

Jan 12, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at Pizza Gourmet.

Board members present: Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Ed Tworek, Dick Smith, Dave Dye, Chuck Grubb and Dave Janda. Dave Banghart participated from Florida via telephone. Approximately 12 league members were also in attendance.

1. **Survey Questions** - Chuck Grubb is in the process of finalizing the questions for the survey. We will be using a tool called Survey Monkey. This is a free website that will collect all the responses. The website recognizes IP addresses so there is a limit of one response per IP address. At this time the Board has selected 7 questions to put on the survey for the league to respond. There is some concern regarding clarification of the response for the first question regarding player preferences of new jerseys to be procured for the upcoming season. The options to select would be to continue with the current design of MLB replica jerseys we have used in the past or if the players would prefer to go with a non replica MLB jersey that is of higher quality material and construction, and will most likely cost a little more than what we have used in the past. Dave Banghart put together a quote from Teamwork Athletic Apparel. These jerseys can be designed using MLB team names but cannot replicate the trademark logos and fonts. Dick Smith is still working on finalizing quotes from local vendors for replica jerseys. It is believed that the cost for non-replica jerseys from Dave Banghart source would be only a few dollars more than the replica jerseys that we could acquire from local vendors. Chuck requested the input of the Board members help clarify the responses so that league members fully understand what is being asked of the question. It was suggested that the Teamworks website or a picture of a proposed design be added to the background of the question. The Board will discuss further the wording of the options via e-mail and get finalized so that the survey can get out the players as soon as possible. Ed Tworek asked that question #2; regarding the preference of the Double Headers vs. Byes (in the event that we have an odd number of teams for the season). Ed feels that the question needs to provide some background detail to inform every one of the ramifications of each choice. For ex sample, double headers would require additional (late) games times, and additional umpire fees to cover the extra game. This could possibly result in increased player fees. Question #7 is regarding the courtesy runner rule. Ed feels that this subject requires further discussion from the board and should not be included in the survey at this time. He suggested that a committee be formed to review the issue in depth and then send out as a separate question on another survey. The other option is the leave the question on the survey, calculate the responses and go with the majority. Ed Tworek made a motion to remove the courtesy runner question from the current survey. The motion was second by Dave Janda. The vote was 4-3 opposed to removing the question. Those voting opposed were Ron Kunert, Chuck Grubb,

Dave Dye and Dick Smith. The motion failed and the courtesy runner question will remain on the current survey.

2. **Electronic Registration** - Chuck found a free website to use to develop an electronic registration form that will be put out on the website. This will allow players (returning and new) to submit their registrations electronically with payment processed through PayPal. Chuck has set up a PayPal account for NSS for receipt of payment. When using the electronic registration, players can submit payment using a personal PayPal account (if they already have one), or making payment with a bank check card or credit card. The previous method of printing the form and submitting via US postal services will also remain in place. All submitted registrations will go to the Director of Player registration, Dave Janda. Because the PO Box previously used for sending registration forms has expired, Dave will be setting up a new PO Box which would be better located to him. He will provide this new PO Box to Tom Herfordt to update the registration form on the website.
3. **Advertising** - Although the league does have a Nebraska Senior Softball banner which has been used in the past, Chuck would like to update it. He has obtained a quote from SignIT for a 5' x 8' banner with Hems and Grommets and 300 (5" x 7") window clings. The quoted cost for the banner is \$280 and the quoted cost for the window clings is \$1.50 each. He would also like to contract with a graphic designer to develop an updated NSS logo. He estimates the cost for a graphic designer to be \$60-\$120.
4. **Managers** - Dave Dye is concerned that we may not have enough Managers for the new season. Player registration is scheduled to begin Feb 1. He requests that the registration form include a note that players interested in being team managers get their registration in early so that an assessment of manager needs can be reviewed as early as possible. He can then set up timely meetings with managers to discuss player drafts for the new season. He will also be scheduling meetings with the Draft Advisory Committee in the very near future to begin outlining the draft process for the new season.
5. **2011 Operating Budget** - Ed Tworek has put together a proposed budget for the 2011 year. Using conservative estimates for upcoming costs for the new year he is proposing the registration fees for the summer season be \$90 all players (covers the expense of new team jerseys). Fall registration fee is proposed at \$65 (jerseys not provided for new players for fall). Ed Tworek made a motion to set registration fees per his proposal. The motion was second by Dave Banghart. The Board voted 7-0 in favor of the proposed fees. The motion passed. Softballs Dick Smith has procured 240 softballs at a cost of \$3 per ball to be used for the 2011 summer season, this should also provide a surplus for the start up of the 2011 fall season.
6. **Updated Website** - Ron Kunert asked if we intend to move forward with updating the Nebraska Senior Softball website. Paul Williams has submitted an example of an updated version to Steve Quinn (he has forwarded to the rest of the board). It was suggested that it would be best to discuss this topic at a later

board meeting after we have the needs of the start up of the new season finalized. We could ask Paul to attend to provide a demonstration of the proposed updated version, and work on phasing in at a later date.

