

August 2, 2011

The Meeting of the Board Members was called to order at 6:15 pm at Elmwood Park Pavilion.

Board members present: Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Ed Tworek, Dick Smith, Dave Dye, Dave Janda and Dave Banghart. Absent: Chuck Grubb

Steve explained the format for the League meeting following the Board meeting. Steve will introduce each Board member and give each of them a few minutes to address the rest of the league. Following that, candidates for the 2 open Board positions will be introduced. Each will have a few minutes to address everyone in attendance, give their qualifications and why they are running for the board. Steve also addressed the issue of the use of teleconferencing for the last board meeting. At times it will be necessary to use this format, and minutes for ALL Board meetings will be published on the website.

UPDATE FALL DRAFT: Dave Dye reported that we are still receiving some late registrations. As of today (8/2/11), the teams with the lowest number of roster players returning for the fall 2011 season are: 4- Cardinals; 6- White Sox and 7 each-Royals, Cubs, Pirates, and Blue Jays. Dave's recommendation is to disband Cardinals, White Sox, and Cubs for the fall 2011 season. Current registrations received would give us 113-114 payers, allowing 10 teams; 7 teams with 11 player roster, and 3 teams with 12 player rosters. If additional registrations are received prior to the 2011 fall draft, roster numbers will be adjusted. Dave Dye's recommendation of 10 teams allows for an equal balance of play, and an ease of scheduling without having to figure in bye's or double headers. We will remain with the 2 team division format. However, since disbanding of 3 teams creates an uneven balance of the divisions; 6 American & 4 National, he suggested a random drawing of 1 American league team and shift them to the National league for the 2011 fall season only. Dave will be using the draft tool which allows for compensation of lost spring draft picks and will also figure in each team's win/loss record from the 2011 spring season. Dave hopes to have something by the end of the week for the Board to review, and then be able to present to the managers by early next week (8/8/11).

Board Members meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

League Meeting Elmwood Park Pavilion 7:00 pm.

Present: approximately 60 league players representing 13 teams from the 2011 spring season.

Steve Quinn opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. He also informed everyone that any issues and concerns brought up by league members will be taken under advisement by the board for later discussion. He congratulated the Royals for winning the American division and the Brewers the National division and winning the Spring Championship. Steve shared with everyone the accomplishments of the NSS Board this year: Establishing a new home at LaVista Sports Complex for playing games, at a considerable savings from previous years; developing the umpire rating system so that managers can provide input regarding umpire performance. This tool allows the Board to review the umpires we are using and make informed decisions regarding their performance to the leagues expectations; Launching of the new website and the addition of adding NSS to Face book, with a special thanks to Paul Williams (website), and Chuck Grubb (Face book). The 2011 spring season had the largest number of players and teams since the inception of the NSS league ten years ago.

Steve then introduced each Board member and allowed them a few minutes on the floor to give their impression of the last year and what areas they worked on.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ed Tworek gave a recap of the financial report for the year. We started the year with a balance of \$8,500 in the bank. Revenue so far received this year included approximately \$20,000 in player registration fees, and \$1,500 in Corporate Partnership donations. Major expenses for the year included: \$7,000 – Team Jerseys/Caps; \$6,500 - umpire fees; \$5,500 - field fees; \$1,600 – equipment; \$1,300 – end of year jackets/sweatshirts for Championship teams. There was approximately \$3,000 in ticket receipts for the Storm Chaser night, subsidy from league came from revenue received from the Corporate Partnership donations.

BOARD CANDIDATES: Steve introduced the candidates running for the 2 open Board positions, and each was given a few minutes to address the members as to their qualifications and why they are running for the board. Candidates: Dennis Steinhauser, Ron Hager, Bill Riggle, and Mert Opfer. Members present were asked to vote for 2 candidates. The new Board members voted in by those members present are Dennis Steinhauser and Mert Opfer. They will begin their 3 year term after the Fall Banquet scheduled for November 4, 2011. At that time Dave Banghart and Ed Tworek will be ending their current terms with the Board of Directors.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARDS:

Duane Carolus asked about the status of the proposed electronic scoreboards that have been previously discussed at Board meetings. At this time, Steve Quinn & Chuck Grubb are working to find Corporate Sponsorship to supplement the cost. They are also communicating with the LaVista Sports Complex regarding a long term agreement for use of their fields as part of the procurement of electronic scoreboards. This is a long term project and we are still in the early stages of receiving quotes and procurement of financial assistance. Dale Dilts asked how much Corporate Sponsorship was the Board requesting. Rick Duvall asked if we are considering getting multiple sponsors for the project. At this time the goal is to procure full financial support from single or multiple sponsors.

- COURTESY RUNNER:

Dale Dilts also requested that the Board review the current rule regarding the courtesy runner. This year the rule stated that courtesy runners are limited to 2 per inning, and a player is allowed to run only 1 time per game. This year there seemed to be an increased number of injuries which affected the number of players that teams had available for the purpose of courtesy running.

- UMPIRES & NSS RULES:

Norm Benzinger expressed his concern that the umpires used this year were not following the NSS rule regarding the batting mat. It is noted that if the batter steps at least one foot completely off the mat, he is to be called out. Norm felt the umpires missed this call many times during the spring season. Norm also requested that the Board review the courtesy foul rule. He would like to see it eliminated from the modified NSS rules and guidelines.

- GAME TIMES:

Norm also noted that when we played at Council Bluffs last year, game times were moved back by 15 minutes to allow travel time to the fields. He suggested that since we are now playing in LaVista, we should give consideration to moving game times up by 15 minutes. He suggested 6/7/8. It was noted that this may be considered for a player survey question during the winter.

- WEBSITE:

Bill Riggle made some requests for updates to the website: Add a link where players can add comments. Consider modifying the current .pdf schedule to allow recording games scores, as it appeared on the previous website.

- CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:

Ron Leisure commented that there was some confusion in regards to the scheduling of the Championship game. How was it finally determined? It was decided that since we had fields available on the Monday following end of regular season play, the Championship game would be scheduled for that time to allow everyone to watch the game, so it would not coincide with any of the other regularly scheduled games.

- HEAT INDEX & CANCELLATION OF GAMES:

Dick Fielding suggested that rather than using the heat index as a guideline for game cancellation, use the actual temp instead. . Gerry Storovich commented that if the guideline is not going to be followed as stated in the rules and guidelines get rid of it. Play games regardless of what the temp or heat index may be. This would eliminate trying to guess if games will be played or not. Duke Burgess noted that the heat index guideline was put in place a few years ago because a player actually passed out. The guideline was put in place to protect the players, and should be followed as intended. Rick Prusha asked who puts out the LaVista forecast as it appears on the home page of the website. It appears that forecast is provided by accuweather.com. Rick Duvall requested that the Board establish a specific reference point (weather website) and time of day for making the call for what the heat index will be at game time and if games will or will not be played. Ron Franck noted that each player has the responsibility to bring drinks and cooling equipment to games in the event of extremely hot and humid conditions.

- DOUBLE HEADERS & BYES:

Bill Riggle requested that the Board consider surveying the question regarding doubleheaders and reconsider cancellations. He believes there may be a change in the response after the events of this spring season. Dave Banghart noted that all managers were notified at the beginning of the season that cancellations would not be rescheduled. The Board will take this under advisement

On a final note Bill Smuck expressed thanks and congratulations to Gary Kruse for his hard work for organizing the cookout for tonight's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Submitted by:

Sue Kunert

NSS Secretary