

**MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Monday, March 20th, 2023**  
**TRI-Rivers Room 104**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order at 6:10 PM by President, Gene Smithberger.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

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

**Absences:** Keith Thrush, Steve Zonneville

**Guests:** Tim Stockmaster, Mike Gist, Larry Webster, Brian Delauder, Scott Roper

**III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Buddy Lyles moved to accept the minutes of the 02/26/23 meeting and Sam Grisham seconded. Motion passed.

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Roger Smith reported \$6717.93 in the treasury as of 03/20/2023. Sam Grisham moved to accept the financial report and Steve Romshe seconded. Motion passed.

There are 12 sponsors currently. Due to a lower number of players signed up thus far this year, we may have an extra sponsor.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Gene , once again, asked that there be only one conversation going on at once to help make sure everyone hears what is being discussed.

Gene asked Sam Grisham to review the Hall of Fame proposal for the benefit of guests present. 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 probably be bi-annual.

Don Bentley passed around two examples of the proposed design of the new sign for the MSSA league that included the informal gathering of 70 & Over players on Wednesday mornings. The only difference was the color of the leagues. The one with red lettering was approved over the one with blue lettering. Don said the vendor will install the sign. A motion by Sam Grisham and seconded by Mike Winders to go ahead with the installation of the approved sign. Don also presented information on a netting for the backstop to reduce the glare from the overpass. We could buy a 6' or 9' x 54' netting. Don and Gene agreed to meet at the park to decide the best size and location for it. Mike Winders made the motion and Buddy Lyles seconded to proceed with the purchase pending approval by the city.

It was noted that the city had installed a sign for the Dog Park and another for Kennedy Park.

Buddy reviewed draft handout of Player Misconduct. The list was organized in three tiers of violations based on severity with immediate action of ejection, verbal warning and reprimand. The goal would be to vote on and add to our rules. Steve Romshe suggested an additional ejection action for players who refuse to abide by any violation under Verbal Warnings. Approval was tabled until the next meeting

Kenny Ballinger (Interim Parks Superintendent) told us we had to remove the two tons of dirt that we had added to the field. They will not turn on the water until it is removed, Several players have volunteered to help as soon as the weather allows for this. The city said they would then add appropriate dirt to the field. Going forward our league will run improvements through Kenny.

Mike gave us the names of the umpires who will working the leagues. They are Kevin Lyons, Rick Schondel and Scott Moore.

Gene gave us the names of all the coaches.

50 & Over	Lee Blair	Jeff Crummel	Brian Delauder	Ed Slone
60 & Over	Ed Slone	Jeff Crummel	Larry Webster	TBD
65 & Over	Scott Roper	Larry Webster	Mike Gist	Ed Slone

The league has a total of 12 committed sponsors.

Substitutes can be taken from the 6<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> draft positions of the two teams that are not playing. If there are available substitutes, a team must fill their team up to 12 players. In order to plan for subs, players must inform their coach whenever they will be unable to play on a given night. If a regular player shows up, he will enter the game at the first half inning break.

In the 50 & Over and 60 & Over leagues, coaches will draft from the entire pool without a predetermined group of top outfielders, infielders and pitchers. The 65 & Over league would have a single group of top players across all positions that would be selected first.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

In a previous meeting it was agreed that coaches in the 65 & Over league would draw teams and afterward draw to determine to actually decide which of these drawn teams they coach. As a result of this decision, feedback was received from a number of people that seem to indicate that this may not be a popular direction to go. After a very long discussion, a vote was taken among the four coaches and league representative and it was decided unanimously to revert back to the way it has always been done with the coach keeping the team that he had drawn.

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. However several commissioners spoke and seemed to favor allowing one free foul on the third strike based on the fact no game last year took over 1 hour and 10 minutes as well as the screen obstruction counting as a strike. Jerry Fagan made the motion to allow one free foul ball on the third strike. This was seconded by Buddy Lyles. A hand vote passed the motion with eight yes votes and one abstention.

The draft will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The 50 & over will be at 6:00PM, the 60 & Over will be at 7:00PM and the 65 & Over will be at 8:00PM.

Steve Romshe mentioned that Larry Kelly would rather have only players who are actually 70 and over by the end of the year participate in the Wednesday morning scrimmage. Gene Smithberger said that since he was coordinating it, he could set the criteria.

Gene Smithberger stated that the next 2 meetings will be at Tri Rivers. On Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> the draft will be at Tri Rivers Room 104 and a Pre-Season meeting will be on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Multi Purpose Room.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Ed Slone was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM and Don Bentley seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes by Steve Romshe