

NSS Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2014

Board Members in attendance:

Ron Kunert	x	Dennis Steinhauser	x
Mert Opfer	x	Duke Burgess	x
Greg West		Ron Franck	x
Chuck Grubb	x	Jim Price	x
Roberta Steinhauser	x		

Approval of August 5, 2014 Minutes: Motion made by Chuck with Duke providing the second to approve the August 5th Minutes. Unanimous vote to approve August Board minutes.

Old Business:

1. Equipment Follow-up-Prices for pitching screens and mats – Ron F. Dave Banghart has 4 of the mats that he will sell for \$50.00 per mat. This is an estimated savings of \$150 per mat. Duke made a motion with Dennis providing the second to purchase the 4 mats for \$50.00 each. Unanimous vote to approve this purchase. Dave also has 3 strike zone mats. Recommendation for Ron to consult with Dave on the price he wants for these. New pitching screen cost is \$295.00. Chuck and Ron K. will research other vendors, (eBay, Craigs List, etc.) for additional options.
2. 2014 NSS Golf Tournament Recap – Chuck The Golf Tournament was a great success with 64 golfers and a great number of prizes. Board recognition given to Bill Weller and Rick Prusha for their organizational effort on the great golf tournament and prizes. Special thanks to the NSS Auxiliary, Corporate Sponsors, and Individual Hole Sponsors.
3. Annual League Meeting – Chuck The annual league meeting is scheduled at the Papillion American Legion on Sept 16th at 6:30 p.m. Chuck will have food catered in and there will be a cash bar.
4. Sign for Shed – Chuck sent out message asking for volunteers to assist with this project. No one has stepped forward. Jim Price will consult with Steve Zimmerle to see if he is interested in making a NSS sign for the shed.

New Business:

1. NSS Website Issues – Paul Williams noted our internet service provider (ISP) allocates CPU cycles and memory capacity to each website on their hosting servers at their discretion. Load balancing issues or lack of memory allocations have been experienced which have caused access issues to our website. Recently, the ISP made unannounced upgrades to the Word Press software which caused serious disruptions for users. Paul is recommending we look at selecting a new hosting company for the NSS website in the January-February, 2015 timeframe. Paul will get options and pricing to present to the Board at a future meeting. The Board complimented Paul for getting the website back up within a week and for all of his work on the NSS website.

2. Annual Elections –Chuck We currently have 3 candidates that have submitted the electronic candidacy form for board nominations: Jim Price, Rick DuVall and Bill Riggle. Candidacy forms can be submitted up to Sept 15th. Nominations will also be accepted at the annual league meeting. Ron Kunert will chair the elections at the annual league meeting. Voting will take place at the meeting but results will not be shared due to the absentee ballots that need to be included. Each attendee must sign in at the meeting and will be given one (1) ballot. Only players from the 2014 Spring/Summer or 2014 Fall season are eligible to vote. Absentee voters will have 1 week to submit their ballots after the annual meeting. Duke will create the election sheet for the annual meeting. Once the new directors are elected, the board will determine their positions. All votes cast at the meeting will be sealed and witnessed. They will not be counted until absentee voting has closed. Additional discussion commenced on the value of having an audit process that should be addressed in the future for the Treasurer position. This will be discussed by the Board after the elections are completed. Board also discussed options of having 2 vs. 3 year terms for the board positions. No changes will be made at this time. Term will remain for 3 years.
3. Recruiting Board Member Candidates – Duke requested the Board members promote and recruit additional Board member candidates.
4. Fall Draft Results – Duke provided the minutes of the 2014 Fall Draft. (See Attachment 1, page 4 of these minutes).
5. Mini-Survey for Frequency of Full Draft –Since the league-wide survey indicated a close tie for the question regarding frequency of the full draft, Duke polled the Managers at the fall draft and reported results of 58% reflecting a 2 year draft cycle and 42% for a 3 year draft cycle. Appreciation was extended to Chuck from Ron Kunert for the reports provided from the league survey.
6. Updating Existing Scoreboards – Jim discussed using aluminum (for durability) for reconditioning the scoreboards. Estimated cost is \$340 per scoreboard. No difference in weight is expected for the proposed new scoreboards. Decided to wait a bit to look for alternatives.
7. Electronic Scoreboards. Prices researched ranged from \$1200 - \$2500 for an electronic scoreboard that was classified as “portable”. This will be kept on the agenda for future meeting updates. Concerns were expressed regarding storage. A recommendation was made to form a committee with Jim and Chuck as chairs, to conduct further research and make recommendations to the Board.
8. Fall Playoff – Dennis reopened discussion regarding the one-division/two-division format and option for end-of-season playoff. Duke made a motion with Jim providing a second to stick with the one-division format and have the top 2 teams compete in a single elimination playoff, weather permitting. Date of the playoff would be October 20th. If weather prevents this game, the champion will be decided using the same tie breakers as the summer playoff. Mert and Ron opposed the motion. Duke, Dennis, Chuck and Jim voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed. Chuck will send a league-wide email to provide notification.
9. 2014 Awards and Recognition Banquet – Chuck presented options for location and meal selection. Assuming 200 people will attend. Jim made a motion, with Mert providing a second, to select Eddie’s Catering –Millard Social Hall on November 21, 2014 for the banquet. Unanimous vote to approve this motion. Jim made a motion with Dennis providing a second to have the price of the banquet ticket of \$17.50. Unanimous vote to approve this motion. Chuck discussed need to solicit input for Teammate of the Year, Denny Zakovec ‘Spirit’, and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Chuck will create a survey and solicit input from league members.

