

September 6, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm at Lansky's

Board members present: Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Ed Tworek, Dick Smith, Dave Dye, Chuck Grubb, and Dave Banghart. Absent: Dave Janda. Also in attendance newly elected Board Members: Mert Opfer and Dennis Steinhauser (non-voting at this time). Guest: Paul Williams

**ASSIGNMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:** Steve Quinn opened the meeting by addressing the responsibilities of the Directors. At the end of the Fall Banquet Ed Tworek and Dave Banghart will end their term on the Board, and Mert Opfer and Dennis Steinhauser will begin their term. Consideration also needs to be taken for the 3 members whose term will end next year: Dave Dye, Dick Smith and Ron Kunert. Steve's goal is to balance the roles and responsibilities of each board member. He would like to see all members of the Board focus on better defining the responsibilities and re-writing them more accurately. Steve is suggesting that the Associate Commissioner Ron Kunert take over the umpire evaluations and field acquisition after Dave Banghart's term is ended. He also suggested that Ed Tworek's responsibilities of finance be turned over to Mert Opfer and rules/guidelines be turned over to Dick Smith. An area of great concern is the responsibilities of receipt of player registrations and payments. This year we initiated the process of online registration and payments. This required 3 Directors to be involved in the process and created some confusion when confirming receipt of registrations and payments. Steve's vision is to see that Dennis Steinhauser take responsibility of overseeing registration and receipt of payments. Also going forward, Steve would like to see Directors cross trained in each other's responsibilities to provide a smoother transition when new Directors are elected.

It was reported that 68% of players in the spring paid their registrations fees online. The remainder submitted payments by cash/check, either through mail or handed over to a Board member directly. Paul Williams reported that he will be working to streamline the online registration for next year.

Dave Dye expressed that the position of Player Personnel must be totally unbiased and needs to put the needs of the league first, and work the best to his ability to keep the needs of his own team out of the equation. Steve expressed a desire that in the future the Director of Player Personnel work with a 3 man committee consisting of Director of Player Personnel, the Associate Commissioner, and another Board member when developing player drafts and assignments. The Draft Advisory Committee will continue to be included in all discussion of player draft developments. Dave Dye expressed his appreciation for all the input of the DAC and felt they performed an excellent job of making the draft process fair for all.

**FALL LEAGUE STATUS:** As of the current date, there are 2 teams with a 13 player roster; the other 8 teams have 12 player rosters. There are 2 players who recently registered, Craig Barkdoll and Roger Hein, who are currently pool players. Since all teams are at full strength, the following motion was made by Dick Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Banghart: "For the remainder of the 2011 fall season all current pool players and any subsequent incoming players shall remain as pool players until the time when a team drops below full strength and assignment is necessitated." Six (6) Board members voted in favor of the motion, none opposed, and 1 (Dave Dye) abstained. The motion carried.

**FALL BANQUET:** The Fall Banquet will be held on Friday, November 4, 2011 at Elk Ridge Village Community Center. Alan Hardt is our contact person at Elk Ridge and has confirmed that the facility can accommodate 200 + guests for dinner. Ed Tworek reported that last year we sold tickets for 188 guests at a charge of \$15 per ticket. Elk Ridge Village charged \$16 per plate, and Nebraska Senior Softball subsidized \$1 per plate for the cost. Steve Quinn asked Chuck Grubb to spearhead a committee to finalize details for this year's banquet, including contacting Alan or Elk Ridge Village for a menu option and quote for per plate cost. Chuck suggested for this year's banquet to invite a guest speaker, maybe a high profile person within either the Storm Chasers organization, or maybe even someone from the Nebraska or Creighton Baseball department

**ED TWOREK:** Ed has reported that the field rental fees for the fall 2011 season have been paid in full. All incoming revenue has been reported and we are expected to lose \$1500 from this year's expenses. At this time there are no funds available for any additional expenses to the budget for the 2011 calendar year.

Ed has received communication from James Ellis suggesting a rules revision for the Board of Directors to take into consideration. James has suggested that a "sportsmanship" rule be put into place to discourage the defense from throwing a runner out at first base if the batter is able to hit a single to left or left center field. This is not the first time this suggestion has been made to the Board. In late 2008/early 2009 this issue was presented to the Board. At that time it was suggested to use the 150' line in the outfield (similar to co-ed rules) to prevent a defensive player from playing short and trying to have an advantage against slower runners. However, after further discussion it was agreed upon by Board members at that time to dismiss this suggestion. The maintaining and monitoring of the player position to the line was not feasible as we only use 1 umpire per game. By the motto of the league "Fun, Fitness, and Fellowship", all players are encouraged to play with the utmost sportsmanship. Defining a rule as to when a runner can or cannot be thrown out at first base is not in the best interest for ALL players in the League.

