



Visit us on the web at: www.azsrssoftball.com

**SUN CITY WEST SOFTBALL CLUB
BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President, Art Nelson at the Men's Club (*Roundup Room*) at 8:01a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lyle Bakken, Carol Bowden, Bruce Brady, Dennis Farrar, Mike Hester, George Karras, and Art Nelson.

INTRODUCTIONS:

President, Art Nelson, introduced the newly appointed board member, Carol Bowden who replaced Ernie Mueller who resigned from the board last month.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Laurel Andrew, Ernie Cultum, Ray Early, Jay Finley, Sally Hayes, Karen Hill, Dick LeMoine, Rich McAndrews, Wayne Mitchell, Ken Skinner, Loran Swanson, and Pat Williams.

JANUARY MINUTES APPROVAL:

Carol Bowden made a motion to accept the January 8, 2007 meeting minutes as electronically distributed via e-mail. Motion seconded by Lyle Bakken. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Lyle Bakken gave his usual detailed report. Lyle reported an opening balance of as of January 1, 2006 of \$7,559.03. The closing balance as of February 2, 2007 is \$9,953.62. Lyle Bakken clarified that the recreation center billboard balance is \$35,774.65 which, 25% is immediately available for Club Share of \$8,943.67 as of February 2, 2007. Lyle also reported all reports were turned into the Recreation Center on January 18 which included the CR-7 and the membership report. Dennis Farrar made a motion to accept the treasurer report as presented. Carol Bowden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

70's League:

Art Nelson received a letter from Jack Harrison requesting the use of Liberty Field on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the 70's teams of the National League. Art Nelson pre-approved this prior to the meeting so no further action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Field Maintenance:

Field Times:

George Karras gave a new schedule to everyone with the corrected times for field usage. There's a conflict with the Friday Times. The Friday coed league has the field from 10am-2 pm. George has made this correction on the schedule.

Watering Problem:

George also said we had a problem with the water system, but the problem has been corrected.

Scoreboard Signage:

The scoreboard area with the new signage that says, "Liberty Field" has been installed. The problem is, the red letters do not show up on the green background of the trees. George will follow up with this and get this corrected. No motion was given to correct this. George Karras has been given the OK to proceed with this and get this corrected.

On-Deck Circles:

George reported that the on-deck circles were nice when we got them, but they are not holding up. George said he talked to Todd Walker and he is going to come out and will fight this out with the manufacturer and see what we're going to do. These on deck circles were made to walk on and should not be peeling so soon.

Pepsi Machine:

George also reported that the income received from the Pepsi machine is around \$39.00 in the hole because we had to buy our initial order from Pepsi. The concession right now stands at \$115.00, but goes up and down periodically, because we also stocked a first aid kit out of this fund.

Closet Request:

George is looking into building a closet in the clubhouse to store the chairs, tables, etc.

New Ball for Batter Swing:

George would like permission to buy a new ball for the warm-up batting swing that's along the left field fence. Dennis Farrar made a motion for George to buy new ball for the batting swing. Motion seconded by Carol Bowden. Motion carried.

Batter's Box Mat:

George also has requested of the board to purchase an artificial mat to put in the batters box. This mat would be sure to be used for batting practices. George had a magazine with a picture with the cost being around \$400.00. Lyle Bakken made a motion to have George look into this. Motion seconded by Carol Bowden. Motion carried. No further action taken.

Wavy Infield:

George also mentioned that we have a wavy infield and the recreation center will take care that for us.

Recreation Center Workers Recognition:

It was mentioned to check with Todd Paddy about rewarding some of the people who take care of our field and possibly recognizing them during the spring fling. Art Nelson will follow up with this and report back. No further action taken.

New Flag Pole & Flag:

There's also the possibility that we need a new flagpole and flag. Art Nelson requested that George Karras follow up on the pricing of an 80 foot pole and get back to the board with his findings. No further action taken

Wheels On Batting Screen:

Also it was mentioned about what is the possibility of putting wheels on the batting screens. No further action taken.

