

MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Sunday, February 26th, 2023
Perkins Restaurant

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order at 2:55 PM by President, Gene Smithberger.

II. ATTENDANCE

Commissioners in attendance were: Don Bentley, Ed Slone, Buddy Lyles, Jeff Crummel, Steve Romshe, Jerry Fagan, Roger Smith, Steve Zonneville, Mike Winders, Bill Finnegan, Sam Grisham and Gene Smithberger.

Absences: Keith Thrush,

Guests:

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Steve Romshe moved to accept the minutes of the 01/29/22 meeting and Roger Smith seconded. Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Roger Smith reported \$4942.93 in the treasury as of 02/26/2023. In February 2023 we received \$150 in player fees and 4 sponsor fees. Ed Slone moved to accept the financial report and Jeff Crummel seconded. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Gene reviewed his role as president to keep meeting order and asked that are meetings only have one conversation going on at once to help make sure everyone hears what is being discussed.

Gene talked about the MSSA Hall of Fame and said we need to be sensitive to player's feelings about who is nominated and accepted into the hall of fame. He asked Sam to review the Hall of Fame proposal. Sam said that he reviewed other leagues Hall of Fame rules and took the information for our MSSA Hall of Fame from a combination of the other leagues. Sam

highlighted that a player needs to be at least 60 years old and has been at least 10 years in the league. On top of that there is a point system where players receive points for nominations and also votes from players and commissioners. Nominations and voting would be bi-annual. Sam also suggested we hold a 50/50 drawing to pay for any plaques, T Shirts and Hats for the Hall of Fame. He said Chuck Baker has a lot of ASA/USA bats that he would give to the league to auction off for the new 50 year old players that need a bat. Money raised would also go to support the Hall of Fame. Sam passed out a proposed Nomination Form and a Point System Nomination Path Document.

Don Bentley provided the design of the new sign for the MSSA league that was approved at the last meeting. Since we are starting the new 70 league, Don will go back to the vendor to add the 70 league info on the sign. Don said the vendor will install the sign but Don suggested the league paint the building but get prior review from the city before proceeding.

Buddy provided and reviewed a cause and effect draft handout of Player Misconduct. The list was organized in three tiers based on severity. The goal would be to vote on and add to our rules. Gene gave each commissioner the task to review the list and provide feedback (additions, deletions, modifications) at the next meeting prior to voting on it.

Buddy purchased 2 tons of dirt and installed it on the first base side of the field. Thank you Buddy.

Kenny Ballinger (Interim Parks Superintendent) told us we shouldn't do that without his approval. Going forward our league will run improvements through Kenny.

Mike Winders made a motion to increase the umpire fees to \$30 per game and pay for the umpire's registration fee. Sam Grisham seconded and the motion passed.

Gene asked the league commissioners to update him on the coach status for each league. In the 50 league Ed reported that Lee Blair, Tim Stockmaster, Jeff Crummel, Rick Schondel and Ed Slone are coaches.

In the 60 league Jeff said we need 1 coach and that the coaches are Ed Slone, Larry Webster and Jeff Crummel.

In the 65 league Don and Buddy reported that Larry Webster, Buddy Lyles, Mike Gist and possibly John Klensman would be coaches.

Gene said he needs the League commissioners to tell the coaches to contact players to determine who is playing this year. He needs the list ASAP.

We discussed Jerry Fagan's new substitution player proposal that was tabled at the last meeting and decided we would continue with our current method of player substitution. One of the objections was the concern of taking too much time to get the sub list together.

The City wanted us to consider using Garfield field instead of Kennedy with the main reason was the condition of some of the electrical equipment. The MSSA commissioners all agreed that Kennedy is still the best option for our league. Gene discussed the electrical equipment at Kennedy with Harbolt Electric and Harbolt Electric said anything we needed electrical they could take of.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

We discussed not being able to use commercial weed killer as per the city parks department and Gene suggested we use a mixture of vinegar, salt and dish soap on problem weeds.

Gene reported that 5 sponsors have paid YTD and he is waiting on 8 more sponsors to pay fees.

The 70 league playing Wednesday mornings will be for players 68 years old and older. Larry Kelly volunteered to coordinate the league depending on how many players show up each week. (Could be 2 or 3 pickup teams) He already has 15 players dedicated to play and Don said he has 14 other players that are dedicated to play. There are 33 players over 70 years old and 45 players over 68 years old in our league that are eligible to play.

Don Bentley received a quote for a 9 foot x 54 foot black mesh for the backstop to stop reflections and help with player visibility. If the city approves the league to install it we vote on it at our next meeting and will purchase and install this mesh screen. This screen has 78% visibility through it so it should not affect the fans or scorekeeper seeing the game.

Bill Finnegan reported that 11 players have paid their fees for a total of \$400.

Steve Romshe offered to send out any needed correspondence to players via email.

Mike Winders said that a cleanup day is scheduled for April 15th and the rain date is April 22nd. Players are asked to be at Bigford field at 10 AM.

Don Bentley requested that we review the no free foul rule implemented for this year. Gene suggested we see how it is received this season and we can review after the season is over.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Buddy Lyles was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 PM and Sam Grisham seconded. Motion passed.

Gene stated that our next 3 meetings will be at Tri Rivers. The first is scheduled for Monday March 20th at 6 PM at Tri Rivers with the coaches in the Multi Purpose Room. On Monday April 10th the draft will be at Tri Rivers Room 104 and a Pre-Season meeting will be on Monday April 24th at 6 PM in the Multi Purpose Room.

Minutes by Steve Zonnevylle