

**MARION SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Monday, December 11th, 2022**  
**Steve Zonneville House**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Marion Senior Softball Association was called to order at 1:10 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, Keith Thrush and Gene Smithberger.

**Absences:** Bill Finnegan,

**Guests:**

**III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mike Winders moved to accept the minutes of the 04/11/22 meeting and Steve Romshe seconded. Motion passed.

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Roger Smith reported \$3786.12 in the treasury as of 12/11/2022. In 2022 we had \$18,119 in income and \$18,930.81 in expenses. The concession stand had a net income of \$1935.51. The biggest expense for the season was player and championship shirts. Roger provided a 2022 itemized list of income and expenses which was very well put together.

Keith Thrush moved to accept the financial report and Steve Zonneville seconded. Motion passed.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

Gene reviewed that he and others have played in the league over 20 years and he has been president for 9 years. 2022 was the only year he can recall where we had some abusive situations develop and asked that we work to correct them in 2023. He related being a basketball referee and their theme in 2022 is "Benching Bad Behavior".

Some bad behavior examples in 2002: One coach told players not to show up and benched other players. One teammate used abusive language toward a player and coach. Some players have said they will not play if they have to play with a specific coach and player. Gene asked Steve Romshe to develop a document addressing "bad behavior" which was reviewed during our meeting and a revised copy is attached to our meeting minutes. The document defines bad behavior and summarizes steps to take to address this bad behavior starting with the coach.

Buddy stated that we need to screen coaches and players.

Jerry stated he has contacted some players to assure them that this bad behavior is being addressed for 2023 and Don suggested that all players know that we are resolving the 2022 bad behavior issues.

Steve Romshe and Buddy stated we need a cause and effect list.

Mike Winders stated that Kenny Ballinger is the new interim parks superintendent.

Mike Winders ordered 10 dozen softballs for the 2023 season. We are also getting 4 dozen new white softballs free from Larry Kelly which will save our league \$224.

Don Bentley said he would continue mowing grass if he had someone to share in mowing the grass at the field. We save \$15 per night if we mow and line the fields vs. the parks department saving the league \$900. Buddy Lyles spent a lot of time prepping the fields to ensure they would be playable by game day. As a result of Buddy's efforts only 4 games in 2022 were cancelled due to rain. Mike shared that Buddy purchased the new scoreboard cover with his own money and didn't want to be reimbursed.

Ed Slone made a motion that Roger provide gift cards to Buddy and Don for the work they did on the fields. Keith Thrush seconded and the motion passed.

Buddy shared the sub results and the current draft and highly recommended that we change the draft to ensure more even records during the season. In 2022 in each league we had teams that went 10 & 2 and teams that went 3 & 9 and in the 65 league one team went 0 & 12. He suggested we have the league coaches draft teams without knowing which team they will get to coach. These drafted teams would then be randomly assigned to a coach. We agreed to try this process for the 65 league in 2023 and use the current process for the 50 and 60 leagues.

Gene discussed player fees and sponsor fees. We agreed to keep sponsor fees at \$400 and Don Bentley made a motion to change player fees to \$25 for each league played with a \$5 late fee per league if money isn't received before the draft occurs which is April 10<sup>th</sup> 2023. Ed Slone seconded and the motion passed. Mike Winders will check with Lawson Chiropractic to see if they would sponsor a team and also if Seismic Drilling and Peacock Water would pay \$400 each. Checks for league play should be sent to Gene Smithberger or Roger Smith.

**Addresses are:**

Gene Smithberger  
470 Marion Cardington Rd E  
Marion, Ohio 43302  
Phone - 740-389-3454  
Email – gsmithberger@roadrunner.com

Roger Smith  
6109 County Rd 30  
Mount Gilead, Ohio 43338  
Phone - 419-946-2150  
Email – roger480@hotmail.com

**Gene reviewed some player comments/concerns:**

1. *We need a stronger Umpire on Monday night and on Tuesday night.* The Monday night umpire had many missed calls and did not know the rules. Mike Winders is looking to find new umpires. Larry Kelly and Don Bentley have agreed to umpire on nights they are not playing softball. Don suggested that we umpire ourselves with league players. Mike felt that this would cause too many problems with player arguments. Mike does give every umpire a copy of the league rules.
2. *The league has too many commissioners.* We agreed that we have the correct number of commissioners for the work that is required.

3. *There was too much disrespect and player conflicts and too much winning at all costs.*

Coaches will be screened and we are adopting a code of conduct for players and coaches. Gene will also put the code of conduct as part of each registration form. The code of conduct will also be added to the MSSA website.

4. *Why can a player ask for a substitute runner if they get a double.* We have discussed this many times in the past and it is the players' option to ask for a runner even if they made it to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Coaches cannot tell a player to get a runner.

Gene discussed the need for coaches in the 50 and 60 leagues. Brian Delawder or Andy DeGood may be asked to coach.

Gene said he no longer has a cell phone and if you need to get a hold of him use his home phone number or email.

Gene discussed that during the tournaments we had 5 outfielders and no free foul which shortened each game by about 10 minutes. A motion was made by Ed Slone to eliminate the free foul and to play with 5 outfielders and was seconded by Don Bentley. Motion Passed. Rules 3C, 5A, 5B, 5E.

Ed Slone made a motion for a rule change that every player willing to bat and play defense would be play at least 3 innings of defense per game at the players discretion. Jerry Fagan seconded and motion passed. Rule 5A

Gene suggested that we have 2 All League tournaments and possibly eliminate the Modern Woodman Tournament since they are not as supportive as in previous years. Gene also suggested that we have 1 team as commissioners and we would be able to pick a player from each of the leagues. Steve Romshe was suggested as a coach for the commissioners.

Don Bentley will check on the cost of a new MSSA sign to be mounted on the building to reflect our current leagues.

Gene discussed that the 2022 request to have coaches rate players didn't work out well and we won't do that in 2023.

Gene said he will put the new player registration form and violation of code of conduct on the MSSA website in the near future.

Ed Slone made a motion to delete the rule where a pitcher must have his foot on the pitching rubber when using the screen. Steve Zonneville seconded and the motion passed. Rule 3E #7.

**Tabled Item** – Ed Slone suggested that a pitcher either use the pitching screen or wear a face mask. We couldn't come to an agreement and tabled this item. Ed Slone said he has a spare pitching mask that he will make available.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Keith Thrush was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 PM and Ed Slone seconded. Motion passed.

Gene stated that our next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. We decided to move the meeting to Ralphies Restaurant on SR95. They have been a team sponsor for many years and we thought it would be good to support them. We reserved the large table in the front corner. Buddy is going to get there early to make sure we get the table even though he did reserve it. If you want to get something to eat come earlier 12:15 to 12:30 which I plan on doing - SHZ

Minutes by Steve Zonneville