

## **Marion Senior Softball Association Meeting Minutes 12/23/24**

Marion Senior Softball Association met on 12/23/24 at the Marion County Board of DD located at 2387 Harding Highway East in Marion Ohio.

The meeting was called to order at 4pm by the incoming President Max Gerber as he assumed the role from outgoing President, Gene Smithberger. Gene thanked and acknowledged the board for their assistance over the past 10 years. Gene then relinquished his role as the President and passed it over to Max Gerber as the new President for Marion Senior Softball.

### **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  
Steve Zonnevylle

### **Review of minutes from the last meeting**

There was a review of the last meeting minutes, and they were accepted without any changes. Motion by Sam Grisham to accept the minutes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Bentley with all in favor.

### **Financial report**

The financial report was given by Roger Smith. There is currently \$3,124.04 in the account with no expenses made. The concession brought in \$5,590.14 with expenses of \$2,553.12 leaving a net income from the concession of \$3,037.02. Roger stated that he makes purchases of items for the concession from sales on bulk items to save on cost. Roger explained there is \$1000 in the HOF money raised, \$405.58 in memorial contributions, and there is a check that was sent to Ohio ASA softball for \$420.00 that was sent in June and has not been cashed. Mike Winders stated the person that is over the Ohio ASA has been lacking in their duties as he had issues similar with the umpire fees. Money was sent and cards received, but the checks had still not been cleared.

Buddy Lyles asked what the 2023 carryover was, and Roger looked at the account balance as of January 2023, and it was \$3,811.19 after the River's Edge late invoice.

Roger acknowledged that we paid the Parks for the use of lights in October at the end of the season to finish the end of season tournament, and we paid \$50 per night for two nights, totaling \$100. Roger stated overall we spent \$1,934.73 more than we actually brought in.

Max asked what the cost was for field prep from the Parks and Recreation. Since we mow, drag and line the field, we pay \$15 per night for the use of the park versus \$30 per night. Discussion then went into how the Parks and Recreation had updated the score booth, and concession. They also put new roofs on the dugouts and made the bathroom handicap accessible by building a ramp. They made repairs to the stairs

leading to the score booth as well. There appeared to be new fence put up along the right field side where the fence had been pulled up due to mower catching on it.

Roger then brought up the cost for shirts for the season champions and the end of season tournament champions. In years past, if a team won the league and the end of season tournament, they only got one set of championship shirts. This year the end of season champion was not a league champion. So there was an increase in the cost of shirts. We also have teams that will put every players names on the championship shirts, and that cost more. We need to look at ways to cut cost for shirts and stay within a budget for money we take in. Jerry Fagan brought up we should do away with tournament shirts and only stick with league champions. Tournament champions will get bragging rights but there is no need to give them shirts. Every team gets a plaque for the sponsor, and most players don't want another shirt anyway. Steve Romshe motioned we do away with tournament shirts and only give out league championship shirts. Jerry Fagan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote; we will only give league championship shirts and not tournament shirts starting with the 2025 season.

Max asked Roger to check to see if there was a way to get the cost reduced by contacting the vendor to see what our options would be for the upcoming season.

No further discussion on the financials was held and Ed motioned to accept the report and Gene seconded, with all in favor.

### **Old Business**

The board moved to old business and the discussion about lighting and cost for 2025 if they are used. There was a grant that Max had submitted to pay for lights to be replaced and it was not awarded. The discussion lead to it being possible to only change the bulbs from halogen to LED in an effort to reduce the cost per wattage. This discussion lead to the need to get a cost for replacement if that is an option instead of changing the entire lighting systems. Max will set up a meeting with Parks and recreation to discuss lights, cost, and who could complete it. In other counties the parks and recreation have always paid for the lights for teams. Steve Romshe brought up, there is a city council meeting that someone should attend to see if they could help us out. The Mayor will be at that meeting and since he is part of Senior Softball, he may be able to have them look at options. The meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup> at 630pm.

From the previous meeting notes it is noted that Gene talked about a meeting with parks and recreation, Kenny Ballinger. If we used the lights, we will be required to pay \$65/league night for the 2024 season. 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**

#### **Rotary Grant**

Max explained to the board that he had applied for a grant through the Rotary club, but we did not get it. The grant was to cover the cost for lights and other updates to the field. When he spoke to them about what he needed to get the grant, they told him to reapply, so that was a positive.

