



NSS Board Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2017

Board Members in attendance:

Board Members			
X	Rick DuVall	Duane Carolus	X
X	Ed Tworek	Ron Franck	X
X	George Scott	Jim Price	X
X	Steve Bessey	Frank Parker	X
Others in Attendance			
X	Kathleen DuVall	Gary Kruse	X
X	Tom Prohaska	Dave Janda	X

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

Approval of April 11, 2017 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes via email was made by Ron, seconded by Jim with unanimous approval.

New Business:

NSS Non-profit Status – Steve Bessey with guest Tom Prohaska

Rick did a review of the governance structure of the league and the board as indicated in the Rule Book and the election process for guest Tom Prohaska.

Tom gave some options: Generally, in his opinion, there is little liability for the board as it is operating today. The league does have liability coverage for the fans and a waiver is signed by all participants. There could be liability for the Board if bills could not be paid.

Tax-Exempt status information:

For the state of Nebraska, the orders of incorporation process would give tax-exempt status. This does not give federal tax-exemption nor does not give sales tax exemption.

501(c)(3) – Tom did not believe that NSS would be eligible based on his research. Ed indicated that other organizations have qualified under the national/international amateur sports clause. Contribution is tax-deductible when this status. Lengthy process to apply but could be done by someone other than an attorney or accountant. Bonding not required. Actuary not required. There is a filing fee of \$275. There would need to be a projection of revenue/dues. More research would be needed to determine if NSS would also qualify.

501(c)(7) – NSS could be eligible for this. Contribution is not tax deductible. Not as complicated of a filing process as the 501c3.

There was discussion around the umbrella organization that Steve Quinn presented at the February board meeting. It was pointed out that for NSS, they would need to evaluate the advantage since all sponsor money would still be better written off at 100% as a marketing cost than at a lower amount as a contribution.

There would be a filing of a 990 form annually that would have to be done. Occupational corporate report must also be filed every two years with the State of Nebraska.

The next step is to form a committee to investigate the process and make a recommendation to the Board. This will be taken up at next month's Board meeting.

Web-site fees for non-affiliated leagues/teams – Frank Parker/Chuck Grubb

Annual cost for the website is close to but less than \$200. There is a cost for programming that cannot be done by Chuck Grubb. The Friday league paid the developer of the website to build their part of the site. Frank proposed that if an entity was not part of NSS proper, there should be a fee.

Rick proposed that the Friday Morning and Tournament teams not pay a cost above any programming fees and that the money for the website should be paid for using the sponsor money that goes to advertising. Any cost that is incurred due to additional programming will be paid for by the group requesting that programming change.

Short-term Web-site Sponsors - Rick DuVall

Rick asked what the Board thought about allowing temporary fund raising pages on the website for a fee. This could be used for short-term items like golf tournaments or other such activities. It was the consensus of the Board that this was not the best use of the website and those requests would not be honored.

NSS annual meeting petition – Gary Kruse

Gary presented the petition that he circulated for signature among the league players that centered around the BBQ for the elections. It was signed by 132 players and 4 Board members. Gary agreed to organize and run the BBQ. Gary estimated the cost to be just under \$700.

The online voting would occur the week before so that the winners can be announced that night.

Due to the late date, the event will not be in June but could be done on Tuesday, August 8th. Gary will determine if the pavilion is available.

Ed made a motion to support Gary's initiative to have the annual meeting at the pavilion and Steve seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Standing Business:

Field Operations – Jim Price

There was a discussion about the rainout that occurred after the final field call at 3:30 by LaVista. The group talked about other methodologies for communicating to the managers in case of a rainout. Text messaging was recommended as a way for the commissioner to contact the Board and Managers. There was also request to have a backup for Chuck on updating the website splash page and Rick will approach him about what the process could be.

Jim will update Ryan at LaVista with any schedule changes as well as the fall season dates.

