**Minutes**

**LVSSA dba Las Vegas Senior Softball Association, Inc.**

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Skinny Dugans, 4127 West Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV

\*BOD meetings are recorded for the purposes of preparing minutes. Recordings are deleted after minutes are approved.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by President Renn Hjellum-Lim with the following Board members in attendance:

President Renn Hjellum-Lim, Vice President Rod Adams\*, 64 and Under Representative Mike Kaczer\*, Ladies’ Representative Pinky Rogers\*, Recording Secretary Christen Herrera\*, Treasurer George Kuehnel\*, and 65 and Over Representative Bill Walsh\* .

This roll call shows six votes which constitutes a quorum.

The asterisk identifies a voting member.

Also in attendance according to a sign-in sheet was George Fernandes, Laurie Buchman, Scott Carr, John Vernagus, Louise Freiheit, Alan Melnick, and James Hellerstadt.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** (previously emailed to the Board)**:** President Hjellum-Lim recognized John Vernagus who requested the use of the donated LVSSA t-shirts for a recreational tournament. It was agreed this would be discussed under new business. George Fernandes requested to discuss Betterment of the Association. President Hjellum-Lim requested a motion to adopt the agenda with the requested additions. A motion was made by Mike Kaczer, seconded by Treasurer Kuehnel, and approved unanimously to accept the agenda as amended.

**MEMBER PARTICIPATION:** Scott Carr was recognized. Scott spoke in favor of the proposal put forth by John Vernagus and Vice President Adams at the last meeting regarding LVSSA sponsorship for tournament teams and provided information he felt supported his stance. Vice President Adams also spoke in favor of the proposal and expressed his concern regarding alleged inaccuracies in the previous Meeting Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (previously emailed to the Board)**:**

* **December 14, 2023:** A motion was made by Treasurer Kuehnel. Vice President Adams alleged inaccuracies of the Committee reports and motioned to disapprove and discuss. President Hjellum-Lim stated she believed the minutes were transcribed from a recording device and Louise Freiheit confirmed this. Louise explained her process and stated the section of the alleged inaccuracies is about 20-30 minutes in length. George Fernandes stated "point of order" and asked if there was a motion and second. President Hjellum-Lim stated there is a motion to accept the minutes from Treasurer Kuehnel and asked for a second. Mike Kaczer seconded the motion and President Hjellum-Lim stated the discussion is now valid. Louise offered to review her shorthand notes for any specific inaccuracies and Treasurer Kuehnel asked the location of the dicrepancies. Vice President Adams confirmed the area of concern is noted under Old Business, LVSSA Advertising/Promotion Initiative for 2024 Tournament Teams. Vice President Adams expressed his desire for a team of people to listen to the recording and cited inaccuracies in the numbers noted in the minutes. Louise stated the minutes reflect the statements made during the meeting, not what has been discovered since then. President Hjellum-Lim stated the options are to continue discussion or take a vote on whether to accept the minutes as written. Representative Rogers motioned to take a vote. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion to approve the minutes was passed 5 to 1, in favor of accepting the minutes of December 14, 2023, as written.
* **Executive Meeting December 14, 2023:** A motion was made by Representative Rogers, seconded by Treasurer Kuehnel, and approved to accept the minutes of December 14, 2023, as written.

