



NSS Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2021

Attendance:

Board Members			
x	Steve Quinn	Rusty Jensen	x
x	Alan Hardt	Terry Hovorka	E
x	Mark Opfer	Rick DuVall	x
x	Tom Holder	Dave Sanderson	x
Others in Attendance			
x	Kathleen DuVall	Gary Kruse	x
x	Dave Janda	Gary Dukat	x

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM. Terry is excused as he is out of town.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the April meeting minutes was made by Tom, seconded by Dave and approved by all that were in attendance.

New Business:

Discuss rules/procedures/precedents/issues for a returning Board member to run for the position of Commissioner - Rick DuVall

What happens if a Board member with time still on their term would like to run for commissioner? The answer depends on the number of people running for the Board as one of those would fill the vacated seat. If not, then the new Commissioner would appoint a replacement for their seat.

Yearly League Meeting - Gary Kruse

Elmwood is canceling the league's reservation due to the recent storm. Gary is going to talk with the Parks and Recreation people to see if we can use the picnic area instead. Gary will also check on other park options with beer permits. The Board also gave him leeway on the date if needed to secure a venue.

Amendment after the meeting: Alan contacted Bill Bowes and Halleck Park has been reserved for Tuesday, July 27th from 6-10 pm. for the annual picnic. Gary was called and advised of the change of venue.

Age Minimum for Females - Steve Quinn

Steve was contacted by someone who would like to play but is not to the minimum age limit yet. Previous polling of the league members resulted in not changing the league age limits. Rick made a motion to leave the age the same. The motion was seconded by Steve and all were in favor.

Questionable Umpire Calls - Dave Janda

The Board discussed several instances where people other than the managers approached the umpire to question calls and resulted in pulling Board members into conversations during their games. The Board agreed that it is up to the managers and the umpires to resolve the issue during the game but to bring it to the Board afterwards if the manager believes it is warranted. It is not appropriate to ask a Board member to arbitrate or interpret rules during a game.

Sitting Team Members when using Replacement Players

Based on the replacement player rule, if there are more than 10 players on a team, then each replacement player must sit out an inning. Tom made a motion that Rule C (under Competition Procedures -> 8. Replacement Player/Game Draft Procedures) be abolished for the fall season. Mark seconded the motion and all were in favor except Rusty, who was against. The motion passed.

Director Updates:

Marketing, Publicity, & Communications - Tom Holder

Tom continues to work with the managers about getting team members to sign up for the fall season. He will also send another reminder about the golf tournament and send out ad hoc messages about lost items.

Player Personnel - Rusty Jensen

Skills Assessment Assistance Needed - Rusty will be out of town one of the two days for the next skill assessment. If he is able to get the new players to do it on the Wednesday, he will be able to run the evening. He is in need of help to do the pre-assessment work and Mark volunteered.

Fall Season and Supplemental Draft - As of the meeting, 73 players have signed up for the fall season. We have 5 new players signed up for the league for the first time this fall and no one has asked to go back into the draft. The supplemental draft is scheduled for Papillion Landing on August 5th.

Purchasing & Inventory - Rick DuVall

Golf Tournament Swag - Rick needs to know the status of ordering the koozies and the banner for the NSS Golf Tournament. Gary would need 144 of them for the tournament. Rick will get a quote to Mark as the upper limit that the budget could support is \$150-200. Mark made the motion that the Board give Rick the leeway to order the koozies if within budget. Tom seconded and all were in favor.

Rick will be ordering softballs August 2nd and that order will be smaller than estimated based on rain-outs.

Rules & Umpires - Terry Hovorka

Pinch Runners - Steve clarified that a player can only run for another player once per game and only two runners per inning so he will make sure the umpires are clear on this item. It is up to the teams to appropriately track and call into question when someone runs more than once.

Round 1 Replacement Players - Several teams have taken the “three runs” when using a first round replacement player, resulting in some games where it made a difference and others where it did not.

Game Start Time - Steve will communicate to Terry to have him talk with the umpires about the start time of the game. They are responsible for giving time for appropriate warm-ups and then start the timer when ready for the first pitch. Per the Rule Book (The Game -> 4. Length of Game) “b. A regulation game is seven innings. The umpire will keep the official game clock. The game clock will start when the umpire declares ‘play ball’.”

Field Operations - Alan Hardt

Rule for When Crossing Home - There is also a request to have the commitment line from 3rd base to home plate made longer. Alan has requested this from LaVista and will follow up with them since it is not being done consistently on all three fields.

Field Light Replacement - Alan is working with LaVista to get the lights replaced/adjusted/aligned. There is no intention by the city to update the lighting at the fields as there are other, higher priorities.

Scheduling - Dave Sanderson

Challenge games starting in 2022 - Dave asked about having challenge games when there is an open field. The Board discussed the proposal but came up with unresolved questions such as who would pay for the umpire and the field. The item was tabled until a future meeting to give time to explore the possibilities.

Status of Summer Tournament - The schedule has been posted and available for the league members. This will be single elimination. There was discussion around doing double-elimination next summer league and will be addressed at a later meeting.

Tournament Game Length Change - There has been a request to have a 65 minute game for the first round and then a full seven innings for the rest of the tournament. As it stands today, all games are 60 minutes with only

the final game guaranteed seven innings. Tom made a motion that game times for the first night of games be 65 minutes with the remaining games be a full seven innings regardless of time. Seconded by Rusty. Steve, Mark, Dave and Rusty in favor with Rick and Alan were against so the motion carried. Mark made a motion to give the umpires an extra \$5/game for the tournament. The motion was seconded by Alan and all were in favor. Tom will send a message to the managers about time change for the tournament game times. Alan to notify Mike, Umpire in Chief, of the changes who will communicate it to those working the tournament.

2021 Omaha Fall Classic - This is scheduled for September 11 and a notice has been placed on the NSS website.

Finance & Registration - Mark Opfer

Finance Status - The budget is on target but so far, Mark is not showing the same surplus that has been seen in previous years.

Open Board Positions - There is still room for other people to step up and run. Tom can send some additional communication.

Venmo vs. PayPal for Registration Fees - Mark did some investigation around the use of Venmo for paying fees and now that they are charging a fee, it is no longer an option.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Alan, seconded by Dave and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Next meetings:

Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

All meetings held at 6:00 PM at Sean O'Casey's - 2523 S 140th Ave, Omaha, NE unless otherwise noted.