

**MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Monday, March 11th, 2024**  
**Marion County Board of DD Conference Room**  
**2387 Harding Highway East in Marion Ohio**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5pm.

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

**Absences:** Keith Thrush, Max Gerber, Steve Zonnevylle

**Guests:** Mike Fleming

**III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Gene reviewed last minutes, and the only correction was that Sam spoke to Kenny Ballinger of Parks and recreation and not Tony. A motion by Buddy to accept the minutes with the changes was made and Steve Romshe seconded. All were in favor of accepting the change in the name and the remainder of the minutes.

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Financial report was given by Roger Smith. There was \$4,875.91 in the account and Roger was going to have to deduct the AED pads and batteries as they were outdated, and it was voted we should replace them. The cost of the new batteries and pads is \$352.28, and they will be good for 5 years unless it is used, then it will have to be updated. Mike Winders made a motion to accept the financial report and payment for the AED equipment. Sam Grisham seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Hall of Fame updates Sam Grisham and Don Bentley went to speak with Steve Badertscher about possible support from the Senior Center. Steve suggested

when the weather gets warmer to possibly have a band do an outdoor event that would raise money for the hall of fame. There was also suggestions to see if there was a possibility to have the schedule for the games so seniors could come over and watch the games and become involved in purchasing 50/50 raffle tickets or food items from the concession. Don agreed to send Steve the schedules once they had been completed.

Steve, Buddy, Mike, and Gene met with the new Mayor, Bill Collins. There was an agreement that we would mow the field once per week and parks/recreation would mow it once per week. There was an agreement that we would pay \$15 per league night and pay an additional rate if the lights were used. The Mayor did join the league as a player and agreed to see what could be done about the lights being replaced or fixed so there would be fewer blind areas when/if they are used. The water will be turned on April 20 and left on until October. A follow up meeting with the Mayor will be requested by Gene for April 19 th to see when we are allowed to move our equipment from storage back into the building. They will also discuss the possibility of having the net from Garfield put up in the outfield to help keep the balls from going into the crop field beyond the trees. They will also discuss replacement for a pitching rubber to remove the one that we used last year that would move if stepped on. Buddy spoke about getting one that can be rotated side to side instead of one that you put spikes in as we are using now. The spikes become loose, and the rubber is not secured. With the other one, it will be buried into the ground about 6" and all you have to do is rotate it to another side to make it last longer.

Gene asked about the batters area mat that was discussed at the previous meeting and everyone seemed to agree it would be better and prevent batters from digging into the ground causing the batters box to be lower than the plate.

## **VI. New Business**

Players and fees was brought up by Ed Sloan. He turned in the lists of former players he has contacted and there are still some coaches with their list of who is/is not returning. Sam and Don had their lists to give to Gene after the meeting. The discussion about coaches was brought up and at this time there may

only be 4-50's teams. Jerry Fagan is a 60's coach and he may be out for the year due to knee issues. He is also out of state during the draft, but a decision was made to have that draft prior to his departure. See below paragraph. Gene was going to see if Keith Thrush or someone else they have reached out to in the past when we needed a coach, to see if they would step up again for us. The draft was going to be completed on the days the league games would be played on, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. With the eclipse occurring and Marion being in the path, there is an expectation of some possible travel delays as well as internet, phone, and other concerns. The draft for the 60 teams will be done on Sunday 4/7/24 at 3pm, 50 will be Tuesday 4/9/24 at 5pm, and the 65 will be 4/10/24 at 5pm. All will be done at 2387 Harding Highway East, MCBDD building.

Uniform shirts for the league and championships was discussed. Quotes were received from Visual Effects, Bullseye, and Central Monogram. The discussion was regarding what we actually wanted for the shirts. The consensus, after discussion, was we wanted dry fit shirts with screenprint. If we get any shirt, dry fit or cotton, and they press on the logos or numbers, they will draw up when dried, they will stick to a person when it gets hot, and they are sweating. The determination was we wanted to go with the screenprint to avoid those issues. Roger was going to contact Central Monogramming, as their quote was for screenprint while the other two were vinyl press on and see about a turnaround time. Don spoke about the inability to get anything from a vendor in Galion as they were never open. Steve Romshe asked about other outside the area vendors if we are looking at areas outside of Marion, areas like Delaware or Upper Sandusky. Sam brought up those areas have a lot of softball teams who will be submitting orders, and the concern would be if they would put their local teams before an out-of-town team. The decision was to see if Central Monogramming could give us a turnaround time that we wanted plus to see about our sponsor logos being kept the same. Sam suggested we take a shirt from each sponsor we have and show it to the vendor to ensure we keep the sponsor integrity for the logos.

Jerry Fagan turned in a couple of new ball players registrations and said he had several more who said they wanted to play in the upcoming season, but he has

not received their registration forms yet. He talked about sending the applications out and included a self-addressed/embossed envelope so all they had to do was fill it out, put it in the envelope and return it, the postage was already paid for. But he has not gotten them back yet.

Mike asked that all coaches be given a copy of the rules at the draft. With Coaches not knowing about rule changes or the standard rules it can alleviate any delays in games if the coaches were given the rules and directed to read them, so there would be no reason to have so many debates about them on the field.

Sam spoke about at the draft we do an update on the rule changes and Buddy talked about some changes we made at the last meeting regarding pitching net usage and commitment line issues we faced last year.

Mike then spoke about having four umpires for the leagues and asked if we thought there should be two umpires or one. Gene spoke about possibly at the end of year tournament we could use two for the final rounds, but all agreed with the cost for two umpires that would be a concern. Mike mentioned it would be good if the team who had a bye, one of the players would take the base umpire position as a volunteer. Some agreed that would be nice, but the issue with that would be if a team was playing and it was head-to-head with the volunteer's team, it could change the outcome of the standings. That could then cause some animosity amongst teams and players. So it was taken off the table for discussion. The suggestion for possibly two for the last round of the tournament play was still open and would be discussed at a later date.

Gene brought up that he has been the president for 10 years and this was his last year and wanted the board members to not forget about finding someone to take the position. He would be around to help the new president out as needed but would only be there to help if needed and asked.

He also mentioned we have equipment in a storage unit and by his estimates it would cost someone around \$300 for the unit and time we have had it. He would be discussing with Josh Daniels the cost and when we would be removing the items. Don mentioned that he thought Josh had donated the use of the storage to the Association and Gene said that could be true, but he wanted to discuss it with Josh to be sure.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was scheduled for April 1, 2024, at 5pm. We will continue to meet at the same location, 2387 Harding Highway East.

There was no other items to discuss, and Ed Sloan made a motion to adjourn, Don Bentley seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Meeting Minutes by Sam Grisham