

SUN LAKES SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Oakwood Clubhouse Library  
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs Warwick, Wolfe, Whitney, McCoy, Neumann, and Mrs. Hilby

Absent: Mr. Rodgers

Members attending: Dennis Kennedy, Dennis LePore, 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. Whitney motioned to approve the December minutes. Mr. Neumann seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe presented the treasurer's report. He noted that revenues are nearly \$900 to the good after the first three months of the fiscal year. Both banner revenues and men's dues have exceeded the budget. He also explained that most of the expense variances were timing issues. We have not yet been billed for liability insurance and softballs for the ladies' team will be charged in January instead of December. The bottom line is \$1200 to the good, but half of that is due to the timing issues. Mr. Whitney motioned to approve the report. Seconded by Mr. McCoy. Motion carried.

Mr. LePore updated the Board regarding the status of the Winter Sessions. Everything is going well. He stated that we have five new subs in the Sun division and additional players will be coming back from injury soon, making a positive outlook for the upcoming spring Sessions.

Mrs. Hilby provided an update on registration. There are currently 98 full members registered and 13 recreational members for the men. The women are in various stages of registering but it will probably end up being 13 members. Registration should be wrapped up by Monday. Mrs. Hilby will get an updated list from Jeff Vance, Director of Fitness, for a final check of who has paid their HOA fees and cross check that with our membership. Nonresidents who have not previously registered have a two-step process which is complicating things. They must first go over and sign up for an ID number and then return to make their payment. There continues to be confusion when the women go to pay their prorated amount. Hopefully that has been resolved and can also be completed by Monday.

Now that the Medicare enrollment deadline has passed, an email went out to the membership explaining the Element3 Health program in hopes that we can expand the

participation. A representative would like to set up a Zoom call with Mrs. Hilby to explain a couple of big updates including a change in the name.

The Sluggers began their season on January 3 and will continue play on Mondays and Wednesdays through early March. Mrs. Hilby shared that the ladies are 3-3. There is a lot of talent on the team, and it is a great group of women representing Sun Lakes in the East Valley League. The women appreciate all the support SLSSA gives them including field prep, batting practice, umpiring and the cheering crowds.

Mr. Neumann gave an overview of points of emphasis for umpires and managers. He has been sending out periodic email covering a wide range of topics for umpires and managers. Mr. Hillabolt noted that new managers need to be aware of the substitution rules. It was recommended by Mr. Whitney that both managers consult with the scorer in the booth prior to inserting substitutes in the line-up to ensure compliance with the rules. Mr. Hillabolt additionally noted that some pinch runners were not reporting to the umpires before entering as a pinch runner. Managers need to be reminded of this requirement.

Mr. McCoy ordered three dozen 11-inch balls for the women and three dozen 12-inch balls for the men which will ensure we have enough to get us through the Spring Session. He continues to refill the soda and bottled water, the cost of which has been covered by the kitty. He is still waiting for an invoice for the purchase of softballs.

CPR training is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, at 9:00 a.m. in the education center at Cottonwood. Thus far seven people have signed up. [Following the meeting, this updated information was provided by Mr. Warwick: Yesterday I was informed by Arizona Fire and Medical, with whom I was working on the CPR class, that their CPR instructors are scheduling classes every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the address below. They are asking our group to attend on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., or any other Thursday that is convenient for them individually. Therefore, the February 7 class is canceled.]

Board Election will be held in March. Board positions expiring are Mr. McCoy, Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Whitney who was appointed to replace John Whitman. Voting will be the week of March 11. Mr. Warwick has appointed a nominating committee of Dennis Kennedy, Tom Erpelding and Ron Carmichael. They will canvas the membership to see who is interested in running. The Bylaw amendment proposal has been posted for three weeks. The voting will take place February 5-9. Mr. Warwick will communicate with Mrs. Hilby when that email is ready to be sent to the membership.