Special Events:

Bosom Buddies Tournament:

Loran Swanson reported that the tournament was a success with one exception, the weather. Loran also read a couple letters of appreciation. The Bosom Buddies have also requested that they be invited back to participate again next year. Loran reported that this year's tournament will raise approximately \$5,500.00. Altogether in the past two years at this tournament it has raised over \$8,000.00. Loran said that this tournament has already been set up to accommodate eight teams for next year. Your support is greatly appreciated. Also on e-mail was received from Loran Swanson of the merchandise that was not use and was left for the Sun City West Softball Club to use or sell.

This includes: 2 cases of popcorn, 3 cases of Pepsi, 1 case of water, 2 cans of coffee, and miscellaneous stuff such as cups, napkins, etc. No further action taken at this time

Cardiac Kids Tournament:

Ken Skinner reported the Cardiac Kids Tournament was a huge success. There were four teams of combining American League & National League players. The total raised for this tournament was \$1300.00. Better weather for this tournament then the Bosom Buddies. Ken was proud to announce that in just two short years this term and has raised almost \$7,000.00 for the Arizona Heart Foundation. No further action taken.

Spring Fling:

Ken Skinner reported that the Spring Fling is starting to roll and George Karras has sign up sheets out and Rich McAndrews will have his sign up sheets out soon. The goal is to have 8 teams from the National League. Ken reported they had four teams from the American League last year and would like to have more, if possible. There will be an entry fee for each player that will cover the refreshments, and miscellaneous expenses to offset the cost of putting on the tournament. The dates for the tournament will be March 1-2 for the National League, and March 3-4 for the American League. No further action.

Uniforms & Equipment:

Ray Early reported that our inventory is in real good shape with approximately 12 dozen softballs on hand, which should get us through April. Ray also reported that he has 160 new league hats in inventory. Ray also mentioned that he tries to keep a small inventory of pants, shorts, belts, socks etc. so he has them on hand as player's request them. No further action taken.

Sponsors:

Billboards:

George Karras reported that there is a new billboard sponsor named, Air by Dean, who is very excited about being a part of our organization, and is also willing to work with us. George reported he has an appointment to talk to Edward Jones today.

Also George said that the Bell Lexus has changed their name to Arrowhead Lexus, and that the billboard in the outfield will be re-done and Arrowhead Lexus will pay for the changes. No further action taken at this time.

Lyle Bakken reported that there are three Billboard contracts due January 2007. Lyle reported he has collected \$12,500.00 on billboards so far. However, Lyle Bakken reported that billed Capital Title on January 30 and they still have not paid the final year of their three-year contract. Lyle was told that Dick LeMoine had told Capital Title when they signed the contract; they could opt out for the third year and would not have to pay. This is not the first time this has happened. This same situation has happened with other sponsors and we cannot just sit back and say they don't have to pay. Lyle said that he will call Cindy of Capital Title and let them know that they need to pay their last year contract or we will proceed with legal collection procedure.

George Karras said that he had a resolution to help with this problem. Being in charge of the billboards, George said he will set up a Billboard Committee, and that there be no less than two members (and possibly 3) of the committee present when a billboard presentation is given. Also, the billboard sponsor needs to understand when they commit by signing, that this is a legally binding contract acted on good faith and that they are expected to fulfill their obligation set forth. The Billboard committee consists of Carol Bowden, Don Rasmussen, Herb Clarke, George Karras, and Dick LeMoine.

Hopefully, by having a committee in place this will help alleviate any misunderstandings in the future contracts between our Billboard Sponsors and the Sun City West Softball Club. Lyle Bakken said that he would follow up on the billboard sponsor's that he has billed and will report back to the club at the next meeting the results. No further action taken at this time.

Team:

Art Nelson brought up that the team sponsor of the Bosom Buddies, Gary Kelly had requested his \$250.00 on account since the Bosom Buddies Women's Team is not currently playing.

Dennis Farrar made a motion to refund the \$250.00 to Gary Kelly. George Karras seconded the motion. Motion carried. As an added note, Farrar Chiropractic has chosen to leave their \$250.00 on account until they reorganize another women's team or they are able to sponsor another team.

Membership:

Ken Skinner reported that when we finished the 2006 year with 307 players. As of February 2, 2007 we now have 260 currently who have paid their dues. There still are approximately 21 women in the club who have paid their dues for 2007 who are not currently playing for various reasons.

