

Nebraska Senior Softball Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2012

Present: Board Members: Dave Janda, Dave Dye, Dick Smith, Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Chuck Grubb, Mert Opfer, Dennis Steinhauser and Roberta Steinhauser. Absent: Dick Smith
Incoming Board Members present: Duke Burgess, Greg West Absent: Ron Hager

Year Reflections

League had a good year. Growth introduced challenges with fields, more teams. More growth expected for next year. Board needs to be prepared.

Field costs – LaVista field pricing will be increased. Steve met with the LaVista Recreation Director. \$220+ per team is the going rate, we are paying substantially less.

Game Time Limits – Limitations of fields, lights and umpires were challenges this year.

Commissioner – Considerations for the next Commissioner would have value in electing a present Board Member for this position.

Board responsibilities for next year:

- Associate Commissioner - Ron Hager. Ron will take over Ron Kunert's present responsibilities.
- Financial – Mert. Mert will continue Financial responsibilities.
- Marketing-Chuck. Chuck will continue with Marketing responsibilities.
- Player/Personal responsibilities will be handed over to Duke.
- Equipment will be taken over by Dave Janda.
- Umpire responsibilities – Greg West.
- Scheduling- Dennis.

Dave Janda comments – consider inequity with present fall draft assignments. Consideration requested to keep pool players as pool players. Concerns expressed for current umpires.

Dave Dye comments – Board has paid \$22.00 per game for umpires, \$4.00 above Omaha umpire rates. New umpires need training to understand NE Senior Softball rules. Important to have knowledge of the players to take on the player/personnel responsibilities. Outstanding work has been done by Chuck for his accomplishments as the Marketing Director for the Board. Appreciation expressed to Steve for his leadership as Commissioner. Recommendation made that the Board Director Player/Personnel be allowed to be a Team League Manager. Board needs to plan for an additional field for the 2013 season. Considerations should be made to look at potentially dividing the league.

Steve's comments – LaVista field 1 can never be available to the League. Opportunity for field 2 does exist for Board use. Extended hours for the concession stand exists along with a potential for the League to run the concession stand.

Mert's comments – opportunity recommended to look at a draft process every 2 years instead of every 3 years. We need to address Late Sign-ups. We could divide into divisions with an A and B league based on skillset. Individual would indicate which skillset that he is. Overrides could

be made by the Director Player/Personnel or Commissioner. Endorsed spending more money to LaVista to retain playing on the LaVista fields. 11 players a team is easier to manage, 12 is tougher to manage when everyone shows up.

Ron Kunert – Thanks expressed to everyone for the collaborative work on the Board. Special thanks to Chuck for his work as Director of Marketing. Suggestion made to purchase the upgrade for the scheduling software that Dave Banghart originally bought. The upgrade version should handle odd number teams and double headers. Endorsement expressed for 2 divisions.

Dennis – The League has had significant evolution in the last 4 years. League has become more competitive, attracting younger players. The 1 hour game limit change took out some of the home town feeling of the league. Game time limit could be returned to 1 hour 15 minutes if we had another field. Field 5 across the road does not have lights but we need another field. If the league grows to 18 teams, 3 fields are essential. Lincoln is discussing starting a senior league next year and could have an impact. Divisions have created excitement and competition. 5 run limit will need to be addressed due to time limits. Biggest problem now is late sign-ups. Other leagues do not allow late sign-ups. We need a deadline to guarantee a spot on a team. This is essential for creating the schedule. Late signups could be used if we have lost players due to injuries. We picked up 6 in the summer after the summer deadline. Trend projected that new players will be in their 50's, which increases scoring. League is evolving/changing and grown from a rec league to a competitive league.

Duke – Number of players could drive the number of teams. More than 11 players are needed per team due to injuries, vacations, absences, etc. 12 should be the lowest number of players per team. 13 players per team would keep the number of teams lower. The manager does need to get everyone in 4 innings. Safety is important. Miken bats have the potential to compromise safety. Player qualifications mitigate risk for player safety and should be discussed. Umpires – cost differential recommended to see what the cost would be for 2 umpires at a competitive rate. Effective communications – response to emails is important for a timely acknowledgement/receipt of the email. Board response to emails are important.