With the establishment of an Alumni Association, Mr. Wolfe suggested a Board liaison be appointed. The liaison would help plan functions to engage the Alumni Association members. Currently they are invited to the cookouts and spring social function, but there isn't anything specific for the fall. Suggestions included an Old Timers game with alumni and an ice cream social on opening day. March 25 is the spring social event. The cookout is scheduled for April 4.

Mr. Warwick set the next meeting for February 14 at 3:00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby  
SLSSA Board Secretary

SUN LAKES SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
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Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Messrs Rodgers and Whitney

Members attending: Dennis Kennedy, Gary Alexander, Mike Gloyd

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

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

Mr. Wolfe presented the treasurer's report. Banners are \$880 to the good. Men's dues are quite a bit more than budgeted. Little League is \$500 below budget, but it's just a timing issue. Banners are over budget due to the fact that we sold more banners. Billboards were less than budgeted but also a timing issue. On the expense side, we are still waiting for the invoice for the liability insurance. Bases were \$239 over budget because we didn't anticipate needing to replace the first base combo. Softballs are under budget, but that expense was just paid a couple days ago. Nearly all items that are under and over are timing issues. Overall, we are \$1,100 to the good on a year-to-date basis. Mrs. Hilby motioned to approve the report. Seconded by Mr. McCoy. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hilby provided an update on registration. There are currently 109 full members registered and 5 recreational members for the men. This change in numbers reflects some recreational members upgrading to a league membership. The women have 14 players on the roster. The Alumni Association is now up to 30 members. Mrs. Hilby continues to follow up on players who have not paid the HOA. There are three league players who have not paid their HOA fees in spite of being reminded.

Dennis LePore gave a report on the winter session. The number of games played is not even between the teams because of the rainouts, but we did the best we could with the time we had for makeups. The Sun Division is locked in for seeding for the tournament. But 3 and 4 in the Lakes Division is yet to be determined. Because the number of total games is not equal, percentage of wins will determine seeding. Mr. Rodgers is responsible for doing the seeding for the league tournament. Mr. Neumann will help if needed.

The cookout will be held on Thursday, February 22. Mr. Rodgers will talk to Ron Carmichael about the food and finding people to run the grills. We'll need people to help

set up the tables and chairs as well as volunteers to serve or monitor the food. Dave Martin has generously offered to supply the buns.

Dennis LePore reported on the status of the draft for the spring session for Mr. Rodgers who was unable to attend the meeting. We're at 44 in the Lakes Division, including a few that are unsure medically. The Sun Division is currently at 41 including one player with a medical issue. Six players will be on the sub list. If necessary, we can proceed with the draft one player short with a manager drafting an open spot and willing to get a sub every week. All managers are returning except Brian Brockman. Ron Carmichael will be taking his place. The draft is Tuesday, February 20, at 3:00 for the Sun Division and 4:30 for the Lakes Division. Mrs. Hilby will host the draft at her home.

The Sluggers are more than half way through their season. There have been two rainouts. The current record is 8-10 with 5 double headers remaining. The last game of the season is a home game on March 4.

Mr. Neumann discussed rules in question. The first is the topic of when a runner can leave the base. The rule book says "when the ball reaches the plate." Mr. Neumann reached out to SSUSA for clarification, and the answer is the runner may leave the base when the ball breaks the vertical plane at the front of the plate. Currently there is a rule in both divisions that if a player walks with no strikes thrown, he can stay at the plate. The rule states that the count stays the same, but this needs to be clarified. Mr. Neumann recommends we have a boundary on how many pitches can be thrown. If wind is a factor, the "wind rule" is in effect. The wind rule was then discussed including no walks but going to the plate with two strikes. It was ultimately decided the wind rule would have the batter starting with a 1 and 1 count and there will be no walks. No decision was made on the walk rule in ordinary circumstances. Currently the batter stays in the box until the third strike or he puts the ball in play. The count does not start over.

Dennis Kennedy gave a thorough explanation of his research regarding the science of excessive speed. If the pitcher is starting on the rubber and the ball goes above the height of the screen, it cannot be excessive speed. If the pitcher starts behind the rubber, then it is possible to have excessive speed even if it goes above the height of the screen and is the discretion of the umpire to call excessive speed. If the ball goes over the screen in the Lakes Division, it is not excessive speed.