#### **New Players**

Jerry Fagan spoke that he had several new players interested in playing in the upcoming season. But he is open minded as people have said they wanted to play then when it gets to that point to commit, they don't. He stated if we do get the numbers possible, we may have to go to three games per night and not be able to do two games, so lights will become a critical point for us in the upcoming season.

### Player Fees

Steve Romshe said we need to look at player fees. We have done a great job keeping it low over the years but with everything costing more and more, we need to be able to continue to have a league. Currently we charge \$25 per league night, and if they get the money in before the draft, there is a \$5 late fee if they don't have the money in before their respective league starts.

Sam made a motion to raise the cost of the league to \$5 per league night and it would be \$30 if paid before the draft or deadline established by the board if established prior to the draft. Don Bentley seconded the motion, and all were in favor of raising the league fees to \$30 per league night if paid prior to draft day or date established by the board. If they are not paid until after their first respective league game, there will be a \$10 late fee, making it \$40 for new players and a \$5 late fee for existing players making it \$35 for existing players.

### Sponsor Fees

Sponsor fees will remain \$400. No vote required as there was no change in the fee.

### 65 league night Monday

Gene spoke to the board about making the 65 and older league night a 70 and older league night. He stated those that were currently playing on the 65 and older, meaning those 63-year-olds allowed to move to that league, would be grandfathered in. Any players moving to that night would have to wait until they are 68 to move to the night. The discussion led to players who were already getting ready to move to the Tuesday night league as they would be 63 at the start of the 2025 season, may not play any league nights. **The issue was tabled after more discussion to the next meeting** to see what the numbers would look like for those players already 70 that would come back to participate versus those ready to move up now.

### Balls

Mike Winders provided the board with the quote for softballs from BSN sports. Sam brought up discussion about going to a ball that was not as "slick" when it got dirty. Sam brought up the Short Porch balls that was used in the tournament and everyone seemed to like them. The concern was there were a lot of HRs hit during that tournament and the reaction time some infielders had could be a risk. Sam discussed using a 52/300 core ball from Short Porch, as most ASA leagues use the 52/300 ball. Sam sent a text to a representative from Short Porch during the meeting to see if the BSN quote could be matched or if Short Porch could do a better deal. Short Porch would not be able to meet or match the quote from BSN, and the 52/300 ball is not ASA stamped. Sam will see if he can get a better quote from BSN or another vendor to save on this cost.

### Bats

Max brought up why we had the rule that only 65-year-old players could use the senior bat on the Tuesday, 50 and older night. When a 63-year-old player who played on the 65 league and the 58-year-old player on the Thursday 60 and older league, could use senior bats? He stated the 65-year age did not make any sense.

Ed Slone stated the concern was for safety for older players. Ed stated that a 58-year-old player hits the ball harder and faster. Some of the players we have coming up will fall into that category. Discussion about this issue was that on the Tuesday night league, players are younger and not older, it did not make sense to have to purchase an ASA bat and a senior bat with today's cost for those bats being extremely high. If we do go with a 52/300 ball it would benefit the bats and reduce breakage and replacement for the players.

Max again requested we modify the rule from 65 to 60 for senior bats being used on Tuesday night.

**The discussion was tabled to the next meeting.**

### Draft

The 2025 draft will occur on April 7, 8, and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5pm at the Marion County Board of DD, located at 2387 Harding Highway East.

The league will start play on April 28, 2025.

Registration deadline: April 4<sup>th</sup> for the \$30 fee/night playing, and any day after April 4<sup>th</sup> will cost the player \$40 fee/night playing. If paid after their first league game, there is a penalty of \$10 making the cost \$40.

Past coaches are to contact 2024 players to see who is returning to play.

### Coaches for 2025 season

We have two coaches so far for 50 league and need three more.

We have four coaches so far for 60 league and need one more.

We have four coaches so far for 65 league and need one more.

We may need more coaches if we have more teams due to an increase in players in the 2025 season.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 10, 2025, at 4pm at the Marion County Board of DD.

There were no other items to discuss, and Gene Smithberger made a motion to adjourn, Ed Slone seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.