Chuck – Umpires. Would like to pay above and beyond with expectations that we have quality umpires. Top dollars should be paid with performance of quality expected. Recommend to lock in league for 5 year contract and factor in increase for field for inflation. Look at opportunity to have formal panel for Board nominees to discuss issues and their thoughts. Quality vs. quantity is more important for the League emphasis. In 4 months we start registrations for 2013. We need to have an Agenda of the top items to address for Team Assignments and items to fix. The optimal approach is to address those topics in a focused extended Board meeting.

Greg – Umpires can make more at other leagues umpiring 4 games a night. Challenge to get umpires to leave present leagues. Recommendation made to go to 2 umpires per game. Our games are more competitive. One umpire cannot get in all positions to see the play and make the correct call. 2 Divisions would be optimal to keep everyone involved from a safety aspect. Decision of A or B division should be a player choice. Time limit or cutting down runs and the number of fields are all factors. Concern expressed on the limited number of people that want to step up to Board Positions or Managers. Publishing the schedule before the start of the league is very important to allow everyone to plan. Basic rules, time limit, extra innings, minimum number of players required to play, runner rules, etc should be on a website link for quick access by players.

Ed – Who do managers address issues with Umpires? Special thanks to Dick Smith, Jim Seeber, Bill Smuck and Chuck Grubb for publicity is really appreciated for the support in his tournament. Prefers a single league rather than a split of A/B divisions. Draft process was very good. Ed had 14 players that all came for games and it was very challenging as a Manager. Should have no more than 13 players on a team. 12 is ideal to manage. 11 works. 1 hour limit resulted in 5 or 6 innings with 4 or 5 bats per game. Going to 3 fields would allow an extended time limit. Don't make the sun a showstopper in not using 3 fields. \$30 extra per person for registration fees would cover the additional expense for 2 umpires per game. Tournament committee should not have the authority to override manager votes. Having divisions would have allowed more competition in the fall league.

Steve's comments – Expressed a vested interest of wanting to make the League better. It is very important to project the value and importance of the work of the Board – belief in the Board. More people will help and assist when a positive image is projected. Now we know what did work and did not work.

Dave Banghart – Encouraged the board to form a morning league. Sept 2011 he presented this recommendation to the Board. He had 40 players that did play in a morning league. 4 to 6 teams playing in the morning next year would free up team players for the evening leagues. There are more 50-55 year old players (100+ in count) and 79 players 60 and over. Morning has more relaxed and recreational opportunity for the players. We now have 14 guys over 70 years old in the league. Morning league would be umpired by players. Dave requested Board support and endorsement to get the word out early. Retirees have also expressed interest in playing. Tues, Thurs, Friday or Sat mornings could be used. A player survey would be excellent to get player input. 50 players would allow 4 teams. LaVista fields with a 9, 10 or 11:00 a.m. game time would be options. Morning league could have a reduced registration fee. Steve provided endorsement. Ed recommended consideration of having another Associate Commissioner to oversee the morning league. Allowing practice time before the games could also be considered.

Vote taken on paying LaVista for the fields - \$220 to \$250 fee next year per team with 2014 price of \$300 per team for 16 teams. Goal is to get a long term contract as a term of negotiation with the rate increases. Ridge is a safety issue. 2013 rate- \$250 per team (summer league) \$110 price presently paid for fall. Steve to include fall prices in negotiations. All Board members present voted- 5 approved and 1 abstained from voting.

Motion made to support and go forward with the Morning League. 6 voted to support this motion.