Membership Dues Cut-off Date Implemented:

After a lot of discussion the board decided that we need to do something about players who came in toward the end of the year and expect to have their dues paid for the coming year. This being said, Lyle Bakken made a motion that any player paying their dues after December 1 will be applied for the coming year. Dues paid before December 1 will apply for the current year. Carol Bowden seconded the motion. Motion carried. No further action taken at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

PALM DESERT TOURNAMENT:

Mike Hester reported that Palm Desert from California is getting up a team to play us. Mike Hester, along with Art Nelson and John Selby has been discussing this with the representatives from Palm Desert with the following recommendations.

The games will be on April 14, 2007 and Palm Desert will be here to play games. There will be two games in the morning, and then we'll break for lunch, and two games in the afternoon. Mike went through the playing schedule and if you need to know more about this event you can contact Mike Hester for further information. Palm Desert has also invited us back to play them, but no definite date has not been a date at this time. Mike Hester has requested permission to buy hot dogs and hamburgers and so forth to serve for lunch at this tournament. George Karras mentioned that there's a possibility that Edward Jones or one of the sponsors may want to participate in this. George Karras will follow up with this and report back at the next meeting. There was suggested that we add a woman's exhibition game and asked the "Hot Flashes" and "Sparks" to participate.

Karen Hill will get back to Mike Hester on the possibilities of a woman's game. After some discussion, it was decided to table this until the next meeting. No further action taken at this time.

UMPIRES:

Ken Skinner reported that we have an association of umpires of 11 or 12 who are currently umpiring league games. In case you haven't heard the umpires clinic has been moved from Thursdays to Mondays at 4 p.m. at Liberty Field. This change was made due to conflicting league game times. Ken Skinner pointed out that as an umpire and a player, he is opposed to playing the seventh game at Liberty Field due to safety concerns of which is due to the sun obstruction in the outfielder's eyes for the last game. After a lot of discussion and concerned that the games are running longer than necessary and the last game is started 30 to 45 minutes late the decision was to get the manager's to have their umpires to keep the game moving along. It is a player's duty to get on off the field quickly as possible. Remember as a manager and a player although you have the first game, think about those who are playing after you that have the later games and get in and out of the dugouts quickly. Art Nelson is going to send an e-mail to Mike Hester on this concern to have this possibly be brought up at the next league meeting. No further action taken at this time.

TIN CUP GOLF INVITATIONAL:

Mike Hester reported that the letters to participate have been mailed out to everyone so you should have received them by now. The next mailing will be sent out this week sometime according to Dick LeMoine. There will also be a day in the park that (Beardsley Park) that will be held in February 24th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ramada's 7,8,9, and 10.

Dick reported there is a volunteer committee of about 15 to 20 that has been put together to work on this invitational tournament. Dick reiterated that the Tin Cup will be on April 16, 2007 at the Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West. Putting tournament starts at 10:00am with tee off at noon. Dick LeMoine also passed around a copy of the contract in which they are using to sell banners on the inside of the left & right field fences. These banners will remain for approximately 6 weeks. Dick also reported that a Lexus has provided for us to give away at the evening dinner banquet. Dick will also meet with Windermere Realty to find out what their position is going to be. Dick said that most of the sponsors from last year have return again and that Sun City Grand, and Arizona Traditions have been asked to participate. No further action.

RAMADA PROJECT:

Dick LeMoine gave an overview on how we got where we are now. Dick reported that the Ramada project was approved by the SCW Recreation Center. The goal was to fund this project through the Tin Cup and other money-making projects so as not to affect the Sun City West Community. Dick attended a meeting with Matt Szydowski, Wayne Mitchell and others to discuss the possibility of expanding the parking lot along with building of the Ramada's. Out of this meeting also came the idea of expanding the warm-up area on the first-base side that would include a retaining wall and grass or turf area. Dick had blueprints available for the Ramada project at the meeting and was given the okay to proceed. Core Construction Company will be the primary contributor for this project. Dick is also hoping that within the next 30 days there will be an answer as to where we go with the Ramada project from here forward.

