

SUN LAKES SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Oakwood Clubhouse Library
Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs Warwick, Wolfe, Whitman, McCoy, Erpelding and Mrs. Hilby

Absent: Mr. Giordano

Members attending: Gary Hillabolt

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Warwick at 3:00 p.m.

The minutes of the December Board meeting were previously sent out to all Directors. Mr. Erpelding motioned to approve the November minutes. Mr. Wolfe seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe presented the treasurer's report. The only major variance is a good variance on banner revenue. Of the \$2,200 of revenue difference, \$1,800 is from banners and \$400 is from the donation from Dave Kratz. The highest variance in expenses is liability insurance. Mr. Wolfe is waiting to hear back from them. Tractor and cart maintenance in the amount of \$352 was because it was originally budgeted for last year, so it's just a timing issue. Bases and mats are under budget because they haven't been purchased yet. Softballs were purchased upfront instead of spreading them out over the year. Mrs. Hilby motioned to accept the November financials. Mr. McCoy seconded. Motion carried.

Representatives, Sandy and John, from Element3 Health made a presentation to the Board about their program. They are a benefit of Medicare Advantage plans, the main one being United Health Care, although they continue to add more plans each year. Health care companies are realizing that when people are active, costs go down, so this is a program that encourages people to be active. It does not take the place of Silver Sneakers or other similar programs. If our eligible SLSSA members sign up, our organization will receive up to \$10 a month for each of those players based on their participation in practice, games, social activities, etc. This compensation would then be used to cover the members' league fees with the remainder going to our club to use for general purposes. Jake is our engagement specialist from Wisconsin. Should we decide to do this, we can contact him and he'll help us get the program going. The onboarding process for members is easy. All the members need to enter is their date of birth, member ID, and ZIP code. There is no access to our health care information. Their prediction is that we'll have about 30 members eligible at this time. Someone here has to be in charge of data collection and reporting. John will send the list of eligible Medicare Advantage plans. The Board will give it some thought and discuss again in the future.

Mrs. Hilby gave an update on registration. There are currently 102 full members registered and 9 recreational members for the men. There are 23 women members. There may be a few more yet to sign up. Mrs. Hilby will get a list from the Fitness Center of people who have paid their HOA fees and cross check that with our membership. Two membership applications have come in for the Alumni Association.

The spring social event site has been reserved. It will be the last Monday in March at Palo Verde.

Mr. Whitman, Gary Hillabolt and Dennis LePore met with the Dirt Dogs yesterday. They're planning to use the field just one day a week on Tuesdays. They received a copy of the guidelines and agreed to abide by them. They appreciate working with us. Mr. Warwick shared the rental agreement and rental request forms. The amount of the charge isn't written anywhere. Mr. Whitman is trying to button all that up. Heretofore, the HOA's position was that we keep the money since we have to maintain the field. Mr. Warwick will work with Mr. Wolfe, and when all this is organized, we'll have a meeting with John Reyhons. The Board agreed on a fee of \$40 per use without a raise for two years.

Elections are coming up. Board positions expiring are Mr. Erpelding, Mrs. Hilby, and Mr. Giordano who was finishing Mr. Leckner's term. Voting will be the week of March 5. Mr. Warwick has appointed a nominating committee of Gary Alexander, Wayne Newman, and Mark Durben. Based on our recent change in the by-laws, none of the three open positions have to be filled by IronOaks residents.

Mr. Warwick is still having trouble contacting the fire department to arrange CPR training. There is a two-minute video he will send to the membership in the interim.

Mr. Erpelding reported on the Winter Session. The Lakes Division has already lost two players due to injury and quitting. They've been able to fill those positions from the sub list. The Sun Division has lost one player which is being covered from the sub list.

Mrs. Hilby brought up a scheduling problem for the Spring Session. The Southwest Championships tournament is scheduled for the same week as our league tournament. The Board agreed to a plan to move the league tournament to the week of April 4, with seeding the last week in March. The Lakes Division will play their last week of the season after the league tournament, the week of April 10. The Sun Division can do the same or sprinkle in makeup games during the session. All of the games in the last week will be early games for the Lakes Division. The cookout will be on Thursday April 6th.

Gary Hillabolt took the initiative to buy and mount the sunscreen on the backstop as it is a safety issue, and we can't wait any longer. He also fixed the men's bathroom door. There is no news on the outfield fence. The stump is a real safety issue. Mr. McCoy will contact someone to have the stump removed, and we'll invoice the HOA for reimbursement.