Banquet- Tickets are on sale with 3 options to pay. Nov 2nd is the deadline to purchase tickets. Chuck meets with banquet personnel on Thursday to finalize the Board banquet details. MC is needed for the banquet. Chuck will email to the league to solicit interest in being the MC. \$18.55 cost of meal with \$15.00 price paid per attendee. Dick needs to order sweatshirts for the winning summer league team.

Budget review – Mert reviewed the Board Financials/. Revenues are \$2,000 more than budgeted, \$1200 of the revenue is due to increased sponsorship money generated from Chuck's marketing efforts. We are \$4,000 under budget presently.

Fall Ball Winner rule changes– To be discussed at a future meeting.

Marketing and Promotions Report

Nebraska Senior Softball

October 9th, 2012

NEW BUSINESS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Partners: Removed The Sports Authority as they failed to respond to three messages over the course of the last two months. We now can accept membership from another sports supplier (e.g. Scheels, Dicks, etc).

Tournament Championship: First season ending tournament in NSS 13 year history. Committee chairman Ron Hager deserves special recognition for an outstanding job putting this together with assistance from Chuck Cantoya, Bill Bowes, Doug Finley, and Paul Kwaak.

2012 Awards and Recognition Banquet: Friday, November 9th, 2012. Menu is established as chosen by players and family members (92 survey responses received). DJ booked. *Need an MC for the event.* Venue is The Club in Papillion. Time to be determined. Meeting with banquet hall owner on Thursday.

Tickets are \$15.00 each and can be reserved through managers over the next 3 playing dates or via PayPal by sending a payment to paypalnss@yahoo.com. Checks can be sent to the NSS Post Office box. Umpires will be required to pay \$15.00 and then receive full reimbursement. Discount amounts to approximately \$3.50 per ticket.

GameFace/Markwort: In light of recent facial injuries, I'm pursuing information related to GameFace protective masks sold by Markwort. The current price is \$40.00 and my fact finding is aimed at possibly working a deal with them to purchase 2 to 3 dozen masks at a discount and offering them to players with NSS footing partial payment for each mask bought by a player provided they use the equipment during league play (infielders only). Website: <http://www.markwort.com/>

Choice Hotel Partnership: Agreement is signed and turned in. Awaiting logo HTML for the website for placement along with special group code and toll free number. Choice Hotels has agreed to give us 15% off the Best Available Rate.

NSS Night at the Stormchasers: 103 players and family members took part in our 4th annual event. Problems with the quality and quantity of the food was observed by several people and a formal complaint was filed with the Omaha Stormchasers. They have refused a partial refund and instead turned the matter over to their food vendor for a possible reimbursement.

NSS Golf Tournament: Eight foursomes participated. Great effort by committee chairman Gary McCoy with assistance from Rick Prusha and Bill Weller for this NSS first time ever event.

Choice Hotel Partnership: Agreement is signed and turned in. Awaiting logo HTML for the website for placement along with special group code and toll free number. Choice Hotels has agreed to give us 15% off the Best Available Rate.

Upcoming Marketing Events/Calendar:

~~2/14/12~~ NSS Monthly Social, LaVista Keno (LVK) 6:30 p.m.
~~2/25/12~~ Summer Recreation Fair, Westroads Mall, Noon to 3:00 p.m.
~~3/13/12~~ NSS Monthly Social, LaVista Keno (LVK) 6:30 p.m.
~~4/1/12~~ NSS appearance in *The Independent*
~~4/10/12~~ NSS Monthly Social, LaVista Keno (LVK) 6:30 p.m.
~~4/23/12~~ Opening Day!
~~5/26/12~~ LaVista Daze Parade
~~6/16/12~~ Papillion Days Parade
~~6/30/12~~ NSS Auxiliary Summer BBQ
~~8/20/12~~ NSS Spring / Summer Championship Game(s)
~~8/21/12~~ Night Out with the Stormchasers
~~9/13/12~~ NSS Golf Tournament
11/9/12 – 2012 NSS Awards and Recognition Banquet

Date for the next meeting is to be determined later.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Roberta Steinhauser
Secretary