Ray Early commented how nice the grass looked on the first-base side and wanted to know if there were any plans on doing the same to the third-base side. Dick LeMoine said that this was included in the Ramada project plans and would be done when the Ramada's were built. Dick went on to clarify that the club would be responsible for the funding of the Ramada project, and the SCW Recreation Center would be responsible for site preparation. Dick LeMoine said that if anyone wanted more details or clarifications he would be happy to answer those concerns, but not take meeting time to do this. No further action taken.

LEAGUE BOARD REPORT:

Team Photos:

Mike Hester reported that the next League Meeting will be on February 21, 2007 at 9:00am at the Men's Club (Round Up Room) in Sun City West. Mike also contacted Bob Stouthamer on photo day which will be March 20, (*National League*) and March 22 (*American League*).

All photos will be taken at Sun City Field. Mike will have more information later. Remember, you will need to get one of your trading cards to Joe Rottmann who is in the National League who is keeping a scrapbook for the league. If you need assistance on this please let Mike know or you can give your trading cards to Dennis Farrar and he will see that Joe gets them. No further action taken.

Bats:

To clarify what determines a legal bat or not, Mike said that he is going to bring this up before the next League Board Meeting.

Email from Linda Graham:

Mike Hester read an email received from Linda Graham with the concerns stating that any Sun City member in good standing be allowed to participate in any club activity. However, an individual club may have a rule that requires that a member meet a minimum requirement as to their ability to participate. (that is, if a player is a danger to themselves or others by being on the softball field, the club would be allowed to limit participation)

After some discussion it was decided that this is a League issue. No further action taken at this time.

Linda Graham Resigns:

Mike Hester reported that Linda Graham has resigned from the Sun City Softball Club Board, and therefore no longer be representing the Sun City Club at the Sun Cities League Board. Mike Hester will find a replacement in a week or so. No further action.

League Banquet:

Mike Hester reported that the Annual League Banquet will be held on March 23, 2007 and that we have guaranteed a guest count of 250. Mike also read the menu. John Selby is arranging this year's banquet and it will be catered by Dillon's. The cost of this year's banquet is \$15.00 per person. This being said, Dennis Farrar made a motion that each player be limited to no more than 2 tickets at the cost of \$10.00 each, with the respective clubs picking up the \$5.00 charge per ticket. If you want to purchase more than two tickets you will have to pay the full \$15.00 price. Lyle Bakken seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mike said that he would like to see the annual banquet be held on a game day to try and get more participation. Next year SCWSC will host the banquet. After some discussion it was decided that we have ample time to plan for next year's banquet, so no further action was taken.

RULES COMMITTEE:

Wayne Mitchell left the meeting so there was no report.

SCORE KEEPING:

Art Nelson passed around an article from Tony DiBiasio expressing his concerns about how some of the players are keeping game stats. This article will appear in the March newsletter so please read it. Let's all try to be better score keepers. Again, it's the manager's responsibility to make sure that your players keeping score, score the game properly and that each score sheet is completed before they leave the field.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

Karen Hill is the new women's league representative who reported Bruce Brady had a meeting with the women and other concerned individuals as to where they were going with the Hotflashes and Sparks and the women teams in general.

Karen is in hopes that they can get 3 teams that will eventually play in the Saturday games. After a quite lengthy discussion, Mike Hester made a motion to recognize the women teams as part of the Sun City West Softball Club with the knowledge that the women recognize the they are under the control of rules of play and stipulations as set forth as in the American & National Leagues. Such as, but not limited to, 1) open up the teams only, and to all women with a Sun City or Sun City West recreation cards, and 2) create parity amongst themselves, and 3) to assure that all women are welcome to be placed on a team. Also, there may be additional stipulations forth coming by the SCWSC that will apply for the women to maintain their sponsor status. Motion seconded by Lyle Bakken. Motion carried. No further action taken.

FRIDAY LEAGUE:

Ray Murphy is the Friday Co-Ed League representative and Lyle Bakken reported that everything is going fine.

NATIONAL LEAGUE:

Rich McAndrews report that they have a new committee member who is Len Wicketts. The National League Committee is as follows: Rich McAndrews is chair and coordinates the rosters, schedules, manager meetings, National League, and Tournament play. Len Wicketts monitors new players from the Green Team with placement recommendations. Glen Carroll is the rules & score keeping coordinator. Bill Nyblade is the newsletter and Angels in the Outfield coordinator. Rich is hoping to get 8 teams for the Spring Fling as in the past. Ray will supply t-shirts as in the past for prizes. Rich reiterated that he is going to be addressing the late games with the managers to try to impress on them the importance of keeping all the games moving. No further action.