- 10. Other.** Duke referenced NSS League rules on the use of pool players and presented recommendations for rule clarifications. Pool players are added to rosters at the beginning of games only. Non-batting catcher will be the first person you pick up if you drop below 10 during the game. If a manager gets approval for a long-term injured/ill player and finds a replacement, that person will be added to the nightly roster before the pool player.

Board Reports:

- Commissioner – Ron Kunert suggested we have a place on the web site to indicate a player's intent to make a donation to the NSS League in their will. Additional research is required for this idea.
- Field Scheduling – Dennis Steinhauser No additional update.
- Finance & Registration – Mert Opfer We are short on revenue to budget with fewer registrations which was offset in reduction of expenses for shirts. The board discussed what to do with a memorial donation in the name of Del Stokes from Nancy Stokes. A hold will be placed on these donated funds and options discussed at a future meeting.
- Marketing, Publicity & Communications – Chuck. MyConnect was discussed as an alternative for remote participation at Board meetings. Chuck will test this at a future date.
- Player Personnel – Duke Burgess No additional update.
- Purchasing & Inventory – Ron Franck. Will get a check from Mert for the purchase of 4 mats from Dave Banghart.
- Rules & Umpires – Greg West Not present. Ron K. will send an open invite to John Rydzynski to attend any of the Board meetings.
- Field Operations- Jim Price No additional update.

Motion made by Ron Franck with Duke providing a second to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.
All board members approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Next meeting:

Oct 14, 2014. Location: Pizza West Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.

Attachment 1 Minutes of the 2014 Fall Draft

Held on Aug 19, 2014 at 7:00 Pm, Pizza West

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m. after a head count of all managers participating in the draft. Dave Dye was the only manager not present and excused due to his entire team returning from the spring/summer season.

Conducted a card draw of the four managers (West, Bessey, Franck, Weller) who volunteered to accept a 13th player. There was only one extra player available to be assigned. Steve Bessey won the draw and would select a 13th player near the middle of the draft process.

Conducted a quick mini-survey of all present regarding the concept of having the full draft done every two years versus every three years. In the recent league-wide survey the results were very close and I felt it would be beneficial to see how the managers and board members felt about this idea. Slips of paper were passed out with the question printed and each manager/board member was asked to respond. Results were given to Chuck Grubb for analysis.

Described the board approved change to the 'Replacement Player Rule' and provided insight into why the change was made. In the original rule implemented this past spring, the board approved the idea that managers could replace long-term injured/ill players with a player of like kind (must come from the same or lower round from the full draft). An unintentional side-effect of the rule caused players from the lower rounds of the draft to sit the bench when these replacement players were used. The board changed the rule so that teams could only pick up a replacement when the nightly roster had less than 10 players present. This brings the replacement player rule into alignment with other rules designed for picking up players (pool players, non-batting catcher, and substitutes).

Announced the names of the current pool players (Dale Dilts, Gary Broillier, and Ricky Keil). Advised managers that pool players will be added when a team has less than 10 players and have priority over any other additions to the roster.

Described the draft process, to include how the order is determined (rank orders player values for those players who did not return from the spring draft). Included the 13th player selection near the middle of the draft process for Steve Bessey (see above). Answered questions regarding how new players will assume the value of the player they are replacing when determining the value of replacement players. Conducted the draft. Twenty-nine players were drafted to an 11-team fall league.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.