There is a need for defining batting practice protocol to speed things up and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to hit. There are issues with people who arrive late and jump in line while others have been there waiting for a turn. We also have some people who take a lot of swings while many others are waiting. The recommendation is 15 swings for each of 2 trips to the plate. After two turns, the batter is expected to go out to collect balls and dry them off as needed. After everyone has had their opportunity, a batter may have another turn at the end if there are pitchers willing to continue pitching. The rotation of pitchers was also discussed. It was suggested that pitchers rotate out after 4 batters, which would be 8 sets of 15 swings. Mr. Warwick stated the number of pitches should be monitored by the pitchers. Mr. Neumann will prepare a document that will be shared with

the membership and ultimately posted at the field by the dugout and on the patio. Managers are reminded they should be the last ones to leave the dugout after games, making sure the bat warmers are returned to the dugout.

Mr. McCoy noted the HOA provided us with a new flag. They also repaired the post on the gate on the right field line. They have not done anything on the left field fence yet. We should have enough softballs to get us through April league play and the tournament. Gary Hillabolt has been setting aside used balls for the summer league. Rather than order more balls now, Mr. McCoy will evaluate in April if we need more. He's ordered two plaques for Mike Sellers and Dave McCormick who passed away. Marty's Trophies is interested in quoting on caps in the fall. We're in good shape for soda and water which Mr. McCoy continues to buy when it's on sale. People are doing a good job of paying as we're right about break even. There are still about a dozen hats remaining for the new players.

The vote on the proposed change to the Bylaws was held last week via email. Thirty-two members voted in favor of the change. One member was opposed.

A nominating committee report was provided by Dennis Kennedy. Ron Carmichael is going to be poling the Sun Division for people interested in running for positions. Dennis Kennedy is talking to each member of the Lakes Division. When the slate of candidates is determined, Mrs. Hilby will prepare the ballots and other materials needed. Voting will take place the week of March 11.

Mr. Wolfe reports that we've been building up a sizable balance in our savings account to be able to afford big ticket items. He'd like to take the majority of the funds and put them in a 6-to-9-month CD to earn interest. With the Board's approval he will explore options.

The annual social event will be Monday, March 25, at Palo Verde. The deposit has been paid, and Pat Wolfe has met with the banquet manager. Prices and selection should be similar to last year. Pat will be at the field the week of voting to sell tickets.

Dennis LePore asked if it's okay not to keep the stats for the league tournament as he could use a break for a week. The tournament statistics traditionally are not counted in the regular stats. The Board agrees that it's not necessary. Mrs. Hilby will get the tournament scoresheets to Mr. Wolfe for the article he prepares for the Splash.

Mr. Warwick set the next meeting for March 13 at 3:00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby  
SLSSA Board Secretary

SUN LAKES SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
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Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Directors participating were Messrs Warwick, Wolfe, Neumann, Rodgers, Whitney and Mrs. Hilby

Absent: Mr. McCoy

Members attending: Gary Hillbolt, Dennis Kennedy

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Warwick at 2:58 p.m.

The minutes of the February Board meeting were previously sent out to all Directors. Mr. Whitney motioned to approve the February minutes. Mr. Neumann seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe presented the treasurer's report. There were not many variances to talk about. Banner revenue is \$1,000 to the good primarily because we have a couple of new advertisers. Men's dues were also higher than budgeted. Field rental by Dirt Dogs and HOA maintenance are just timing issues. On the cost of sales, the billboards are quite a bit under, but we will be buying more boards for the banners. Operating expenses are close to what is budgeted. Softballs are \$600 to the good. Net net is \$110 less than budgeted. Mrs. Hilby motioned to approve the report. Seconded by Mr. Whitney. Motion carried. Mr. Wolfe has been exploring investment options per the discussion in the February Board meeting. After comparing many options, he recommended Desert Financial which is close by and has a money market fund that pays more than our current savings account. The current CD rates are right at 5% which would generate over \$1,000 a year in income. Mr. Whitney made a motion to move our financial accounts from Chase Bank to Desert Financial Credit Union. Mr. Rodgers seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hilby provided an update on registration. There are 105 full members. Two new players in the league have not yet paid their fees. There are 10 recreational members. Several players are in various stages of completing paperwork and paying the relative fees. Dennis LePore will follow up with the players.