FIRST AID KIT:

The First Aid Kit for the dug-outs has not been purchased yet.

BLOOD DRIVE:

Art Nelson thanked everyone for the successful blood drive on Mike Grahams' behalf.

VINTAGE SOFTBALL:

Mike Hester reported that he has turned this idea over to Herb Clark for research to see if we can continue with this project.

SUNDAY CO-ED LEAGUE:

George Karras left the meeting early so there is no report.

MESSAGE / ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD:

George Karras was supposed to purchase a White Board for us to write special announcement on to be announced over the PA system during the games. This has not been purchased yet, so there is nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

ROSIE'S EMPLOYEE:

Art Nelson reported that one of our sponsors, Rosie's Café had an employer that had a fire in her home and they lost everything. Wayne Mitchell is in charge of this and it has passed out fliers to every ballplayer requesting donations with the information where to donate.

You can stop at Rosie's Italian Café located at 13930 W Camino Del Sol # 111, Sun City West, AZ 85375. Phone: (623) 584-1739 to make your donation. Web site: www.rosies.biz. No further action taken.

POSSIBLE RULE CHANGE:

Strike Mat:

Ken Skinner suggested that we develop a strike mat, 21" wide x 38" deep that covers home plate. This mat would be placed right over the top of the existing home plate. Any part of this mat will be considered home plate, and would be used for the strike zone and for the defensive player to go to make an out on a runner advancing to home. It was noted that this is a League Board issued and would be taken under consideration of the League Board. No further action taken.

UPS STORE REQUEST:

Art Nelson said that he has received a notice from the UPS Store in Sun City West that is requesting that we purchase a pre-paid card for us to make copies. Lyle will talk to Les and follow up on this request and report back at the next meeting.

RECEIPTS TO LYLE BAKKEN:

Lyle said that Sun City Club has not been billed all of last year for the 1/3 of our printing cost. Lyle will get the figures together and send a bill to the Sun City Club for the past year. Lyle also is concern that he is not getting receipts from people who are going to the UPS Store and getting copies made.

If you get copies made at the UPS Store please sign your name and what the copies are for and then drop your copy of the receipt in the mail box located at Liberty Field for Lyle to pick up. No further action.

CO-MINGLE VOTE:

Ray Early suggested that we have the Co-mingling vote open at the ball park like we do for voting for new board members. After some discussion it was the board's decision to leave as is so we can get members' opinions as to their feelings about the co-mingling vote. You must attend the February 19, 2007 meeting to vote, so please plan to attend. The board welcomes your concerns and comments.

FILING CABINET:

Lyle was concerned that all the financial records are in a cardboard box and should be kept in a more secure place. This being said, Lyle has asked permission to check on pricing of lockable filing cabinet. Mike Hester made a motion for Lyle to go and check on the pricing and to purchase a four-drawer lockable filing cabinet. Dennis Farrar seconded the motion. Motion carried. No further action taken.

Dennis Farrar suggested that we take some of the more important documents and electronically scan those to have a back-up in case of emergencies. Lyle said that the SCW Recreation Center has copies if we need to fall back on them. No further action.

MEMBER & GUESTS COMMENTS:

No comments.

NEXT SCWSC BOARD MEETING:

Monday, March 5, 2007 • 8:00 A.M. • Men's Club (*Roundup Room*) • Sun City West.

NEXT SCWSC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The next General Membership Meeting will February 19, 2007 • 9:00A.M. • RH Johnson Recreation Center (*Lecture Hall*). This is a very important meeting as we will again need to vote on co-mingling with Sun City. Please plan to attend.

NEXT SCSSL BOARD MEETING:

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 • 9:00 A.M. • Men's Club (*Roundup Room*) • Sun City West

ADJOURNMENT:

Dennis Farrar made a motion to adjourned. Motion seconded by Lyle Bakken. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Farrar, Secretary
Sun City West Softball Club