**OFFICERS’ REPORTS:**

* **President:** President Hjellum-Lim reported on the following items:
* President's Letter written to membership welcoming them into 2024;
* Request from Vice President Adams to secure the fields on Saturday for a scrimmage prior to tournament play;
* Issue identified at Lorenzi when two car windshields were broken after the Co-Ed game on December 30, 2023. The Insurance Company was contacted to inquire about possible coverage. Claim forms were provided and are being made available to the individuals whose cars were damaged with no guarantee of reimbursement;
* Discussed the possibiiity of a local High School painting a mural or something similar onto the equipment shed. Spoke to the City regarding this matter. The City responded they would have to approve the mural and requested an example for approval. Respresentative Kaczer was advised to move forward with the idea and asked to obtain a drawing for the City to review;
* In the process for permits. The mandatory meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday; President Hjellum-Lim will attend. The packet of necessary forms will be sent out after the meeting.
* **Vice President:** Vice President Adams reported on the following items:
* Posted a positive message on the website detailing the events held in 2023. President Hjellum-Lim expressed concern that no previous Vice President has posted such a message on the website. Vice President Adams questioned the need for the President's permission and stated he is the highest voting member of this Body. The President stated she considered this insubordination and a discussion was had between the two regarding the use of the word "insubordination" and the alleged lack of inaction by our "Disciplinary". There was also discussion about whether to remove the message and a determination was made to leave it up. The President stated she wanted to voice a concern the Vice President is "overstepping" her role while the Vice President believes he is not;
* President Hjellum-Lim is copying him on permits and insurance;
* Off this Saturday; his team has the field and they will be practicing;
* The Accounting registers have been updated. The registers are maintained on the non-profit site in addition to his home disk. President Hjellum-Lim expressed concern about the Microsoft for Non-Profits program that was approved July 25, 2023, in that she does not have access. Vice President Adams acknowledged this and stated he has created access for Secretary Herrera recently and it is in the process of being tested. He stated he will create access for the President. Vice President Adams also stated the previous Secretary "blind-sided" him by stating she had problems with the program but never communicated that to him; indicating this was unprofessional in his opinion.
* Continues daily work with the website as well as a wide variety of other activities to include Facebook updates, membership, goodwill, tournament teams, and the latest recruiting mechanism that has been going on for the last year and a half which is the Sin City scrimmages on Saturdays. The Vice President stated he will continue to do this "fine work" in hopes someone, someday will appreciate it.
* **64 and Under:** Representative Kaczer stated thimgs are good but the weather conditions has prevented play at the fields recently.
* **65 and Over Representative:** Representative Walsh had nothing to report.
* **Ladies’ Representative:** Representative Rogers voiced concern over the tension between the Board and the players and requested discussion during the Executive Meeting.
* **Treasurer:** Treasurer Kuehnel distributed reports as of January 10, 2024, showing growth in all three accounts and noting the Paypal balance. The current balance in all accounts total $75,677. Mr. Kuehnel discussed each page of the report. President Hjellum-Lim asked if there should be an agreed upon minimum amount to be maintained in the Checking account as it is non-interest earning, with the remaining amount being transferred to the interest earning Savings account. Mr. Kuehnel advised the interest is minimal, described the Savings account as the safety net and stated the Checking account would be utilized for the expenses going forward. Mr. Kuehnel also went over the filing of taxes and announced LVSSA would be receiving a refund. Mr. Kuehnel's final topic was a request to discuss (possibly under New Business) reimbursement to Louise Freiheit for her personal purchase of a Christmas present for the waitress at Skinny Dugan's.

Mr. Kuehnel’s report is attached to the official copy of these minutes

* **Secretary:** Secretary Herrera had no business.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* **Merchandise:** Vice President Adams said there are keychain/bottle openers ($2) of which 53 have been sold on the website. President Hjellum-Lim stated there is a question regarding the merchandise due to the items being purchased by Mr. Adams without LVSSA being figured into it financially; stating no report should be made at the meeting. Mr. Adams asked if there was a desire to remove all the items from the webiste and Mrs. Hjellum-Lim reiterated only the items he had personally purchased. A discussion was had between the President and Vice President regarding the items promoting the Club and whether the membership should be advised. President Hjellum-Lim reiterated the items were purchased without discussion or approval from the Board and possess the LVSSA emblem. The discussion was opened to those attending the meeting and Mike Kaczer suggested the remaining merchandise remain to be sold, but any further purchases be completed by the Association and sold for a small profit. Mr. Kaczer suggested taking orders in the future for any of the clothing items to prevent being stuck with an inventory that doesn't sell.
* **Shed:** Vice President Adams shared the shed documents to include the inventory were sent out the previous night to all of the shed key holders. Mr. Adams stated everyone appears to be doing a good job.

