



**Stratford Minor Baseball Association
March 2025
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday April 14th, 2025
Stratford Army Navy @ 18:30**

Attendees:

Chris Redfern
Don Grasby
Emily Priestap
Bevan Mathieson
Ashley Mathieson

Steve Vaters
Corey Bridges
Tyler Marshall
Tyler Canal
Brett Sippel

Jon Paola
Ben Ehgoetz
Matt Francis
Jaimie Francis
Jeff Morrison

Call to Order

C. Redfern called the meeting to order.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts reported.

Additions to Agenda

None.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by S. Vaters , 2nd by B. Mathieson

Acceptance of Minutes from February 2025 meeting

Motion by J. Paola , 2nd by B. Ehgoetz

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Finance Report

\$210,000 in the bank, but not much has gone out. First instalment has been paid to ICBA. There are a handful to reimburse for those who changed their minds or mixed it up with Stratford PEI. Looking promising going into the season. New umpires need to submit their banking information.

Elmira chicken fundraising money has come in.

Uniform Update

Nothing to report.

Coaches Update

Reminder of meeting this week (Wednesday). Once the season starts, coaches are not required to attend board meetings. Coaches meeting is at the board room at the Army Navy.

Reminder for VSCs for coaches.

Tournament Update

Schedules have been sent. 1 10U team is having issues with getting hotels. 8U is up to 9 teams. Otherwise, all tournaments filled. ICBA tournaments, locations have all been decided. Most OBA locations have also been determined.

ICBA

Coaches, ensure your classification is correct. Will discuss at coaches meeting.

We were fined \$50 with ICBA for border issues.

Coaches meeting is April 24th in Cambridge.

Question if championships will be hosted 2 weeks before provincials? Discussed that some centres have diamond issues and they have to be held on separate weekends.

Cheque required prior to coaches meeting for ICBA fees. C. Bridges has already transferred funds.

Registrar

Nothing to report. Emily will let coaches know what kids are still outstanding for payments.

House league

Chris is sending a preliminary e-mail to let them know they will receive information soon and considerations for throughout the season. 16U is the only division struggling with numbers. It was discussed that 1.5 hours might be too long.

Fundraising

Couple of sponsors short for house league. Right now we only have 2 x 16U teams. B. Mathieson mentioned reaching out to the Woodstock president because they are also struggling with house league numbers and would be willing to entertain competition between centres. A few banners have been sold. Will discuss timing for the chicken order for next year.

Umpires

Just over 50 umpires came to the umpire clinic. Just over half were Stratford umpires. Ashley has been in contact with OBA to update them. Ashley stated there's no need for umpire meeting, and sent out a detailed email.

Facilities

D. Grasby stated that the city is waiting for weather to be better to move bleachers at SERC 2. He will be bringing up portapotty at SERC at next meeting. Unknown when Optimist lights will be started.

Field managers to let Chris know if there are any issues with fields.

Sports Council

Meeting is next Monday. D. Grasby talked to them about dogs on the fields and slo-pitch teams on the fields when they aren't supposed to be. They are discussing hiring someone to monitor the diamonds, however they can't find anyone. He is also going to ask the city to have their staff clean up dog feces.

New Business

Meeting on the 24th to look at the house league ball bags.

Every coach needs to bring their bag to the coach's meeting. Throughout the season if you need anything for your first aid kit, let Ashley know.

Chris discussed the bylaws and stated they have been finalized. Will need signatures from President and Secretary to sign to enact them. Bylaws essentially mirror our constitution, just cleaned up. Will create a policies and procedures committee. Any motions that get passed at meetings will be put into policies and procedures. Chris asked if there are any changes anyone would like to see? Nothing brought forward.

B. Ehgoetz motioned to enact the bylaws. C. Bridges 2nd. No discussion. All in favour. Carried.

Those wanting to be put on Policies and Procedures Committee: C. Bridges, M. Francis, S. Vaters, K. Hishon

Sportsperson banquet on April 26th. Information is on the ticket. Dinner is at 6, opens at 5.

Blue Jays clinic is at 68 participants. Clinic is at the end of June. Want to get to 100.

Banquet is booked for Sept. 7th.

D. Grasby brought up that Pinnacle is down a full bucket of baseballs. Not accusing teams, but want to have parents check their kids' bags.

Question about team banners. Coach to send C. Redfern the logo and he will connect with Tallman. C. Redfern will send something out to coaches about team banners.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by M. Francis, 2nd by A. Mathieson.

Next Meeting TBD.