



Stratford Minor Baseball Association
August 2024
Meeting Minutes
Monday August 12th, 2024 Stratford Stadium @ 18:30

Attendees:

Jon Paola	Ashley Mathieson
Chris Redfern	Bevan Mathieson
Barry Grasby	Kathy Hansen
Ben Ehgoetz	Don Grasby
Jaimie Serf	Larry Balkwill

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

Approved by A. Mathieson , 2nd B. Mathieson

Acceptance of Minutes from December 2023 meeting

Accepted by B. Ehgoetz, 2nd A. Mathieson

Business Arising from Minutes

None

Finance Update

C. Redfern reported SMBA's financials. In good standing. A. Mathieson brought up ONCA approval. Discussion about new rules surrounding how much money non-profits can carry at any given time.

ICBA Update

B. Grasby informed not many meetings. Last meeting was when they were voting in which level of OBA each association was going. B. Mathieson mentioned Ancaster's 14U team was suspended for the entire season due to a hazing incident. D. Grasby mentioned a father of another ICBA team who umpired a significant number of games in which his child was playing.

Registrar Update

None

Coaches Update

Discussion on coaching applications that are due by the 16th. Discussion on having all players tryout for tier 1 at applicable ages, and once tier 1 is decided, tier 2 practices commence. Decided to continue as is with no changes and revisit the issue in 2025. D. Grasby suggested if any parents have issues with Tier 1 and Tier 2 they should have a meeting with the coaches committee.

Uniforms

Discussion on 2nd jerseys for all rep teams. To be discussed in September. Decided to have 3 vendors bring sample jerseys to October meeting following AGM.

Tournament Update

B. Mathieson said all tournaments have gone well this year. 2 tournaments were cancelled due to rain, no refunds issued. B. Mathieson suggested paying/assigning a convenor to take care of 1 ball diamond for the entire weekend. Also asking board members to step up and help convene games. D. Grasby suggested paying a convenor for the entire weekend and the Stratford team hosting uses that as 1 of their 2 free tournaments. Discussion to be continued in September for 2025 season. Incident at SERC softball was discussed regarding suspicious man during Guelph game. B. Grasby suggested the city place porta potties at SERC softball. D. Grasby to request porta potties at SERC softball for 2025 season. D. Grasby discussed teams practicing on diamonds before tournaments makes maintenance difficult. C. Redfern to block out diamonds prior to tournaments that start on Friday's.

B. Grasby motioned to have SMBA pay for the 16U 2024 OBA tournament due to the 15U group paying for a tournament they shouldn't have in 2023. 2nd by A. Mathieson. Passed.

Action Item: D. Grasby to request porta potties at SERC softball for 2025 season.

House League Update

C. Redfern informed house league went well and final day was a success. Coaches appreciation night August 19th at Army Navy.

Fundraising / Sponsorship

None.

Banquet Update

A. Mathieson mentioned hall is booked, food is organized. Drink tickets will be provided for each coach (1 per coach). Also a draw for the players to win prizes. C. Redfern to post Eric McLeod scholarship award details.

Umpires Update

A. Mathieson mentioned HL is over and scheduling tournaments is going on. A. Mathieson explained the process of scheduling umpires. B. Grasby suggested umpires receive a raise. To be discussed in September.

Facilities Update

D. Grasby mentioned Dufferin backstop was extended to stop balls flying into houses. The city will include new light standards at Optimist for 2025 in their budget request. City will commit to edging all diamonds twice per year. 2025 bathrooms should be made wheelchair accessible in 2025 at Stadium. City fixed fences at SERC Softball and Dufferin. No work at SERC hardball yet. B. Ehgoetz suggested putting a screen on the Stadium dugouts to prevent a catcher from falling into the dugout. D. Grasby to ask city if they will install safety screens in dugouts. D. Grasby to ask the city to inform the Cricket club they cannot use our fields.

Action Item: D. Grasby to ask city if they will install safety screens in dugouts.

Action Item: D. Grasby to ask the city to inform the Cricket club they cannot use our fields.

Sports Council

D. Grasby informed no meetings since April. Next meeting in September.

Other / New Business

None.

Adjournment

Next meeting scheduled for September 9th 6:30PM @ Army and Navy

Motion to adjourn meeting by A. Mathieson
2nd J. Paola.