**Minutes**

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

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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 noon 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 Louise Freiheit\*, Treasurer George Kuehnel\*, Parliamentarian George Fernandes, and Historian Jim Hellerstedt. 65 and Over Representative Scott Carr\* and Records Manager John Vernagus arrived during the President’s Report section of the meeting.

This roll call showed five votes and Representative Carr’s arrival made six votes, both of which constituted a quorum.

The asterisk identifies a voting member.

Also in attendance according to a sign-in sheet was Representative-Elect William “Bill” Walsh and Chaz Ward.

A**DOPTION OF AGENDA** (previously emailed to the Board)**:** President Hjellum-Lim asked to make two changes to the agenda that was previously sent to the Board: moving the report on the criminal case to Executive Session and adding an Internal Audit to New Business. A motion was made by Secretary Freiheit, seconded by Vice President Adams, and approved unanimously to accept the agenda as amended.

**MEMBER PARTICIPATION:** Chaz Ward was invited to speak to which he replied that he was attending in support of the Advertising Promotion for Tournament Teams being discussed.

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

* **Annual Meeting:**  Mrs. Freiheit explained that she had made a grammatical correction to the minutes that were previously sent to the Board. A motion was made by Treasurer Kuehnel, seconded by Representative Kaczer, and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting as corrected.
* **November 15, 2023:** A motion was made by Representative Rogers, seconded by Mr. Adams, and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of November 15, 2023, as written.

