires -

- We need a new Umpire Coordinator for 2020, as Derek Stendahl will not be serving in this capacity next year.
- Derek (2019 Umpire Coordinator) had great notes. The Board should secure these to review them.
- There were concerns expressed regarding the 2019 umpiring, which should be addressed early in the year.
- There was information available from another umpire group last season; Sara Strain is willing to help spearhead this coordination.

Spirit Wear & Online Store – Erik/Rossi -

- We briefly discussed having a Holiday Sale, and decided to defer this to having an Evaluations Sale, instead.

Uniforms – Erik -

- Erik will obtain samples of a royal/white/black pinhole uniform and another similar uniform, to determine what change to make for next year, since our current fastpitch uniform has been discontinued.

Fundraising – Andrew -

- Sponsorships received:
 - St. Anthony Mobil - \$500
 - Village Orthodontics - \$250
- The Related Sponsorship Banner remains pending for now.
- A future solicitations discussion was deferred to the December meeting.

HDC Liaison Update – Scott/Al -

- We have billed the Huskies Diamond Club \$200 for equipment rentals and ball sales for Fall Ball.

Old Business

- Yearly 'To-Do' Calendar Creation
 - Al has a rough draft of items to be included, and will work with Rossi to type them up to give a starting point for this.

New Business

- Nominations for 2020 Board Positions (7)
 - President – Rossi Cannon was nominated by Danielle Bogucki and Al Bates
 - Vice President – (no nominations)
 - Secretary – Sara Strain was nominated by Al Bates and Danielle Bogucki
 - Treasurer – Erik Lindgren was nominated by Rossi Cannon and Danielle Bogucki
 - At-Large – Andrew Kagol was nominated by Rossi Cannon
 - At-Large – Katie Brustad was nominated by Rossi C. and Al B.
 - At-Large – (one at-large position received no nominations)
 - It was suggested that a communication to be sent to parents who attended the listening session to gauge interest in board and coordinator positions. Al will follow up..

- Gym Time Use matrix
 - Al Bates & Rossi Cannon related the result from the Boosters Board Meeting was that all sports would be granted 50 hours of gym time for free, and time used over 50 hours will incur a fee.
 - Discussion ensued about the role of Community Services and recreation support if it's not a boosters job to provide these opportunities.
 - Board Members are to review the Gym Time Use Matrix as "Homework", to prioritize our use of gym space for 2020 Planning, to be discussed further at the December meeting.

- 2019 Actual Spending vs. Budget areas, overspending areas, & 2020 rough Budget development, including a preliminary Fees schedule:
 - There was discussion regarding variances from budget.
 - It was asked that we review the reporting and come to the December meeting with thoughts as to what the 2020 budget should look like.
 - A need to monitor outlying expenses so core activities are generally close to core income (i.e. not fundraiser money) was discussed.
 - There was discussion regarding tracking systems used, & how to organize as responsibilities are fully transferred away from Al Bates, who has been acting in a treasurer capacity

- Pitching distribution in tiered teams, when a top-tier team is involved, specifically involving the 2019 12U A team, and top tier teams in general:
 - The season's pitching distribution numbers as calculated by coaches varied from what was presented to board by the Parents of one of the named pitchers on the 12U A team.
 - As mentioned earlier, Al sent an email to the parents apologizing for what he viewed as a disappointing result, relative to what we had communicated was going to happen before the season began.
 - Andrew expressed his opinion that this outcome was not disappointing, but rather, unfortunate, which was in part unfair to the coaches as they worked through the challenges of a new system.

- The Coaches of the 12U A Team reported the Pitching split among the Pitchers, inclusive of in-season tournaments, was closer to the "1/3 of the innings" rule than had been reported earlier, albeit the Pitcher in question was a bit under 1/3. When post-season games were included, the Named Pitcher in question's time was notably less than a 1/3 share.

- Discussion ensued about the mismatch between expectations and what was presented to players and parents. Expectations, as were set by the language used by the board before the season began, should be reassessed, and revised before next season.
- There was discussion about “pitch count” or “batters faced”, instead of “innings”, in the “rule regarding what amount of the available pitching that each Named Pitcher to a top tier team should be “allotted”.
- There was discussion about Pitching in League Play and Pool Play in Tournaments, vs Bracket/Elimination Play in tournaments, when crafting the language for “Pitching Allotment” for Named Pitchers on Top Tier teams going forward.
- We confirmed the need to revise the language of the “Pitching allocation rule” for top-tier teams for next season.

Next meetings' dates:

- Monday, Dec 16. Time: 6:30 pm. Location: Community Center – AI to reserve space
- Sunday, January 5. Time: 5:00 pm. Location: Village Pub (tentative)

Adjournment time: 9:39 pm

Respectfully submitted, Rossi Cannon & AI Bates