Ed also followed up regarding an e-mail he sent to Board members prior to tonight's meeting. Ed would like to see the responsibility of Communications Director added to one of the current Board members. At times we have important information that needs to get out to all the league members. This information should be sent via e-mail and followed up with phone calls for those league members who do not have e-mail access. Dennis Steinhauser commented that a person responsible for communications could also be extremely helpful to managers to let them know what is expected of them for things such as equipment storage, score updates, and umpire rankings.

**CHUCK GRUBB:** Chuck has been contacted by a few wives who have an interest in becoming more involved with the League. Chuck suggests that a NSS Ladies Auxiliary committee be established to accommodate this request. He will send out communication to get some additional feedback from the ladies and determine if any have further interest. Any volunteers could then help organize this year's banquet. .

Chuck presented quotes for the proposed electronic scoreboards that have been under discussion. OES has provided a quote of \$7,037.77 for 2 scoreboards which would include 2 handheld remotes, and 2 RF Option for HHS. Superior Lighting provided a quote of \$8,413.00 for cost of material and labor to install LED scoreboards. Total cost would come to \$15,450 for scoreboards and installation. This, of course, is a cost

that is outside of the capabilities of the Leagues funds. Chuck is still awaiting a response from Joe Haines of DLR in regards to their interest of sponsoring these costs. Ron Hager has also contacted Chuck with a possible sponsor candidate. Chuck is also attempting to locate possibly 3 or 4 other sponsors to help supplement the cost of these scoreboards. This project is still a work in progress, and Chuck will provide updates to the Board as they come available.

The next issue of Diamond Bits will be coming out soon. Chuck apologized for the delay. One item he is hoping to add to this issue is a feature called "Hall of Fame".

Chuck has also put together a committee of Paul Kwaak, Ron Hager, and Vince Bruce to research enhancing the League Championship games. Some things they are considering is making it a weeklong event by adding things such as an All Star Game, Legends Game, and a Home Run Derby. A proposal will be presented to the board at a later date.

A recap of the NSS night at the Storm Chasers: Ticket sales were 147 for the party deck, and 10 to 12 for box seats. We had almost 100% attendance, everyone was there but one. Chuck did receive some suggestions for improvement to next year. There was some confusion regarding assigned seating for those who purchased tickets for the party deck. Although the tickets indicated such, there in fact were no assigned seats included. However, many found available seats along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line since there was limited viewing available on the party deck. Next year we may look into reserving the party tents in left or right field. These tents provide space for eating, shade, and also assigned seats.

**DICK SMITH:** Each team manager should have received 9 new balls for use during the fall 2011 season. As noted, the home team is to provide a new ball and the visiting team is to provide a slightly used ball. Hats for the fall drafted players have all been received with the exception of the Orioles; these are still on back order. Dick asked what we are doing with the throw back jerseys & caps that were purchased this summer. At one time it was suggested that they be given to pool players, but there was concern about getting them back. It was suggested that these items be put on display for sale at the banquet.

**DAVE DYE:** As previously discussed and agreed upon by a quorum of 5 Board members on an earlier date at the ball fields, the registration fee for players registering for the fall league from this date forward will be \$50.

**RON KUNERT:** Ron is in full support of Ed Tworek's suggestion of adding responsibility of Communication Director to an existing Board position. He also wanted to confirm that Paul Williams has been reimbursed for his expenses for the launching of the new website. Ed Tworek confirmed that Paul has been fully reimbursed.

**DAVE BANGHART:** Dave reported that we have 5 umpires on the schedule for the fall season; three (3) of them are new to our league. He has been seeing very good ratings for all, but did state that manager feedback for a couple teams really needs to improve. Dave is continually communicating with all the managers to remind them of the importance of providing their umpire rankings after each game. At mid season Dave will compile the information and send to the managers and Board for their review.

Dave also commented that at the weekly batting practices he received a suggestion for a fall Saturday AM league for anyone who would be available. Dave thought something very informal, more recreational would be ideal. There was not further discussion on this matter.

**STEVE QUINN:** In going forward to prepare for the next meeting, Steve requested that each Board member come prepared with suggestions for questions for the next player survey. Board members should also be prepared to discuss the performance of Teams/Managers from both seasons this year. There has been concern that some managers did not perform up to par. Managers may need to be re-evaluated for their leadership skills, and the board may look for recommendations for new managers. It was suggested that the players rate their managers. An item for discussion at the next meeting; developing 5 or 6 questions for a manager performance survey.

Dave Dye made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Banghart. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm

Submitted by:  
Sue Kunert  
NSS Secretary