

Nebraska Senior Softball

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 p.m. December 9th, 2014 Pizza West LaVista, NE

Attendees: Ron Kunert, Duane Carolus, Jim Price, Ed Tworek, Greg West, Ron Franck, Chuck Grubb, Duke Burgess (via Skype), Catherine Grubb (NSS Auxiliary)

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. CST by Commissioner Ron Kunert

Minutes from October meeting were reviewed and edits made prior to the meeting. Motion to approve edited version by Burgess, seconded by Price. Voice vote unanimous for approval.

League Secretary Vacancy

Since the expiration of the term of former Secretary, Roberta Steinhauser, the search for a replacement has not generated any volunteers. Grubb to send a message to league asking for players, auxiliary members, spouses, or significant others to consider filling this position.

Website

Our subscription with the current host has expired and the website is currently unavailable for viewing. Webmaster Paul Williams is researching other service providers and will narrow the options down to the top 3 for board review.

In the meantime, Williams has provided a link to additional templates available in Wordpress to facilitate the creation of a 'new and fresh look' for the NSS website. Grubb stated he will forward several templates to the board for their review. Burgess expressed concern that we not change things **so** drastically that it would cause confusion on where to find information that **has** become second nature on the older site. Grubb confirmed that naming conventions should stay the same and would be categorized logically under drop down window selections.

Discussion followed on compensation for the work Williams has done as webmaster in 2014 especially due to the bandwidth issue preventing site access for a period of time and the most recent hack that **has taken** down the site for an extended period and **will require** a rebuild. Opfer confirmed that \$465 was budgeted in 2014 for website expenses. **Previous payment to Williams was in the amount of \$200.** Motion by Burgess and seconded by Carolus to compensate Williams \$300.00 for his exceptional management of the website. Voice vote unanimous for approval.

Pitching Screens

Ron Franck briefed the board on his research and findings for pitching screen replacement costs. Franck found nearly identical screens to existing equipment at a cost of \$299.00 discounted to \$275.00 for senior use. Total cost for two screens was quoted at \$625.00 that included tax and shipping.

Additional discussion resulted in the following:

Franck will research the costs for refurbishment of existing screens to include new nets.

Costs for refurbishing OR new purchase will be entered into the 2015 budget proposal being worked by the Director of Finance, Ed Tworek.

Franck was encouraged to work with the vendor at striking a deal for free shipping and handling which includes dangling a carrot of free advertising of their services and product on the new NSS website in 2015.

Sign for Shed

Jim Price confirmed approval from the City of LaVista giving permission to add a sign to our shed at the sports complex. Discussion of the wording followed with an overall consensus that the words 'Home of Nebraska Senior Softball' would suffice.

Price will continue to work to find a volunteer at no cost (or minimal expense) to produce one or two signs for the shed and have them placed prior to the start of the 2015 season.

Scoreboard Committee

The scoreboard committee was not represented at the meeting but organizer, Chuck Grubb briefed the board on the initial progress of the committee which is headed by Rick DuVall.

Grubb also advised the BOD on the 3 objectives given to the committee. 1) Find a solution for replacement or refurbishment of existing manual scoreboards prior to the start of the 2015 season; 2) Investigate costs, pros, and cons of a portable electronic scoreboard option; and 3) Investigate costs, pros, and cons of a permanent electronic scoreboard option.

Objective 1 was designated as a minimum 'must have' prior to the start of the season. Objectives 2 and 3 can be researched as the season progresses. The Scoreboard Committee will have an update at the January BOD meeting.

2014 Look Back

Chuck Grubb thanked Director Burgess for his input to the request to document what went right (and wrong) during the 2014 campaign. He encouraged others to complete this task to ensure the league continues with actions and direction that were positive and address the shortfalls identified in 2014. Grubb will send out a reminder message to the board for input.

Next Board Meeting

Due to board member obligations, a decision was made to schedule the January BOD meeting for Monday, January 5th and go month-to-month through April on future meeting dates. This is being done to ensure maximum attendance.

In addition, Grubb offered to test the capabilities of Adobe Connect as a method of conducting the meeting without anyone having to leave their home (e.g. in the event of inclement weather). This connection requires internet access and a phone.

Financial Audit

Discussion continued from topic first broached during the October 2014 BOD meeting regarding oversight of league finances and the need for regularly scheduled audits to safeguard league funds and address any possible questions asked by league members.

Prior to the handover of all financial instruments to new Director of Finance, Ed Tworek, a end of year sign off and review will be conducted by Duane Carolus with outgoing Finance Officer, Mert Opfer.

In the future, Tworek will seek independent auditors (non board members) within the league to conduct a semi-annual budget audit at the end of H1 2015 and H2 2015.