Mr. Whitman researched the topic of excessive speed. The rulebook says it's at the discretion of the umpire which leaves it wide open. During his research, he also found a rule about using the screen for the pitcher. The rule says if you use the screen, the pitcher cannot field the ball unless it passes the infielder first. We won't be making any changes to the way to do it. Mr. Whitman suggested we set a schedule for batting practice by quadrant, based on the session or hot weather vs. cold weather. He suggests we post the batting practice schedule on the website by quadrant. Mr. Erpelding suggests we go with it by month. The Board will think about it. Mrs. Hilby will send out reminders on the two remaining Wednesdays where there is a women's game that batting practice will not start until 2:30.

Mrs. Hilby suggested that the homerun rule be reviewed. It will be considered for the fall.

McCoy reported that the bases are ordered. Mr. Erpelding reminded us that we approved the purchase of the artificial foul lines. Mr. McCoy will follow up with Gary Hillabolt and get it ordered.

Mr. Whitman had created a calendar for the whole year. He has minimized it to cover just one session and will submit it for posting on the website.

Mr. Warwick set the next meeting for February 8 at 3:00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby
SLSSA Board Secretary

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Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs Warwick, Wolfe, Whitman, McCoy, Erpelding, Giordano and Mrs. Hilby

Members attending: Gary Alexander, Dave Douglas, Randy Neumann

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Warwick at 3:05 p.m.

The minutes of the January Board meeting were previously sent out to all Directors. Mr. Wolfe motioned to approve the January minutes. Mr. Erpelding seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe presented the treasurer's report. Banner advertising revenue is \$2,000 to the good, which is way over budget. Miscellaneous income reflects donations from a couple of members. Revenues are almost \$2,700 to the good. Cost of Sales is almost right on budget. There are only two expense items out of line with the budget. Liability insurance is a timing issue as they have not yet billed us. The other item is the subsidy for the ladies that we budgeted and didn't use. The total expenses are off \$680 so those two items explain most of it. Overall, we're in very good shape at almost \$3,500 to the good for net income. Mr. Erpelding motioned we approve the financial statements. Mr. McCoy seconded motion carried.

Mrs. Hilby gave an update on registration. There are currently 103 full members registered and 10 recreational members. The breakdown is 23 IronOaks, 36 Sun Lakes, 54 Other. There are 21 women members. Previously that was reported as 23, but 2 players became unavailable to play just as the season was starting. Of the 21, 6 are IronOaks residents, 8 are Sun Lakes, and 7 are Other. We have received 14 Alumni Applications. (including Ron Pennington who is still playing).

We had a very good response from those who had not yet paid their amenity fee to the HOA. There are now just three or four people who are currently playing in the league who still need to pay the HOA. There are three rec players who have not paid. Mr. Erpelding will take some forms to the field and have these players fill them out and pay.

Mr. Whitman read an email from the DirtDogs with a proposal to use the field which included their organization taking responsibility for prepping the field. They are willing to purchase any equipment including a chalk machine and a drag and are committed to taking care to prepare the field exactly to our specifications. Gary Hillbolt suggested if they do it, a Board member should go check early in the morning to make sure it's satisfactory as there will not be time to redo it. After some discussion, the Board is in favor of asking Gary Hillbolt to show them how he wants it to be done. Because a drag by hand would not be adequate, the Board is in favor of allowing them to use the tractor

which would result in providing them with a set of keys to the garage. Mr. Wolfe will check to make sure our insurance would cover any liability for using the tractor. A Board member will be responsible for checking the field and address any concerns we have so they can be corrected. In addition to helping the youth team, this could help take the pressure off our grounds crew for prepping the field three to four times a week. Mr. Whitman will relay to the DirtDogs that we're working on getting this through. The sooner we can get this worked out, the better for all parties involved. Mr. Giordano would like something sent out to the membership to solicit help with the field and volunteerism.

Mr. Wolfe shared the follow-up information he received from Element3 Health. Given the number of people in our ZIP Code who have United Health Care Medicare Advantage, they estimate that there are approximately 20 people who would be able to sign up. If only 10 members signed up, we would make approximately \$1,000. Mr. Erpelding motioned we proceed with participating in the Element3 Health program. Mr. Wolfe seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Wolfe will work with Mrs. Hilby to figure out how to get people to sign up. Mrs. Hilby volunteered to be the record keeper.

Gary Alexander spoke as a member of the Nominating Committee. The group has been working on getting a pool of candidates assembled. Mrs. Hilby will check with the women to see if anyone is interesting in running for a position. She will also send information to the committee to assist them with their work.

