

# BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, November 8, 2021

Meeting Time: 8:00 pm

Meeting Location: (Virtual) Zoom

## **CALL TO ORDER**

8:08 pm

### **Present:**

Co-Chair	Steve Hanson
Co-Chair	Troy Rushmeyer
Secretary	Ann Scheinost
Treasurer	Jim Haakonson
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Eidenshink
Director	Eric Fenstad
Director	Wade Haapajoki
Director	Jeremiah Piepkorn
Director	Mandy Vanek

### **Absent:**

Director	Zach Heidmann
----------	---------------

## **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**

Steve Hanson: Brainerd consider hosting the Cal Ripen 9U Regional Tournament July 27 – August 2. (Placed under item 3 in New Business.)

Missing key for BPR: We are unable to locate. Replacement will be addressed accordingly.

Motion to approve this agenda, with addition, along with the meeting minutes from 10/18/2021, was made by Steve Hanson, seconded by Eric Fenstad. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

1. Survey Results – discussion (Where to go from here). Thanks to Mandy Vanek for her work on creating the survey and providing results.
  - a. Interests in Sponsoring: Steve, Wade, and Eric will be connected with the following:
    - 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

Additional: Mike from Jersey Mike's had a great experience and will be contacted, Steve also reached out to Pirate's Cove.

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

- b. Broader survey questions moving forward – Reach out to Community Ed and BRP to put messaging on their websites looking for those who may have interest in umpiring, coaching Rec Ball, attending coaches and umpire clinics, etc.
  - c. Are we able to create charts and graphs with the data? Yes, we absolutely are. This will be helpful for road mapping.
2. Tournament Sub-Committee
- a. Volunteer requirements and requiring teams to work one home tournament they are not playing in. We will want to be more proactive in communicating and managing this area of the Association. Parents need to be made more aware of, and commit to, fulfilling this requirement. Post our needs early and let teams choose. Dibs is an app available to us on our website. Names of those interested in serving in a director capacity will be gleaned from the survey, and contacted. Mike Eidenshink to assist in reviewing the Dibs application for implementation, and how it can be used to track hours to identify and invoice those who do not fulfill their commitment.
  - b. Concessions, Food trucks: If we use food trucks, we need to decide and schedule soon, as their calendars fill up. For Brainerd fields, BPR can man and run concessions. While we don't make any money, this is potentially one less worry for us to stock, schedule and man with volunteers (2 people, per hour, per tournament). Side note: we cannot do concessions at Forestview or BHS, because of school district policy. We may need to focus volunteers on the needs for field maintenance vs. Concessions.
  - c. Marketing for increased sponsorship revenue: what areas can we pursue
    - i. Marketing guide/plan: Wade offered to create something for our next meeting
    - ii. Banners at fields for display during tournaments?
    - iii. Lodging capacities for potential increase of team #'s per tournament
    - iv. Grill burgers/hot dogs, sell pizza, etc., for sale during normal Baxter rec games.
  - d. Form group (doesn't just have to be board members), start meeting and report to entire board at regular scheduled monthly meeting

### **New Business**

- 1. Steve, Troy, Jeremiah and Wade met with coaches that represented all 6 age groups at Boulder Tap House: meeting was productive
  - a. One concern was the need to do better job related to informing the public about skills clinics and tryouts; advertisement, handouts in the schools (Wade will look into what the process looks like), BPR and Community Ed websites.
  - b. Some discussion on rec ball and fall tryouts as well
  - c. Need to focus on well-structured skills clinics
- 2. Skills clinics this winter: Steve has had discussions with Jennifer Rushin
  - a. Jeremiah sent schedule via email to our clients – determine how many people need to run effectively and need to get this out to whole community.
    - i. Nov. 17
    - ii. Dec. 1, 8, 15
    - iii. Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
    - iv. Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
  - b. Open to all kids - Fees, so we charge them? Our Wednesday night fees are \$480 for all sessions: \$10 per court (there are 4 at Forestview), but we are not charged custodial fees. Limited availability at FMS on other nights because of basketball.

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

- c. Pre-tryout skills week and try-outs space to be reserved – Tryouts on a Saturday, all day. Avoid Spring Break week, as well as the weekends before or after.
  - d. Research purchasing drop down or portable batting cages to set-up at schools other than Forestview to give us more options and potentially save some costs for facility usage fees? Troy will research.
  - e. Todd Vanek personal skills lessons – proposal given for review. Conflict of interest discussion was had; questions were addressed and resolved, including: does Todd need special insurance? No, as he's covered under Cal Ripken for the remainder of the period. If fields are used in Baxter for lessons, the city should be made aware. Mandy said that in the past, Todd connected with Joe Pohlkap regarding usage of the cages. How does this affect who we are as an organization? Would he be a for-profit entity operating inside of a non-profit entity? The consensus is that Todd will be providing a service that we can recommend to players for skills improvement. Motion to approve proposal, with stipulation that Todd will provide report on results on player involvement, etc., was made by Wade Haapajoki, seconded by Steve Hanson. Motion passed unanimously (Mandy Vanek abstained).
  - f. Swing Kings proposal – Zach Heidmann will ask for proposal for December board meeting review.
  - g. Coaches and umpire clinics: Phil and Dave to provide input, need to get the word out to secure more coaches and umpires.
3. Move on approaching candidates for open board position (IT -Marketing skills): Troy will connect with the following:
- a. Chris Velasco (Survey)
  - b. Dave Badeaux (Survey)
  - c. Matt Castle (Survey)
  - d. Olson (Survey)
  - e. Heather Johnson (Survey)
  - f. Phil Berg (not related to survey)
4. Cal Ripken 9U tournament opportunity (Steve Hanson) – good way to promote our organization's reach to our community and to other states. Are we comfortable throwing our hat into the ring for this? The state commissioner had approached us and Waite Park. Does this coincide with the 15U Gopher State Tournament? We will address this at the next board meeting.

The following will be tabled for another meeting:

5. MYAS – upcoming zoom meeting to be scheduled
  - a. Discussion for creating a central MN league with other outstate communities, i.e. Waite Park, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Moorhead, Grand Rapids, Bemidji, etc.
6. Need to set up a meeting with ISD 181 and new CE Director, new AD related to tournaments, concessions, food trucks. (Volunteers to attend?)
7. Road map – Still a lot to discuss and address (need to schedule a meeting) Survey results - clients, partnerships – Cities, Community ED, MYAS, CRBR, ISD 181, CLC, VFW, Legion, etc.
8. Treasurer's report

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2021**

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

**Meeting Time: 8:00 pm**

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:52 pm

Motion to adjourn was made by was made by Jim Haakenson, seconded by Steve Hanson. Motion passed unanimously.