7. **Open Forum** - League members who attended the meeting this evening were invited to add input on whatever topic they chose, but were instructed that they would be given a 2 minute time limit to talk.
  - **Bill Smuck** - Likes the new format of inviting players to the meeting and giving them the opportunity to speak directly to the board. He asked how often the full draft would be held. Based on the results of the last survey, the majority of the responses were in favor on continuing with the 3 year rotation of full player draft.
  - **Del Stokes** - Expressed his thanks to the board and appreciates the struggle they have had with defining and policing the courtesy runner rule. If the goal is to sell the league to new people, then serious consideration should be given to procuring well designed jerseys to reflect the league in a positive light rather than settling on just a simple shirt.
  - **Bob Williams** - In regards to the courtesy runner rule, the intended purpose is to provide a courtesy runner in the event of an injured player. If a player uses a courtesy runner in a game, then that player should use a courtesy runner the remainder of the game. The board and league should consider utilizing players who are unable to play but would be willing to take over the role of team manager. Those people would be required to pay for their team jersey, but not pay any other fees.
  - **Jim Price** - Following the guidelines of the courtesy runner rule was the most stressful part of managing. He was pressured at times by his to put in a courtesy runner, while trying to follow the courtesy basis of the rule. In an effort to assist new managers, encourage returning players to wear old jersey (with their names) to the tryouts. This would help them identify all the players in the league.
  - **Bill Weller** - The competitiveness of the league creates a problem with the courtesy runner rule and how it is to be managed by the league and the teams. He knows of players who would like to play in the league but are not able to play as much as the schedule dictates. Why do we no longer have and use pool players. The short answer is that the use of pool players was abused in the past.
  - **Gary Dukat** - Since we are going to be playing the summer 2011 summer season at the LaVista parks he wanted to inform everyone that that park does have a liquor license and alcohol can be purchased in the bar there. However, it must also be consumed in the building, and there will be no other consumption of alcoholic beverages allowed in the park or the parking lot. The no drinking rule is highly enforced at the LaVista parks.
  - **Gary Kruse** - is concerned with limit of the 3 proposed options of the courtesy runner rule on the survey. What happens if someone is not in

favor of any of the options? It was suggested to add an open ended option that a respondent can add a recommendation for consideration in the future.

- **Torri Pantaleon** - Appreciates the new transparency of the board meetings, and likes the direction the board is going.
- **Cort Fernald** - Would like the league to consider implementing some of the tournament rules. For example the flip flop rule. This basically means that if the home team is behind at the start of the last inning, then they would bat first for the inning. In the past he has also gotten the permits for Churchich Park for the Saturday morning practices. The Omaha Parks department has implemented a \$5/hr fee for use of parks. Will the league be covering the cost going forward? Steve informed everyone the effective April 1, we will access to all the LaVista softball fields as long as they are available and not requested or reserved by any other teams. He also suggested that the league should set up softball clinics to help re-introduce some of those retired players back to the game.
- **Gerry Storovich** - If the majority of responses to the survey indicate that we go with non-replica team jerseys would we still be using the caps with the MLB team logos. The answer to that is yes. With consideration for new managers and the new draft will the skilled levels identified on the website be enforced for all players? The general consensus is that all our current players can qualify in 3 out of the 4 skills as defined in Player Qualifications in the guidelines.
- **Paul Kwaak** - As a manager it is not important for him to evaluate returning players; he prefers to focus on new players. When spring tryouts are scheduled he would like to see tryouts for organized and focused on the new players. Put the new players in position they have indicated on their registration (example: why put an infield player in the outfield shagging balls).

Steve thanked everyone for their attendance and comments at the meeting tonight. The next board meeting will be on Monday February 7, 6:30 pm with the location to be determined. Ron Kunert made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:40.