Field Scheduling – Duane Carolus

Duane made the following motion:

Since we have already lost 5 nights of our existing schedule due to weather, I move that the schedule for those nights be added to the end of the current schedule. This would also move Championship night to Wednesday, 8/9. To have no impact on the fall season, this will eliminate the possibility of a 5-night double elimination tournament after Championship night. Further weather cancellations will not be made up. Schedules for the nights already cancelled will be moved as follows:

4/26 to 7/24
5/1 to 7/26
5/10 to 7/31
5/17 to 8/2
5/22 to 8/7

This would leave one open week between the summer and fall season games.

There was discussion around whether the tournament should be displaced by regular team play. Ed proposed making up three games and doing a single elimination tournament. Overall, the Board felt that regular team play allowed for the greatest number of games to be played by all players.

The original motion was seconded by Jim and unanimously approved.

Duane will send the updated schedule to Chuck for the website and George will send it to the Managers.

Marketing, Publicity and Communication – Ron Franck

Ron is going to reach out to the past sponsors to see if they are willing to be a sponsor again.

Ron also mentioned that the Tuesday league is taking off.

Purchasing and Inventory – Steve Bessey

Steve reported that uniforms and hats were distributed. All extra shirts were paid for except for one person. The Board indicated that this person does need to pay as indicated in the Rule Book so Steve will follow-up. The price of the shirts will be honored by the new supplier for two years.

Ed found a place where we could get 400 compression balls that we can purchase. The testing that Gary did was on a 375 ball but will check to make sure they can get the 400 balls instead. The Board agreed that they would like to go back to the 400 balls if they are available.

Steve will be buying balls in June but will work with Gary to get an order placed as soon as possible to take advantage of the availability.

The Friday Morning League would be willing to buy more and Rick will follow up with Chuck about selling more of them on eBay.

Rules and Umpires – Frank Parker

Home Plate and Strike Zone Mat Rule – Frank clarified the rule to the Board, asking if they would review and give input. This will be changed in the Rule Book to better clarify for the players.

Mike reported to Frank that the games are all starting on time. There had been two 9:30 games that started late but only by 10 minutes. The rest of the games are starting on time or early. There has been no incident of the “20 second ball/strike” situation yet.

Player Personnel – George Scott

Our draft on April 19 with 175 players and 160 drafted was completed in 2hr, 11 mins. George and the Board would like to thank Joe Johnson, Darryl Berry, Greg Daniells, along with Gil Stephens and Ron Franck for their help with Skills Testing before draft night. On draft night, thanks to Steve Bessey, Gary Kruse, Jim Price and Duane Carolus. Finally, a big Thank you to all the Managers on Draft night.

Notes section of the website where the scores are posted is not monitored and George is recommending that it be removed. Those notes are posted to both team’s sites and sometimes is not appropriate for both. At this time, there is no need for this section as it has been used in the past.

Ed made the motion to remove the “Notes” section on the webpage. Seconded by Steve. The motion carried unanimously.

George brought up that one of the managers lost a player that does not have an opportunity to return. George talked with him about the option when they only have 9 players and when he can use a pool player as dictated by the Rule Book. At this time, there are no pool players. The Board agreed with the decision.

The pool player rules were changed a couple of years ago so that now it is not guaranteed that this person will play each night. Ed would like the rule changed so that they are ensured a game. George proposed that if the team that picks up a pool player and they have 10 on the team already, that pool play must sit the first four defensive innings. If the manager does not sit them for four innings, then that manager cannot have a pool player the rest of the season. The pool play can bat at any place in the lineup. If all four teams have 10 players, then there is a random draw as to which team picks up the pool player. George will put together a proposal for next month’s meeting.

Finance and Registration – Ed Tworek

No updates.

Commissioner Notes – Rick DuVall

Rick indicated that it is time to start opening the process for the three Board member elections coming this summer. Ron will send an announcement to the league. Rick will follow up with Chuck to get the nominations form onto the website with the form being due one week before online balloting opens.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Steve and seconded by George. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM

Next meetings:

- Tuesday, June 13, 2017 @ 6:30 PM (Village Inn)**
- Tuesday, July 18, 2017 @ 6:30 PM (Pizza West)**
- Tuesday, August 15, 2017 @ 6:30 PM (Pizza West)**

Location should be at Pizza West going forward unless dates change