**OFFICERS’ REPORTS:**

* **President:** President Hjellum-Lim reported on the following items:
1. Sent cards to Jim Hellerstedt, Jo Smith, and Star Golia;
2. Contacted Bank of America and Glen Meyers about getting his expired check replaced;
3. Filed for spring permits;
4. Requested extension until 4:00 p.m. on our permits for December 23;
5. Distributed copies of the 2024 calendar and asked for feedback on adding events;
6. Reminded everyone to destroy the page in the board member notebooks about account information.
* **Vice President:** Vice President Adams said that Ms. Hjellum-Lim is copying him on permits and insurance, the current permits run through February 29 with the only blackout day being January 13, he is sending emails to the financial team, and is continuing his daily work with committees.
* **64 and Under Representative:** Representative Kaczer shared that he has missed a few days at the field due to a shoulder injury but that things are going well.
* **65 and Over Representative:** Representative Carr explained that things are going well and that he is happily turning the reins over to Bill Walsh. Mr. Walsh added that a memorial event is being planned for Joe Upperman and more details will be shared later.
* **Ladies’ Representative:** Representative Rogers voiced that everything is going well.
* **Parliamentarian:** Parliamentarian Fernandes raised a concern about the maintenance on the fields and suggested contacting the City to see if plans are made for improvements and, if not, we need to consider getting the work done. There was a discussion about rumors that artificial turf is being considered.
* **Treasurer:** Treasurer Kuehnel distributed reports on our accounts, showing the growth in all three accounts and Paypal balance. The current balance in all accounts is $72,321.65. Mr. Kuehnel’s report is attached to the official copy of these minutes.
* **Secretary:** Mrs. Freiheit had no business.
* **Historian:** Mr. Hellerstedt had no business.
* **Records Manager:** Mr. Vernagus shared that he has been working with Mr. Adams to make the waivers current for the 2024 membership drive. President Hjellum-Lim requested that Mr. Vernagus assist her in reapplying for the sales tax exemption.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* **Merchandise:** Mr. Adams said that he has keychain/bottle openers, carabiner knives, 300 magnets, and fourteen shirts all purchased by him except the magnets. He added that he has ordered more shirts.
* **Shed:** He shared that the defibrillator is being managed well and reminded people to check out items they borrow.
* **Website:** Mr. Adams continued that the website received 2,030 hits in November and earned a 100 rating from GoDaddy. He reported that he added the agenda, new jokes, birthdays, coed schedule, coed attendees, photos, and sponsors.
* **Goodwill/Welfare:** He voiced that the members needing our support are Lou Bellino, Dale Palmer, Don Sobieray, Jo Smith, Jane Smith, Gary Carfagno, and Star Golia.
* **Membership:** He aired that we already have 132 members signed up for 2024. It was agreed that Rod will provide lists of members who haven’t joined and everyone can remind members to sign up before December 31.
* **Tournament Teams:** Mr. Adams told the Board that teams continue to sign up through him for Saturday practice timeslots. There was a discussion about the process of extending permits for later-in-the-day play.
* **Publicity:**
1. **Toys for Tots:** Representative Kaczer shared that the participation in Toys for Tots has been great with toys, gift cards, and cash donated. He continued that items are still coming in and that all are invited to the presentation to the Marines scheduled for December 15 at Lorenzi Park. He suggested that we begin in November for next year’s collection.
2. **Paint on Shed:** Mr. Kaczer stated that he is proposing that he contact schools to get volunteers for a community-based activity for painting an uplifting mural on the sheds. A discussion continued that Glenn Brunner offered to paint the shed beige, signs are being made, and that we can both paint and then have the mural done. This discussion will continue.
* **Hall of Fame:** Mr. Fernandes said that the Hall of Fame committee is scheduled to meet during January to finalize paperwork.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **LVSSA Advertising/Promotion Initiative for 2024 Tournament Teams:** Mr. Adams reported that the committee met and he and Mr. Vernagus distributed copies of the amended proposal, now titled “LVSSA 2024 Tournament Teams – Increase Membership Initiative (IMI).” He continued summarizing the document. A copy of this proposal is attached to the official copy of these minutes. In response to a question from Mr. Vernagus, Mr. Adams said that, although it has not yet been decided which vendors would be used for shirts, he recommended using one central vendor. In response to questions from Mr. Kuehnel about giving the $600 to the team managers versus using the $600 for buying shirts, tournament fees and goal for number of new members, Mr. Adams answered that the committee removed paying tournament fees and the goal for new members is 25. Mrs. Freiheit stated that this proposal has only 20 percent of the membership fees going to necessities like insurance. Mr. Adams responded that his plan to recoup the cost is to shop around for insurance to bring the cost down. President Hjellum-Lim pointed out that it takes three months to renew the policy and that he needs to provide the City of Las Vegas insurance requirements to the insurance broker when discussing rates. Mrs. Freiheit and Mr. Kuehnel pointed out that this would not change our budget for 2024. Mr. Adams said that the budget items he wants repurposed are insurance and banquet, and that, because we purchased quality equipment this year, we should not have to use the $1000 budgeted for equipment. Mr. Fernandes shared his concern that having a requirement of only six LVSSA members on a team was too low. Mr. Hellerstedt reminded the group that purchasing team uniforms has not been successful for us in the past. In response to a question from Mr. Hellerstedt about the Henderson group’s membership fees, Mr. Adams said that Henderson fees are $100 and a new shirt is given each year. He added that we will have to raise membership fees for 2025. In response to a question from Mr. Kaczer about when he intended to order shirts, Mr. Adams said that he is trying to repurpose budget items so that he can do it now. President Hjellum-Lim reminded the group that the 2024 membership fees included attending the banquet to which Mr. Vernagus replied that the definition of “banquet” is ambiguous. Mrs. Freiheit expressed that this initiative would benefit less than half the ladies and Mrs. Rogers agreed. Mr. Kuehnel added that 2/3 of the men do not play on tournament teams. Mr. Fernandes voiced that the banquet has been a popular benefit of the Association for years and asked if the money would come from the surplus. Mr. Adams responded that he intends to shop the insurance and save money from that expense that will come June/July of 2024. There was a discussion about the difficulty of finding an insurance carrier for the City of Las Vegas requirements and Mr. Fernandes reminded the group that the City permit requirements are now about 70 pages long and that we need at least $20,000 in surplus. President Hjellum-Lim allowed Chaz Ward to speak. Mr. Ward shared that his team is a major-plus team that travels around the country. He continued that they have seven players who are LVSSA members but that his sponsor would pay membership fees for the remaining eight. He also said that one of his local players owns an apparel company that would be a good resource. Mr. Fernandes asked what the Board plans to do for the two thirds of the Association that cannot be on a tournament team. In response to a question from Secretary Freiheit regarding Roberts’ Rules of Order guidelines on which members can vote on a benefit that helps them, a discussion ensued about the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. President Hjellum-Lim said that neither Mr. Adams nor Mr. Kaczer should vote due to their managing tournament teams. Mr. Kaczer asked the Board members to think about the planned items for the year and the unknown that we might face to which Mrs. Freiheit added that we also need to keep in mind the unknown about the legal matters facing us. In response to a question from Mr. Kuehnel about meeting with the team managers, Mr. Adams said that he had already met with them. In response to a question from Treasurer Kuehnel regarding the source of the funds for the proposal, Mr. Adams repeated that he intends to shop the insurance and use funds slated for the banquet and equipment. Mrs. Rogers asked if all members of a tournament team could be mandated to join the Association. Mrs. Freiheit pointed out that, with a goal of 25 new members, this only increases income by $1,250 (25 members x $50) wherein the initial outlay is $3000-$4000. Representative Carr made a motion to accept the Tournament Teams proposal. The motion died for lack of a second.
* **Purchase of New Hall of Fame Plaque:** Vice President Adams explained that Bobby Castiglione has agreed to add eight to ten inches of space to the Hall of Fame plaque which he believes will be large enough to hold about ten more years of Hall of Fame names. A motion was made by Mr. Representative Kaczer, seconded by Secretary Freiheit, and approved unanimously to have the Hall of Fame plaque enlarged and to allocate no more than $150 for this work.
* **Coed Games:** Mr. Adams presented a proposed schedule for coed games beginning on December 30. The schedule is posted to the website and no funds will be allocated for these events. It was agreed that local coed rules would be used rather than international rules. In response to a question from Mrs. Freiheit regarding keeping records of money for food, etc., President Hjellum-Lim said that no records are needed as long as no LVSSA funds are being used.
* **Presidential Award Plaque for Lou Bellino:** Mr. Adams reported that the presidential award plaque for Lou Bellino is ready and will be presented at the December 30 coed game. He added a reminder that the original amount approved by the Board was $50 but that was raised to $71 by an email vote.
* **Sign for Shed:** Mr. Adams voiced that Mike Warzocha is working on a metal sign for the shed. A motion was made by Treasurer Kuehnel to authorize $16 to reimburse Rod’s expense and not to exceed $100 for Mr. Warzocha’s work. The motion was seconded by Representative Carr and approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Internal Audit:** President Hjellum-Lim shared her concern that an internal audit be done in January to show that this Board has been responsible, transparent, and above-board with the Association’s money. She requested a committee of George Kuehnel, herself, Bill Walsh, and Shandra Tarnoci. In response to a discussion regarding George Kuehnel being on the audit committee given that he is Treasurer, it was agreed that another person would be named but that Mr. Kuehnel and Mr. Adams provide receipts, information, etc., and be available to answer any questions that arise.

**SUSPENSION OF MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN EXECUTIVE MEETING:** A motion was made by Secretary Freiheit, seconded by Treasurer Kuehnel, and approved unanimously to suspend the meeting for the purpose of an Executive Session. The meeting was suspended at 1:38 p.m.

**MEETING RECONVENED:** The meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m. with all Board members present as originally listed.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:** A motion was made by Mike Kaczer, seconded by Rod Adams, and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.