A brief discussion was had regarding the sale of an older pitching machine that is no longer used by LVSSA. A determination was made to store the pitching machine in the shed until such time a purchase price could be agreed upon.

Mr. Adams reminded everyone to document any items borrowed out of the shed.

* **Website:** Vice President Adams stated the website received a record 2,186 visitors in December and has had almost 800 hits this month. The website is getting an A rating from GoDaddy. He reported the agenda for this meeting, birthdays for January, an updated goodwill list, updated photos, updated sponsor page, updated calendar, new jokes, and a new members welcome list were all added to the website. Mr. Adams also added a new Co-Ed page with the schedule and all the events. An additional page was added for the members who have passed away in the last year. A new event calendar was also added to the website utilizing the LVSSA Google Calendar. Mr. Adams thanked everyone for visiting the website and encouraged them to "keep it up".
* **Goodwill/Welfare:** President Hjellum-Lim indicated Trish Etheridge needed to be added to the list due to her recently receiving dog bites to her hand. Vice President Adams stated Chaz Ward was injured during a scrimmage game and remains out. Mr. Adams reported Lou Bellino will be undergoing a bone marrow transplant in Southern California some time this month; Dale Palmer is reportedly doing better; Don Sobieray has been out at the field; Jo Smith is also doing better and Jane Smith was recently out at the field.
* **Membership:** Vice President Adams reported 2024 membership dues are now $70 for renewing members; new members are still $50. Membership started on October 18, and as of today's date, there are 209 members. Membership is up 10%, and stated slightly over 50% of the new membership went through him. Mr. Adams also spoke about potential teams who may join LVSSA, up to 40 possible new members.
* **Tournament Teams:** Vice President reported Vegas Eiite 60's are out almost every Saturday. Vice President Adams is trying to recruit Custom Trucks 60's; there is a new team named Drifters 60's; and a list of the various Men's teams were mentioned as well. LVSSA is looking to schedule a number of scrimmages.

The possibility of a list comparing 2023 members who are not yet signed up for 2024 was requested by John Vernagus. Vice President Adams explained there is a membership list in the shed.

George Fernandes asked if the Drifters were members and Mr. Adams stated a majority are, but they have been advised the players who are not members must sign a waiver to play.

* **Publicity:** 64 and Under Representative Mike Kaczer discussed the following:
* **Super Softball Saturday:** February 10 (day before Super Bowl). Requesting approval to sell 100 football squares, $10/square, in order to raise funds for the Club. Further information can be found under **Old Business**.
* **Paint on Shed:** Mr. Kaczer stated he will follow-up regarding the painting on the shed and stated they would start after the weather improved. Vice President Adams noted the back portion of the shed has been tagged and will also need to be painted.
* **Hall of Fame:** The addition to the plaque has been completed. Awards West will be adding the three (3) recipients from 2023.
* **Co-Ed Games:** Vice President Adams stated he and President Hjellum-Lim met in November 2023, and came up with ten (10) dates. December 30, 2023, was the first game. Food was available after the game. The next game will be Super Softball Saturday and the remaining dates are noted on the new Event Page of the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Hall of Fame Plaque:** Information provided under Committee Reports.
* **Sign and Paint on Shed:** The painting of the shed has been discussed but not the sign. According to Vice President Adams, the sign is now complete with the exception of the paint. A cost of $41.50 is noted.
* **Internal Audit:** Will be completed by President Hjellum-Lim and Bill Walsh. Receipts were requested by President Hjellum-Lim. Vice President Adams confirmed he did possess the receipts and stated he needs a written request. Shandra Tarnoci and Treasurer Kuehnel will also be a part of the audit team.
* **Super Softball Saturday:** Games to be held Saturday, February 10, 2024; the day prior to the Super Bowl. Proposal to sell football squares: 100 squares, $10 each with a $500 payout to the winners and $500 to the Association. Once the squares are sold and the board is complete, it will be posted on our website. It was confirmed there is no budget for this event but Mr. Kaczer requested to use Wing Zone for food after the game in an effort to garner favor for possible sponsorship in the future. Mr. Kaczer suggested the money raised from the selling of the football squares could be utilized to purchase the food.

