

Nebraska Senior Softball

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 p.m. January 5th, 2015 Pizza West LaVista, NE

Attendees: Ron Kunert, Duane Carolus, Ron Franck, Chuck Grubb, Jim Price, Ed Tworek, Greg West and Duke Burgess (via Skype). Additionally, league players Rick Duvall and BJ Danze.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Ron Kunert.

Minutes from December meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote.

League Secretary Vacancy

The search for a replacement secretary has not generated any volunteers. Search will continue. Meanwhile, minutes will be recorded by a director, as tasked monthly by the commissioner.

Calendar of Events

Ron Kunert presented proposed dates for key league activities during the year. The following dates were agreed upon.

Registration-Summer League	Feb 15th - Apr 12th
New player/open practice	Apr 13/15/20/22nd
Summer draft	Apr 23rd
Summer League games	Apr 27th - through TBD

The following dates are tentative/undetermined

Summer Post-Season Play	7/20 Through TBD
Registration-Fall League	TBD
Fall Practice Sessions	TBD
Fall Draft	TBD
Fall League games	TBD

Dates and format of Summer post-season games, including Summer League Championship and Summer Tournament will be determined at a later date. (Action: Carolus)

Pitching Screens

Ron Franck reported the status of his research into the replacement or repair of the league's two pitching screens. He successfully negotiated a packaged discount with the manufacturer of the *Pitch Safe* screens, which includes the purchase of two new screens plus new nets for the current screens at a price of \$670 including shipping. The board agreed that due to mandatory use of screens or face masks in all games, new screens were needed. The refurbished screens will be held in reserve and loaned to the Morning League. Additionally the Morning League will be asked to contribute a one-time \$70 fee (refurbishment cost) for future use, and agree to assume responsibility for future repair, maintenance or loss.

Motion to approve by Tworek, seconded by Carolus. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Sign for Shed

Jim Price and Ron Kunert reported positive progress toward installing the sign. Update expected next meeting.

Scoreboard Committee Update

Committee chairman Rick Duvall delivered a detailed talking points memo. Scoreboard options include manual, portable electronic and/or fixed electronic. The committee has met twice and is scheduled to meet again this week, and also with the City of LaVista. At this point, LaVista has opted out of funding the purchase of permanent electronic scoreboards, although has indicated willingness to assume maintenance responsibilities of permanent scoreboards when/if installed. The NSS board rejected a proposal to purchase a \$50 manual scoreboard (for temporary/backup purposes) due to small (4") letter height. The board commended the committee for their research and encouraged them to continue efforts in finding a short term as well as a long term solution to league needs. A February update is expected.

2014 Look Back

Chuck Grubb stated that consolidation of look back inputs was in progress. A February update is expected.

Game Times and Scheduling Software

Duane Carolus proposed that Spring games' start times be scheduled at 1:10 hour intervals beginning at 6 p.m. in the interest in keeping games on time. Game clock will remain at :55 minutes plus one inning. Motion to approve by Price, seconded by West. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Carolus will coordinate with prior board members Banghart and Steinhauser over optimum use of league-owned scheduling software in developing the game schedule. If this is not feasible, new software may be required. Board members were given the opportunity to review a demonstration package this past week.

Account Audit

Duane Carolus conducted an audit of 2014 league finance records on December 20th, 2014, as directed by the commissioner. Carolus reported all records to be satisfactory.

2015 Budget Proposal

Ed Tworek delivered a report on the state of league finances and presented a proposed budget for 2015. The league bank balance decreased by \$2763 to \$9282 in 2014. In 2015, bank balance is expected to drop a similar amount in keeping with long term goals. Notable expenses expected in 2015 include \$7858 for field rent (similar to 2014, but a 53% increase over pre-2014 rates), and \$6350 in umpire fees. Player registration fees were set at rates necessary to pay league expenses without use of sponsor donations or other outside income. In the future, sponsor contributions and other amounts will be allocated toward specifically targeted needs/improvements, as determined by the board at a later date.

Motion to approve budget by Grubb, seconded by Carolus. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Player Registration Fees

Due to higher expenses and a projected annual deficit, player registration fees for the 2015 season will be Spring - \$75 for returning players to their previous team, and \$105 for drafted players which include new players and previous players entering the draft. Fall - \$65 for all players.

Motion to approve by Burgess, seconded by Carolus. Approved by vote of 6 in favor and 1 opposed (West).

Bat Compression Testing

Following discussion over need, feasibility, practicality etc., the subject was tabled.

Rules and Guidelines Revision

Greg West briefed the board on draft revision to rules and guidelines. Revisions simply formalize changes previously approved and implemented before the fall season. Examples include:

1. Replacement Players. While managers must still obtain approval for the 11-man waiver prior to games, they only need to coordinate with the opposing manager on which players they use. Additionally, use of long-term injured/ill replacements is now authorized when absence extends through any 14-day consecutive day period rather than four games.

2. Game clock will start when the umpire declares "play ball".

3. Games shortened due to weather, facilities, etc., will be recorded as completed games after the visiting team has batted through five full innings, and the home team ahead. Additionally, due to the 5 run rule, if the Home team cannot mathematically tie or take the lead in the 5th inning, that inning will be considered completed with 5 runs added to the home team's score and the game declared 'official'.

4. Extra Innings. Each team will be limited to a maximum of five runs scored in the inning where international tie-breaker rules are in effect. The purpose of this limit is to avert excessively long extra-innings games.

Test Adobe Connect

A test of the Adobe Connect video conferencing on January 3rd and 4th successfully connected all Board members, each of whom were able to communicate with each other via video/audio from remote locations.

Action Items (Responsible Person)

- Report on volunteers for secretary position (Grubb)
- Calendar of Events-Recurring review (All)
- Scoreboard Update (Duvall/Scoreboard Committee)
- Pitching screens replacement/nets acquisition (Franck)
- Sign for Shed (Price)
- Look Back (Grubb)
- Status of Website (Williams)
- Status of returning managers (Burgess)

Next Board Meeting

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Perkins, located north of I-80 at 72nd Street.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Tworek