

Marion Senior Softball Association Meeting Minutes 11/11/25

Marion Senior Softball Association met on 11/11/25 at the Marion County Board of DD located at 2387 Harding Highway East in Marion Ohio.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by the President Max Gerber.

Present

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

Absent

Keith Thrush
Mike Winders
Marty Alves

Guest

Terry Conley

Review of minutes from the last meeting

There was a discussion of the last meeting minutes and they were accepted without any changes. Motion by Buddy Lyles to accept the minutes and 2nd by Sam Grisham with all in favor.

Financial report

The financial report was given by Roger Smith. Roger does a great job detailing the expenses. There is currently \$6,329.87 in the account. Below are some highlights of income and expenses:

Sponsor Income - \$7,400
Player Fees Income - \$5,610
Concession Stand Income after expenses - \$3,195
Banner Sponsor Income - \$1,900

Umpire/Scorekeeper Expense - \$5,440
Team Shirt Expense – \$5,004
Banner Sponsor Expense – \$1,732
Field Rental Expense to city - \$1,210
Softball Purchase Expenses - \$995
Ohio USA Expense - \$510
Website Expense - \$450
Sponsor Plaques Expense - \$295
Field/Team Maintenance Expense - \$294

2025 Total Income - \$21,251

2025 Expenditures - \$18,962.

Gene Smithberger motioned to accept the report and Sam Grisham 2nd with all in favor.

New Business

Buddy reviewed that we used 321 subs for 104 regular season games played. Without lights we had 2.43 subs per game and with lights we had 2.24 – the ratio was about the same of subs per game.

There 120 Games scheduled but too many rain-outs in 2025.

Only 1 team didn't use a sub and teams that didn't use subs had a better record.

Buddy felt the number of subs needed was excessive and this needs addressed for 2026.

Equipment

Mike received a \$750 quote for 12 dozen new softballs. We had 4 dozen balls left from last year. After discussion Buddy made a motion to purchase the softballs and Don 2nd – Motion passed.

Terry Conley did a great job presenting a detailed proposal to put artificial turf in the infield.

Key Points:

MSSA would need to apply to be a non-profit - 501C3 and Terry said he could help with the application. Infield at Bigford Field is approximately 13,800 sq feet and the total cost to install would be approximately \$109,000. To account for unforeseen expenses the cost could rise to \$130,000.

Terry presented funding options such as Grants, Fundraisers and donations by businesses and private individuals. They would have naming fees for Infield, Dugouts, Bleachers etc.

Would need to work with the city to have control of the field to prevent vandalism.

As part of the discussion Max has discussed with the Dean at OSUM that maybe the league along with OSUM could build a field on OSUM property.

Astroturf has advantages, More consistent fielding of balls, infield would not need dragged by commissioners, less rainouts – etc.

Players can't wear metal spikes and a \$3,500 grooming machine would be required to maintain the AstroTurf every 40 hours of use.

Jerry Fagan was concerned that it will be hard to recruit new 70 year old players. Depending on the numbers we may drop the requirement to 68 years. Jerry has been doing a great job in recruiting.

Max stated that Kenny Ballinger from the Marion Parks and Recreation is retiring and from what we know his position won't be filled.

Max stated that player sign-ups didn't go smoothly this year and he would like to have the deadline earlier in the year for players to sign up and pay. He also said it would be nice if we could incorporate a on-line player registration and also a way to pay the player fees on-line.

We discussed starting the season the last Monday in April.

Steve Zonneville asked about the 2026 Plan for games and double headers. We will have 3 games per night and if there is a league that has 5 teams we will have a double header for those leagues.

Steve Zonneville stated as per last meeting in April 2025 we will revert back to the 2023 rules as voted on in a previous meeting with; No time limits for games and Homeruns will revert to one up rule after 3 homeruns. He will update the MSSA rules.

Steve Zonneville asked for clarification for a player that shows up and could play but the team has enough players and doesn't want to play due to a physical condition. During the game a player gets hurt and the player that didn't play wants to come in to replace the injured player. Ed showed in our rules that the team that needs a substitute player cannot use the player that wasn't in the lineup and therefore another player would need to replace the injured player.

Steve Zonneville asked for clarification about substitute runners. After discussion Sam stated that our rules follow USA rules except MSSA rules state that only the coach can assign the courtesy runner. As per USA rules once an ineligible player assigned by the coach steps on the base the courtesy runner will be called out.

Tabled

Buddy needs to know at the beginning of the season who the sub players can be (possibly draft picks 5-8) Buddy said new players substitution status be adjusted halfway thru the season to achieve fairness in who are in the sub brackets.

Sam agreed with Jerry Fagan's previous proposal that we have each player in a "A,B,C" bracket and a sub utilized be in the same bracket as the player they are subbing for.

After discussion we decided to table this item but the option that the League Commissioner and the Sub Commissioner get together in the beginning of the season and mid season to discuss the substitution pool. If needed the coaches could confer to make sure no team forfeits.

Should all leagues start at 6:00 or do we still start the 70 league at 5:30

Will Ogden is willing to be tournament coordinator to replace Keith Thrush and they would work together in 2026. We will vote on this at the next meeting.

Don, Buddy, Max all brought tractors to work on the field and we need a storage shed to house a tractor and Max would even donate a tractor. Need to work with city on this.

Partially disabled players that need a runner. The player that made the last out would be the courtesy runner.

Sam will purchase a compression tester to make sure bats used are greater than 140 psi. Each player can have 2 bats tested as part of the player fees and additional bats tested would be \$5.00 each. This would be done to ensure player safety. Bats will have a sticker stating the compression results initialed by Sam.

Max suggested that maybe we allow 10 yr younger women to play in a league. I.e. a 60 yr old woman could play in the 70 league. Sam said it needs to be the same requirements as men.

Items to discuss with City Parks.

Why is practice free – we should ask city can our field rental cost be reduced since we do all the work. Others that use the field trash it and our league has to fix it up. Fee per night not per game – Thinking it should be \$7.50 per night played.

Max suggested that we work with the city to install a triangler shade for spectators to sit under. The shade would be attached to the scorekeepers building and also the left field side dugout.

How much will the league pay for the electric cost.

Net on tree line or taller fence

Do we need more picnic tables

City to provide chalk for field

Max would like to purchase clay for field – Need to discuss costs and logistics.

Contact for reserving field for practice

When will water be turned on and will a port a pot be available before the water is turned on.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the 1st Tuesday in January. Sam will check if the meeting room is available that night

There were no other items to discuss, and Buddy Lyles made a motion to adjourn, Sam Grisham seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

SHZ - 11/11/25