Mr. Kaczer noted the next Co-Ed game is scheduled for March 30, and suggested a Bake Sale utilizing volunteers with the proceeds going to the Association.

Mr. Kaczer wishes 2024 to be the year of giving to the members while the Association benefits from the events as well.

Treasurer Kuehnel advised line items exist within the budget that may cover this event.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Presidential Appointments:** President Hjellum-Lim advised her appointments for Parliamentarian, Historian and Records Manager ended with the year 2023. President Hjellum-Lim expressed her desire to appoint Jim Hellerstadt as Historian and requested a vote; Mr. Hellerstadt was confirmed as the Historian by a 5 to 1 vote. President Hjellum-Lim stated she feels strongly that a Parliamentarian is needed and re-appointed George Fernandes. A roll call vote was conducted and Mr. Fernandes was appointed by way of a 5 to 1 vote.
* **LVSSA Shirts for Membership:** President Hjellum-Lim requested the attendees opinion about purchasing some type of dri-fit t-shirts for the 2024 members with monies out of the budget. According to the President, Vice President Adams has been discussing this at the field and the members seem to be interested. A motion was made by Mike Kaczer to discuss this topic, and it was seconded by George Keuhnel. Mr. Kaczer expressed his support for the idea and suggested an announcement be made followed by sign-ups for a finite amount of time in order to identify how many shirts would be needed. George Kuehnel also suggested a small surplus of shirts for new members. George Fernandes expressed his support and stated hats were given to the members during previous years. Further discussion was had regarding cost, design, and the logistics of obtaining the sign-ups. A vote to move forward with the proposal passed unanimously. Once a design and cost estimates are obtained and presented at the next meeting, another vote will be taken to either approve or disapprove the purchase with LVSSA funds.
* **Committee Assignments:** Discussion was had to postpone until the February meeting. Treasurer Kuehnel made the motion to postpone and Vice President Adams seconded the motion; there was no opposition to the postponement.
* **Use of Softballs at Lorenzi:** President Hjellum-Lim stated there are apparently younger male players utilizing softballs that are illegal for play in tournaments for batting practice at Lorenzi. George Fernandes stated he cannot recall ever specifying what type of softball can be utilized at Lorenzi and sugggested we identify which softballs can be used prior to notifying the members they cannot use the harder ones. Mike Kaczer also suggested we identify which field should be utilized for those that hit it out of the park regularly. All softballs currently being utilized were identified and a suggestion to identify the illegal ball specifically was made. Christen Herrera made a motion to ban any softball not approved for tournament play from LVSSA use and Mike Kaczer seconded the motion; there was no opposition to the motion. Vice President Adams stated he could identify the softball in question and advise the members making use of them. Mr. Adams stated these members frequently hit balls out of the park and thought moving them to the other field would be beneficial. Mr. Adams stated these individuals are normally at the field at noon and stated he would advise anybody who has their car parked in that area to move them to avoid damage. A discussion regarding the reason we lost the use of fields 2 and 3 was had, and Laurie Buchman reiterated eliminating the softball would be best.

**SUSPENSION OF MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN EXECUTIVE MEETING:** A motion was made by Mike Kaczer, seconded by Pinky Rogers, and approved unanimously to suspend the meeting for the purpose of an Executive Session. The meeting was suspended at 1:54 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED:** The meeting reconvened at 2:39 p.m. with all Board members present as originally listed with the addition of Parliamentarian Fernandes and Historian Hellerstadt.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:** A motion was made by Secretary Herrera, seconded by Mike Kaczer, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.