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**SUN CITY WEST SOFTBALL CLUB  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by President, Dick LeMoine at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center (Lecture Hall) at 6:31pm.

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:**

A total of 61 SCW Club members were present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dennis Farrar, Bob Latzo, Dick LeMoine, Jim McGuire, and George Karras.

**INTRODUCTION:**

President, Dick LeMoine welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. We haven't had an evening meeting before but was necessary due to the availability of rooms. Dick introduced his board members both present and absent, which are: Jim McGuire; Lyle Bakken, Treasurer; Dennis Farrar, Secretary; Bob Latzo, Board Member; Ernie Mueller, Board Member; George Karras, Board Member.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:**

Dick LeMoine reported that we now have 296 paid members. Dick said that will increase in January when the next session starts.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dick LeMoine distributed the treasurer's report in detail, and reported that we have an opening balance as of January 1, 2006 of \$6,639.87. The closing balance as of November 13, 2006 is \$7,978.85. We also have a Recreation Center Billboard Account balance as of November 13, 2006 of \$26,084.17. Dick said that we passed all audits and if anyone had any questions about the treasurer's report he would go over it with them in detail as he did not want to take meeting time to detail the treasurer's report. No further action.

**ELECTION RESULTS:**

Bob Latzo reported that the newly elected board members are: Bruce Brady, Mike Hester, and Art Nelson. Congratulations to all of you. Dick reminded the new members that the next board meeting will be held on December 4, 2006 and the board will then vote on the officers. No further action.

**2007 TIN CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT:**

Dick showed the new logo to be used and reiterated on the success of the 2006 Tournament. Mike Hester who is the chairperson briefly recapped the 2006 and then reported that the 2007 Tin Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, April 16, 2007 at the Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West, and will be on Briarwood's schedule every year hereafter. There will be a putting contest, 18 holes of golf and a beer garden and dinner afterwards. There is a need for golf cars if you have one to lend. If you are interested in working on this event please contact Art. Art said that they are in hopes to give away a car, but nothing is set yet. No further action.

**BILLBOARD SPONSORS:**

George said that we now have two new billboard sponsors which are, Daily News Sun, and SS Exterminator. This brings us to a total of 18 billboard sponsors, with room for about 3 or 4 more. If anyone knows of a business that would like to join our family of billboard sponsors, let George know. George will go out and make a presentation. George said that he has two leads right now that will be pursued after the first of the year. George reiterated that the billboards are very important to us as each sponsor pays \$2500.00 per year and sign a three year contract.

**RAMADA UPDATE:**

Dick LeMoine had Dennis Farrar pass around some sketches of the proposed Ramada to be built adjacent to Liberty Field. Dick reported that he has met with Core Construction and they said maybe they will and like the idea, and the Recreation Center has okayed this project and is on the fast track.

The Ramada's will include picnic tables and barbecue. He also asked for suggestions from those members present as to what they would like to see on this project. This project looks like it may be well under way during this year.

**FIELD MAINTENANCE:**

George Karras reported that the field maintenance crew along with the volunteers has done an excellent job keeping the field up to our expectations. The field has been laser leveled and 9 tons of stabilizer was added to level the infield again. New foul poles were installed and the fire hose foul lines were pulled up and the recreation center is now painting our foul lines on the outfield grass. There will soon be a finishing touch added to the top of the scoreboard in the outfield which will say "Liberty Field".

The Pepsi machine is gone and will be replaced with a newer one that the club will stock with products from the Pepsi Company as well as store bought drinks. The prices will be very reasonable for purchase. All profits will go directly into the clubs treasury.

George mentioned that the new shed is in and was paid for by club funds. Many club members volunteered to help install and pour the concrete pad and sidewalk area.

George wrapped up by thanking his committee of volunteers that work on the field maintenance. They are: Gene Monk, Ernie Miller, Bill Bromley, Bruce Brady, Frank Welch, Jerry Bianchi, and Gene Sutter. Since Ray Early wants to take a little break and sleep in, if possible, George has asked for volunteers to help make coffee, etc. on Tuesdays at Liberty Field. If interested contact George Karras. George thanked Ray for the job he has done. Thank you again.

Dick LeMoine added that he talked to Todd Patty and there will be about 28 feet of grass or turf installed on the first base side for the purpose of warming up. Todd has indicated that he would like to have this project finished before our January session starts. Which will be January 16, 2007.

**OTHER LONG RANGE PLANS:**

George Karras presented a modification plan of our bleachers. The plan calls for the installation of step, either in the center or on the side with the railing.

Along with this plan the front row of bleachers would be removed and new dugouts would be installed in front of the bleacher area. In addition, the old dugout fencing would be dropped to the height so that the spectators could see over the old dugout area. The old dugouts would be used for additional seating. This new plan would give our spectators an open view of the whole field area and also provide us with additional safety to our players and spectators.

The recreation center as expressed a desire for us to expand in the stadium seating which would cost in the neighborhood of \$200,000.00, and no one seems to know quite yet how to pursue this or the means of which to fund this project. George will keep us updated on how his projects are going, and if you are interested in looking at George's proposed plans see him after the meeting.

**GUEST COMMENTS:**

Dick LeMoine introduced the president of the Sun Cities Softball League, Arvid Peterson. Arvid talked about the Sun Cities Hall Of Fame process and encouraged everyone to use the nomination form to nominate their choice. This would be someone who has contributed a lot to their club and/or league. This is way we all can give a special recognition to those who have unselfishly give of themselves. The Hall of Fame Committee will then review all nominations past and present to determine their selection or selections. You can also get this form off the web site or in the November Newsletter. The Hall of Fame Committee is, Bud Herron, Larry Kuberka, Bob Latzo, Ernie Owen, Loran Swanson, and Carl Johnson. Arvid wrapped up by encouraging everyone to get out and nominate and the selection or selections will be named at our spring banquet. Arvid mentioned how the league board is made up and introduced the current board members who are: Arvid Peterson, President, Larry Kuberka, Vice President, Dennis Farrar, Secretary, Dick LeMoine, Member, and Ernie Owen, Member.