NSS Awards and Recognition Banquet Recap

Record crowd of 216 attended this year's event described by many as the 'best yet'. Special thanks given to the NSS Auxiliary for an amazing dessert table and to Master of Ceremonies, Bryan Galloway.

The banquet was \$650.00 over budget. Tworek commented that this was an event the entire league had an opportunity to enjoy and that the amount over budget was well worth the outcome and offset by the amount of sponsorship dollars brought into the league in 2014.

2015 Field Costs

Jim Price met with the LaVista Parks and Recreation staff to hammer out field costs for the upcoming Summer and Fall seasons. Scott Stopak stated that the cost to the league will be \$15.00 per team/ per game in the Spring/Summer and \$17.00 per team/per game in the Fall.

2015 Registrations

Chuck Grubb briefed that the 2015 paper registration form is formatted and ready to go. It just requires specific costs and dates.

Grubb highly encouraged and expressed a need to have ALL registrations be completely filled out with demographic information versus having an 'express' option. An increase in the number of returned emails, cards, and letters requires everyone to confirm address, email, and phone contact data.

League Scheduling Software

Conversation about the need to get the schedule for 2015 completed as soon as possible began. Timely release was a pain point for many players over the past couple of years and it was noted that a skeleton schedule using a 13 through 18 team schedule could be completed well ahead of time and then plug the **team names** in when the exact number is known.

Carolus asked the BOD to think about changing game start times to 6:00, 7:10, 8:20, and 9:30. He feels this is closer reflection of reality than previous start times. No change to length of game would be involved. No proposal was offered at this time.

The league scheduling software has not been updated in several years despite a continuous line item budget number of \$150.00 to do so. Grubb offered to send a link to a trial version of scheduling software for the BOD to test and consider purchasing.

Bat Compression Testing

Burgess offered a question of whether the league should consider testing all bats prior to the start of league play in 2015 due to a few complaints voiced by players of the possibility of illegal bats being used during the previous season.

Options for either borrowing a tester, purchasing one for the league, and/or doing a physical inspection prior to league play were discussed. Cost of a tester is approximately \$850.00. Some Directors voiced a concern over whether this was being over managed or scrutinized. This remains a topic to be decided upon for action or resolution.

PO Box Change

The current Post Office box in Kennard is paid for through the end of March and will remain open in the event 2015 registrations inadvertently get sent there.

Tworek will obtain a new PO Box closer to his residence for the next several years.

2015 Event Scheduling

All BODs must send commissioner Ron Kunert a list of events in 2015 to be added to the annual calendar and given to the league. If an exact date is not known but an event is planned, the month should be estimated (at a minimum).

Field Operations

Jim Price stated that the **repair of** door alignment on the shed will be **postponed until** March due to the wide temperature fluctuations during January and February that will make fixes difficult.

Equipment and Inventory

Ron Franck stated that the AED and First Aid Kit are in his possession and are being cleaned. AED batteries will be checked and the unit will undergo a function test prior to the start of league play.

Franck stated that all mats, plates, and pitching masks are accounted for.

Finance

All board members should send 2015 financial forecast needs to Ed Tworek for inclusion in the annual budget request.

NSS Auxiliary

Catherine Grubb offered thanks to the board for their support as the Auxiliary completed it's 3rd year as an entity that has benefited the entire league. Catherine stated that the Auxiliary will have it's annual bake sale fundraiser in April/May (weather dependent) and will assist with a Spring Social to welcome back players and families.

The Auxiliary will inventory and replenish the first aid kit and **include ZipLock** bags to be used as ice packs for injuries.

Catherine encouraged the BOD and all players to forward any ideas for how the Auxiliary could provide additional service to the league.

Motion by Carolus and seconded by Franck to adjourn. Unanimous approval at 9:15 p.m.

Action Items (Responsible Person)

- Message to league for volunteers for secretary position (Grubb)
- List of possible website hosts for BOD to consider (Williams)
- Templates to review by BOD for new website design (Grubb)
- Compensation check to Williams for website work in 2014 (Tworek)
- Research refurbishment, shipping and handling costs of pitching screens (Franck)
- Find talent/volunteer for shed sign creation (Price)
- Scoreboard committee report at next BOD meeting (DuVall)
- 2014 lookback reminder to BOD (Grubb)
- 2014 lookback input (All BOD members)
- Test Adobe Connect as meeting option (Grubb)
- Conduct financial handover audit (Carolus / Opfer)
- Send trial version link of league scheduling software to BOD (Grubb)
- Obtain new PO Box (Tworek)
- Send events for 2015 to Commissioner (All BOD members)
- Shed door repair (Price)
- Equipment cleaning, inventory, and functionality (Franck)
- 2015 Budget line item forecasts to Ed Tworek (All BOD members)

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Grubb