Sixteen people attended CPR training. Mr. Warwick has written a report which will be communicated to the membership. It's not complicated. It's easy, but it's a team sport. There are a lot of people who need to be involved should something happen. There will be another opportunity for those who were unable to attend and those who wish to keep up with their training.

Mr. Erpelding shared the following proposal from the ratings committee regarding obtaining subs for the Sun Division. This would be for the Sun Division only during conflicts with outside tournaments on Thursdays or Fridays when there are fewer than nine players on one or both teams and all eligible subs have been contacted.

1. If one or both teams are missing one player, the manager can pick up a 2 for a 3 or a 1 for a 2.
2. If both teams are missing a 3, both managers can pick up a 1.
3. If both teams have exhausted the above and both teams have 8 players, then both managers could recruit a Lakes pitcher who isn't playing that day (assuming they agree to play) and the pitchers would not bat. Lakes would still have priority for subbing purposes for that day.
4. This is for emergency use only and both managers have to be in agreement regarding the subs and together they need to strive to keep the teams as evenly matched as possible.
5. If the above doesn't remedy the situation, the games will be cancelled and not made up.

There was a discussion of allowing Lakes players to sub in the Sun Division by establishing a pool of Lakes players who are willing to play. In the end, it was decided we will try the above accommodations first.

Mr. Erpelding shared numbers for the Spring Session draft. There are 36 prospective Sun Division draftees and 44 for the Lakes Division. The ratings committee has come up with two options. In the first option, there would be 3 teams of 12 where 11 would play in the field and 1 person would rotate in. Each team would be required to have 12 players. Games would be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. One sponsor is not going to have a team. One manager isn't going to have a team. The second proposal maintains four teams with nine players on each team and managers would get a catcher. One ramification would be that getting subs would be difficult. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to maintain the four-team format and have nine players on a team. The Sun Division sub rule proposal outlined above will be in place.

Mrs. Hilby shared the adjusted Spring Session league schedule. As approved by the Board in January, the League Tournament has been moved up a week to April 4, 6, and 7 to avoid conflicts with the Southwest Championships. The Lakes Division will play their last week of games April 11, 13, and 14. The Sun Division managers elected to move their games to three Mondays in March. Care was taken to not have any team play two days in a row.

Mrs. Hilby shared that the women are just over half way through their season. Their record is 5-7-2. Five of the seven losses were by one or two runs. With 12 games left, we hope to finish strong.

The homerun rule was discussed. Mrs. Hilby motioned that after the five-homerun limit has been reached in the Sun Division, subsequent homeruns will be a single. Mr. Whitman seconded. Motion carried. This will be effective in the fall.

Mr. Whitman reviewed the new SSUSA rules. The first involves runners who hesitate near the commitment line and then slide a foot across the line just before being tagged, thus allowing the runner to be called safe since a runner could not be tagged after crossing the line. Under the new rule, the runner is still committed to going home after touching or crossing the commitment line; however, defensive players may now tag the runner until BOTH of the runner's feet have touched or crossed the line. The second rule change involves plays made on a batter-runner at first base. Previously, the defensive player had to use the white portion of the double base to record an out on a batter-runner under all circumstances. If in trying to field the ball, the defensive player had to go into foul territory, he or she may become involved in a collision while trying to reach the white base. To prevent these potential collisions, on an errant throw or bobbled ball that causes the defensive player to go into foul territory, the defensive and offensive players may use either the white or orange portion of the base.

Mr. Erpelding motioned we adopt these rules for both divisions for the Spring Session. Mr. McCoy seconded. Motion carried. Mrs. Hilby will communicate these to our membership.

Mr. McCoy shared purchasing updates. We had approved spending to have the stump removed from behind the first base dugout. A couple of weeks ago there were some workers from Pima Utility who removed it for us at no cost. The Board had also approved the purchase of Astroturf foul lines. Because the shipping was going to be an additional \$500, it was decided we will continue to chalk the foul lines.

Mr. Erpelding pointed out that we have people who didn't know they were supposed to pay amenity fees. Mrs. Hilby is going to create a Welcome to the League document to be handed out to new players when they register which will include financial responsibilities as well as helpful information about our league.

The question has been posed regarding how long we wait for late players before we start the game. The Board agrees we start on time and follow the rules we already have in place for missing players.

Mr. Warwick set the next meeting for February 8 at 3:00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby
SLSSA Board Secretary