**UNIFORMS, HATS, EQUIPMENT, SOCKS:**

Dick touched on the long socks, and then took a straw poll to see if the membership wanted to continue wearing the long socks with the blue strips, and it was almost unanimous to continue wearing our current socks.

Ray Early reported that he now has new socks in if anyone needs them. Ray gave a full report of what it costs to uniform a player and where the different items are purchased and we currently are using (including Sun City) about 10 dozen balls per month. If you would like to know more information on uniforms, equipment, etc., see Ray.

Ray reported the approximate cost of on-deck circles. No they're not needed but would add a more professional appearance to our already great field. The cost of two on-deck circles would be approximately \$500.00 each. These circles are guaranteed for 5 years. After a lot of discussion Bob Freeman moved that we purchase two on-deck circles at the cost of approximately \$500.00 each with the stipulation that they are safe to use, and they will be used for league games, tournaments and women's games. Motion seconded by Art Nelson. Motion carried.

Ray closed by reading a poem written by our own Hugh Kelly titled, "Oh What The Heck".

Arvid mentioned that our military overseas in Afghanistan and other hot spots are looking for bats and gloves. If you want more information contact Arvid.

Ray also introduced the managers for the Hot Flashes which are Bill Schwingendorf, and for the Sparks, Herb Clark. No further action.

**FRIDAY PRACTICE:**

Dick LeMoine mentioned that there were some issue at the Friday morning practice. After a lot of discussion it was decided that the board would not intervene with setting hard fast rules but let the players at the practice dictate how they handle the Friday practice sessions. For example, how many pitches are given to each batter, and when can a batter bat, etc. No further action taken.

**THANK YOUS:**

Dick LeMoine thanked all the officers for all the work they have done for the club while he has served as the club president. The secretary, Dennis Farrar, the treasurer, Lyle Bakken, the Vice President, Jim McGuire, and the board members, George Karras, and Ernie Mueller.

Dennis Farrar added that the rumor he has heard that the newsletter is just a Sun City West newsletter is not true. The "Batter Up" newsletter is a newsletter to disseminate information to the whole league, not just one club. Dennis also asked that if you have any articles or news to add, please get this information to him by the 20th of the month so you will be sure to get your news in the next issue. Dennis also thanked Chuck Cain and Larry Kuberka for making the newsletter boxes that are attached to each field's bulletin board.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE DRAFT:**

Bob Freeman introduced the Rules Committee. They are: Bob Freeman (SCW), Wayne Mitchell (SCW), Mike Graham (SC), and Gregg Owens (SC). Bob went on to talk about the upcoming draft to take place in January. The American League draft will take place on January 8, the manager's only meeting (due to space) will be on Saturday, January 6. The next session will start on January 16, 2007. There are a lot of new players coming on. The League Board will make the decision on how many teams we will have. The rosters should be posted by January 11.

**SPONSOR CARNIVAL:**

George reported that the Carnival was a huge success. There were 26 sponsors who attended. The attendance was overwhelming. We served 500 people not counting the sponsors and the volunteers who attended. The sponsored were excited over the turnout, and they all are looking forward to next year. George said they ran out of mix and other items and had to go to the store to replenish. George took the opportunity to thank his committee who were, Ken & Sharon Skinner, Frank & Ginger Welch, Bruce Brady, Carol Bowden, Laurel Andrew, Glen Carroll, and Paul Nagelson. George also thanked the other volunteers that included some 8th grade students from Nadaburg School.

George said they actually made money, but did not intend for this event to make money. It was just a thank you for all that our sponsors do for us, and we wanted to have this carnival to show our appreciation.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

George said that there will be a Bosom Buddies Tournament on January 13 & 14. This event is to benefit the breast cancer endeavor. The Hot Flashes and the Sparks women's teams will participate in the event. George also said that he is considering a garage sale to be held at Liberty Field in the future, and if you have any ideas how to promote softball in the Sun City West area let George know.

Mike Hester gave a brief report on the Vintage Softball. Look for some more information in the future on this. Bill Bromley will look into doing another Cardiac Tournament, so look for information on this as well.

**MONDAY LEAGUE:**

Dick LeMoine talked about putting together a Monday League program and if you are interest sign up on the sign up sheet, or contact Dick. This league is going to try and get started on or about December 1. Hopefully there will be enough players to field four teams (2 games) and start around 12:30pm.

**Q&A:**

*Throwing Of Bats:*

Bruce Brady talked about some of the players throwing bats. Please do not throw the bats. All of us put a lot of money into our equipment to play so respect those bats and do not throw them. The on-deck batter should be responsible for getting the bat from the last batter and then hand the bat to the batter "in-the-hole" for them to put back into the dugout. Let's all respect others' property and not throw these bats. If you have any other ideas, please pass them on to Bruce to pursue. Thank you.

*Monday Open Practice:*

The Monday open practice will stay the same for now which is 8-10am until further notice. These times are subject to change depending on how the Monday League goes.

*Umpires Association:*

Mike Hester still has the umpire's shirts if you have not picked up yours yet.

*Scorekeeper/Scoreboard:*

Hugh Kelly has an ongoing concern that people are not showing up to keep score and run the score board. Please, all players and managers make an extra effort to see that these positions are cover.

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

The next General Meeting will be held in February and this will be the meeting we will again take a vote whether to co-mingle with Sun City. Please watch the newsletter and bulletin boards for exact date and time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Farrar, Secretary