

April 5, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at Lansky's.

Board members present: Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Ed Tworek, Dick Smith, Dave Dye, Chuck Grubb, Dave Janda and Dave Banghart. Players present: Bill Smuck, George Scott, Roger Hein, Duane Carolus, Ron Franck, Paul Williams, Gary Dukat and Steve Bessey.

UPDATED WEBSITE: Paul Williams reported that the new website is a continuing process; information and updates are being added when needed. He is getting things prepared to add teams once the draft has been completed, and the game schedule when it is finalized. In the future he would like to see each Board member take ownership of their own page. At this time, the information for Board member duties was transferred from the old site and information will need to be updated as duties have been re-defined for some positions. Word Press, the program used to create the website, has the ability to have user log-ins to update specific information. Each page will have its own specific administrative log in to edit content for that page. It was suggested the contact information should be entered on each Board members page. In terms of contact information for the players list, it was suggested to remove the e-mail address from the list. Due to security reasons, it would not be favorable to have those addresses viewable to the general public and risk everyone's email being compromised. Paul explained that he can hide that information from general view. Paul also noted that going forward once a player has registered; his information will go forward for any subsequent registration. Individual information will then be updated per the most recent registration form. It was suggested that some form of indication be put in place for "new" players. At a later date we can archive player lists and registrations. It was also suggested when teams are determined by the draft, the team manager's picture and contact information be added to his team roster listing. Overall comments regarding the new site have been favorable.

FIELDS/PRACTICE SCHEDULE: Eddie Burns is no longer with the LaVista Sports Complex. It seems there may have been some mis-communication regarding practice field availabilities. Steve has been discussing the matter with Scott Stopak of LaVista and has resolved the issue. It has been confirmed that NSS will have availability to fields 2, 3 & 5 on Monday and Wednesday evenings during the month of April for spring training and practices. Fields are available from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Saturday April 16th is also available in the afternoon. For our regular league play we had originally requested fields 3 & 4, but Scott was not able to confirm that with Steve at this time. This will be determined prior to the start of league play. It is important that communication go out to all players that it is extremely important that they attend the pre-season practices. This year is a full draft and we have some new managers. All players will need to be identified and viewed by all managers prior to the draft. Dave Banghart suggested that any new players who do not attend a minimum of 2 practices prior to the draft be assigned as a pool player for further evaluation, then assigned to a team based on needs. George Scott suggested that all returning players wear one of their old jerseys (with their name on the back) to practice. This will assist in identifying players. Both Duane Carolus and Roger Hein asked how managers are going to be rated for the purpose of the draft. Dave Dye will cover that when explaining the draft process.

DRAFT PROCESS: Dave Dye began by explaining that the Board members reviewed each player's submission for manager and took into consideration their familiarity with the league and their skill levels. After review of each submission, the 12 managers were approved by the Board with a 13th alternate manager

selected if needed. The managers are encouraged to use the knowledge and resources of the Board and any other players they feel that can help them access players to best prepare their draft selections. Of the managers selected, each of them had been drafted at sometime over the last 3 years. The Draft Advisory Committee reviewed previous drafts and then determined where they would most likely be drafted as a player. The Board of Directors then reviewed these recommended rankings. Each Board member submitted their view of where they themselves would draft these managers (if they had to). Board members who are managers were NOT to rank themselves. Dave then took these recommendations from the Board and combined with the rankings of the DAC, averaged out each managers ranking. This will be the final ranking and the pre-determined round in which they will have to draft themselves. Roger Hein suggested that it should be considered to split the draft into 2 separate nights. The managers could draft up to the 2nd or 3rd round the first night, then use those players to assist in drafting the remainder of the team. Steve reported that the board will take this suggestion under advisement.

UMPIRE STATUS: Dave Banghart reviewed the survey results of players rating umpire quality from the 2010 season. Based on the results Dave feels that the general consensus was that umpire quality was average to poor quality. He would like to see the league do a better job of getting better umpires. Dave feels that there are several good umpires from a pool to select. He has contacted a number of them to gage their interest in umpiring for the league. Most of the respondents were interested however most have already made their commitments for this year. If we prepare earlier next year, we may be able to secure 4 to 6 qualified umpires to work our games. At this time Kevin Vann has agreed to continue this year as our Umpire in Charge. In response to Dave's inquires he feels that he can get 4 to 6 umpires to use on a rotating schedule. Steve will contact Kevin to set up a meeting to discuss potential umpires and the leagues rules and guidelines. It was also suggested that managers fill out umpire evaluations after each game. This would better identify specific areas of concern that managers and players may have about any of the umpires. To better identify umpires it was suggested that we provide apparel specific to our league, which the umpires would be required to wear when working the NSS games. Dave Banghart made a motion, 2nd by Ron Kunert to purchase umpire caps with the NSS logo and an identification number to be assigned to each umpire working NSS games. The board members voted 7-0 in favor, the motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Dave Janda – Incoming registrations have slowed down, and he has been working closely with Paul Williams to get players listed on the new website. Interested players are encouraged to get their registrations and payment turned in. The Board had previously agreed to leave registration open until to 4/13 with no late fees charged.
- Ed Tworek – The liability insurance has been renewed for the year. The cost is \$550, the same as in previous years. He also reported that \$3520 is payable up front to LaVista Sports Complex prior to the start of our season.
- Chuck Grubb – The next issue of Diamond Bits is scheduled to be released 5/3. We currently have 7 corporate sponsors generating \$975 revenue, and \$280 expenses. He is also working on potential partnerships with The Sports Authority and TGI Fridays. There was a good turnout for the Westroads Fair on 3/19. Unfortunately we did not get any signed registrations but there was a lot of interest. LaVista Mayor Doug Kindig will join us on May 2nd and throw out the first pitch of the

season. All players are encouraged to be there for the early game even if they not be playing at that time.

- Dave Dye – We have 6 players who have registered but we have not yet received their signature on their registrations forms. Some of the new players still need to provide copy of their driver's license. Dave will follow up with these players at the upcoming practices.
- Dick Smith – Recommended the league purchase another portable pinching screen. He has done some research and found one that can be purchased for \$279 (plus \$29 shipping costs). Dick Smith made a motion, 2nd by Ed Tworek that the board should approve to make the purchase. Board members voted 7-0 in favor, the motion carried.
- Dave Banghart – He has purchased batter's box mats to use for the season. They are 3' x 7 ½'. Dave would also like to know who the contact person at the LaVista Complex for grounds crew to clarify our specifications for field chalking. Our current inventory of game equipment includes 2 strike zone mats, 2 run score plates, 2 score boards, pitching screens, and 4 batter box mats. Dave suggested that the league purchase a large wheel barrow or wagon to be used to move the equipment from the storage unit to the fields and back. It is recommended that the Home team of the first game will be responsible for bringing equipment out to the field, and the Home team of the last game will put away. It will be necessary to confirm the size of the storage facility before moving forward to purchase a wheel barrow or wagon. Also noted was the defibrillator. It is recommended that piece of equipment NOT be stored at the field. Duane Carolus turned over the unit to Steve Quinn at the Fall Banquet last year. At that time Duane replaced the battery. The battery is supposed to be good for 3 years.

GUEST PLAYER COMMENTS:

- Bill Smuck indicated that there has been some serious discussion amongst players regarding the use of the pitching screen. Bill strongly recommends that the league should consider making it mandatory that pitchers use the pitching screens during games.
- George Scott supports Bill's recommendation 100%. He requests that the Board take serious consideration on implementation for the league this year. It was noted that the Board has already discussed the matter and are considering the implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled Board meeting is April 27, time and location to be determined.