

Marion Senior Softball Association Meeting Minutes 4/1/24

Marion Senior Softball Association met on 4/1/24 at the Marion County Board of DD located at 2387 Harding Highway East in Marion Ohio.

The meeting was called to order at 5pm by President Gene Smithberger

Present

Gene Smithberger
Steve Romshe
Bill Finnegan
Buddy Lyles
Don Bentley
Roger Smith
Ed Slone
Sam Grisham
Jerry Fagan
Mike Winders
Max Gerber
Keith Thrush

Absent

Steve Zonnevylle

Review of minutes from the last meeting

Gene reviewed last minutes, corrections made to spelling of Slone, and cost of AED was \$325.28. Ed made a motion to accept with changes and Roger 2nd, all were in favor.

Financial report

The financial report was given by Roger Smith. There is currently \$6,625.91 in the account with no expenses made. There will be more deposits coming in from player registrations. Bill made a motion to accept and Steve R. 2nd, all were in favor.

Old Business

Gene wanted to see if any discussion from the board regarding replacement for President, his current position. Steve R. nominated Ed Slone (Ed declined as there were two other good candidates nominated), Don nominated Bill Finnegan, Bill stated even though he is retired from his judicial position, he still is called upon to perform those duties. He has some concern about being the President and having to interact with other elected officials and someone could make a claim of conflict due to his position. Bill then withdrew his name for the role of President but will remain as the VP and continue with those duties. Mike nominated Max Gerber stating that he was one of the younger players in the league and we need to look at someone that is fresh and new. Jerry Fagan second the nomination and Max stated he would be willing to take on the role if chosen, he has prior experience with the duties but would like to have a transition where he is not just put into the role. All agreed if he was selected there would be a transition and the duties for him would not start until after this playing season, around November. The board members then voted, and Max was selected to assume the duties of President, replacing Gene in November. All other positions/roles will remain the same. Congratulations Max, and thanks for taking on that role.

Gene then talked about the follow-up meeting with parks and recreation, Kenny Ballinger. If we use the lights, we will be required to pay \$65/league night. This means once we turn the lights on, we will pay that \$65/night regardless, from that day moving forward. The total cost for the year would be around \$4,200 according to what was discussed. We want to get two games per night, and we will need to look at how we can make that work. If we have to use the lights that could mean an increase in player fees to pay for the lights.

New Business

Following up with the old business discussion about the lights.

There was discussion on ways to speed up the games, so we do not have to use the lights. Suggestions made were:

1. Teams need to hustle on/off the field.
2. Lineups have to be turned into the score keeper 15 minutes prior to start of the game.
3. The game clock will start at the designated time for the start of the games (60 minutes). After 55 minutes the teams will then play one inning and it will go to a Texas Shootout (1 pitch) format. Clock will stop for injured player/weather delays. If a tie after the last inning, go to the international rule, last batter starts on 2nd base, game still in Texas Shootout format. No new inning will start after 60 minutes unless there is a tie.
4. Do away with free foul on third strike.
5. Run rule 12 after 5 and 10 after 6.
6. Do away with the rule that everybody has to get so many at bats/innings on defense.
7. Have courtesy runner ready by first base. If a player is getting a courtesy runner and they are walked, a courtesy runner can take first and batter goes to dugout.
8. Modify homerun limits. Three homeruns and all others are a single. No more one up rule for teams.
9. Play with only 11 players and only require 12 for 65 league. Coaches to decide at draft.
10. Coaches can send lineup by phone to Karen but are still required to be turned in 15 minutes prior to game time. If the coach is waiting on a player, he can have a sub fill in the order until player arrives unless you have enough players without that player.
11. Monday (65 league) start time move to 5:30 pm. Other leagues will continue to start at 6pm with no grace time permitted.
12. Set tournament dates for the end of season and that is the day the tournament will start. Play tournament games on Saturday and come back for final games on Sunday at 3pm. Should only have three teams at this point and will only play two-three games should the loser beat the winner in the first game.

Ed suggested we modify a list of rules impacted by any changes to accommodate those changes. All were in favor of that. This will be updated when the changes are confirmed.

Gene will speak with the recreation department to clarify and have a better understanding of the use of the lights and what that cost will actually be like. Several board members indicated if the cost was low enough, they would just pay the cost and play the season without having to modify times, games and debating what to do.

Josh Daniels agreed to waive storage fees for his sponsorship fees, meaning there is no cost for the storage, but he will not be required to pay his sponsorship fees this season.

4/6/24 need to move the items from storage to the concession stand. Gene, Ed, Don, Buddy, Keith, Mike, and Karen will be doing this.

One of the sponsors, Homeless to home animal sanctuary will have a jar for donations at the concession stand. If people would be willing to drop their change into the jar, they would be grateful due to the difficult times and numbers they are having to support at the sanctuary.

Uniform shirts

Don and Roger presented a cost spreadsheet to the board for Central Monogramming. They will reach out to see if they can do a tri blend shirt at the same cost for the dry fits as other locations are willing to do this. If players want names on the back of the shirts that will cost extra, and coaches will be responsible for that cost. Each team's artwork has a set up cost of \$10. Coaches can email the orders to the rep and the rep will drop the shirts off in Marion.

Tournaments

There is a plan to have two all-league tournaments, one in July and one in August. No out-of-town teams/players. Teams will be drafted, and all games will be played at Bigford.

Umpires

Mike brought up that Parker (umpire) is good through May and will see if her dad will cover afterwards.

Sponsors

Gene asked if Seismic is going to sponsor it again this year and if not, we will need one more sponsor. Don and Roger were going to speak with Central Monogramming to see if they would be interested in being a sponsor.

Batters Mat

Batters mat-Max stated that a batter's mat for softball should be 7ft X12ft. The cost for the synthetic turf with inlaid home plate is \$490.24. If we are going to get one, we need to order now to ensure we have it in time. Gene stated he would speak to the parks department to see if there were any issues with us using this mat, so batters are not digging holes around home plate.

Next Meeting

The draft will start on 4/7/24 at 3pm. We will meet at 2387 Harding Highway East to conduct the draft.

There were no other items to discuss, and Buddy Lyles made a motion to adjourn, Ed Slone seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.