Mr. Rodgers reported that the spring session is going pretty smoothly. We've had one rainout and have lost two players to injury for the entire session. One player has been replaced. Mr. Neumann asked if the rosters could include ratings as that would make it easier for fill-in managers to find subs. Mrs. Hilby will distribute those with the fall session documents.

The Sluggers concluded their season with a record of 12-16. The women would like to thank the association for their support, especially Gary Hillabolt for his flexibility in preparing the field, Tom Erpelding for umpiring, Lynn Tanner for scorekeeping and Randy Newmann for attending many of our games and filling in on the scoreboard.

Mr. Neumann shared that the new batting practice process is working well. Many of the players are not taking the maximum number of swings or hitting a second set. He has written up the batting practice guidelines, and they'll be sent out to the membership. In the February Board meeting, there was a lengthy discussion regarding the walk rule. Mr. Neumann made the following proposal. If a batter who has walked previously in the game with no strikes being thrown to the batter and that batter chooses not to accept another walk: If the pitcher throws three called balls to the batter, a courtesy runner shall be placed on first base and any runners on base that are forced to advance a base will do so. The batter will remain batting with a new count. The courtesy runner will be the last player who was put out and this will not count as an official courtesy runner for that inning.

Doug Friesen says he hasn't been getting any of the updates on the addendums to our rules. Mrs. Hilby will work with others about updating the rules addendums to be kept in the booth and posted on the website. There was a discussion regarding safety concerns when pitchers move out from behind the screen after pitching. If a pitcher is going to move out from behind the screen after delivering the pitch, he is required to wear shin guards and a face mask. The umpire should warn the pitcher, and if he continues to do it, he will be removed as a pitcher.

Bill Jacobson would like a cart that can be hooked up to the tractor and used to haul dirt to the infield. Gary Hillabolt said he and Bill have noticed the field is getting really hard and wonders if we should put some more Turface down. The edge on the infield needs to be cut down again with a sod cutter.

The Board election is underway. Mr. Warwick asked Dennis Kennedy to have his committee tally the votes at the end of the day Friday and report the results to him.

Pat Wolfe is selling tickets to the social event. Forty tickets were sold the first day. We normally have attendance of about 120. Mr. Wolfe needs names of the award winners by Tuesday, March 19, so he can get the certificates prepared. Mr. Warwick will contact the managers to solicit input for rookie of the year, most improved player, and sports person of the year. Mrs. Hilby will get the women's information to Mr. Wolfe.

The request by an IronOaks resident to allow his Montana little league to use the field was discussed. When Mr. Wolfe spoke to the resident, he was agreeable to working around the Dirt Dog schedule for March 20. Mr. Warwick asked Mr. Wolfe to tell them they can practice before the Dirt Dogs on that day which would allow the Dirt Dogs to prepare the field for league games on Thursday.



Mr. Whitney had an inquiry through the website from the Rotary Club of Sun Lakes and Neighbors Who Care about having an Oktoberfest event at our facility. They are planning to have food and beer. They don't think they'll need a stage although they might find a polka band. Mr. Whitney explained about overseeding and proposed they plan it for the first weekend in November. They will have to get permission from the HOA. Mr. Warwick asked Mr. Whitney to communicate that they should first get approval from Park McDonald and Chris Hall.

Mr. Warwick set the next meeting for April 10 at 3:00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. so the Board could go into Executive Session to discuss the Steve Hilby Spirit of Sun Lakes Softball award.

Respectfully submitted

Cyndy Hilby  
SLSSA Board Secretary