



**Stratford Minor Baseball Association
October 2024
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday October 21st, 2024
Stratford Army Navy @ 18:00**

Attendees:

Chris Redfern

Kyle Priestap

Emily Priestap

Bevan Mathieson

Ashley Mathieson

Don Grasby

Ben Ehgoetz

Jeff Morris

Jon Paola

Barry Grasby

Jaimie Serf

Corey Bridges

Kathy Hansen

Steve Vaters

Matt Frances

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 Serf , 2nd by A. Mathieson.

Acceptance of Minutes from December 2023 meeting

Accepted by Serf , 2nd by A. Mathieson.

Business Arising from Minutes

B. Mathieson motion to elect Jeff Morris to board. 2nd by J. Serf. All in favour.

Finance Report

C. Bridges presented the financial report. Surplus for the 2024 season. Additional surplus purchased some capital items, in particular 2 new pitching machines. Also purchased a paint sprayer. Sitting in a good position for cash flow into 2025 season. Will help with developing the fees for 2025.

ICBA

November 14th at 7pm is the AGM in Kitchener. Had a special meeting last week. Woodstock made a motion to have 1 vote per centre rather than 1 per team but got turned down. Emphasized the importance of having people attend the AGM. OBA AGM is coming up. Jeff Morris is nominated for Volunteer of the Year and Ben is nominated for Coach of the Year for OBA.

Registrar

E. Priestap discussed coaches will be given option to manually sign or do docusign if needed. Coaches need to e-mail C. Redfern to let him know when your parent meeting is so there can be a representative there. B. Ehgoetz asked if it can be virtual. No issues with virtual meeting brought up.

Registration fees are not set yet but will come with the 2025 budget. Decided to factor in a 9U Tier 2 team.

Brought in much more than anticipated for house league registrations.

Additional fees in 2025 – will be charged to use Packham Rd.. C. Redfern stated that City will give us a 30% discount.

D. Grasby to contact city for SMBA's 2025 fees for using Packham.

Coaches

Nothing to report.

C. Redfern said that he still has to switch the season over so coaches have access. Coaches will be notified once they have access.

Uniforms

Discussion about whether or not SMBA will handle designing the 2nd jersey.

C. bridges made a motion that any design for team uniforms needs to be approved by the SMBA board. 2nd by A. Mathieson. All in favour. Carried

Motion by B. Grasby for SMBA to cover the cost of the 2nd jersey. 2nd. By A. Mathieson. All in favour. Carried.

It was discussed that if SMBA covers the cost of the 2nd jersey, it will be the same for everyone.

Tournaments

Discussed that we will have the same dates for the tournaments. 18U, discussed increasing fee. D. Grasby discussed going out of town is going to increase costs.

Motion by B. Mathieson for tournament costs; Mega - \$600, 14/15 \$625, 18U \$675. 2nd by A. Mathieson. All in favour. Carried.

It was discussed that rather than giving Stratford teams a free 3rd tournament, we give each team the option to convene the entire weekend in which they get a free tournament. Otherwise, they have to pay the tournament fee and SMBA will pay for someone to convene the tournament. A convening list of duties would be made so they are aware of what they are responsible for.

B. Mathieson stated that SMBA will be hosting 2 ICBA's. Currently we are not hosting an OBA. If a team wants to host an OBA, Bevan needs to know sooner than later if a team wants to host.

C. Bridges made a motion that the parents of the team participating in a Stratford tournament has the option to volunteer their time to save the registration fee, or pay the registration to compensate the SMBA board assist in running the tournament. 2nd by J. Serf. All in favour. Carried.

It was also discussed that regardless of the decision to convene or not, Stratford teams must participate in the Stratford tournaments.

Action Item: C. Redfern to send tournament registrations to OBA.

House league

Hoping to open registrations soon once fees are established. C. Redfern suggested running some spring indoor clinics, especially for interested pitchers and catchers, for 9U+.

It was discussed that house league is a huge commitment, and don't want people to be spread too thin. Discussion about having parents help out, but it was discussed that there's a lot of responsibility that goes with that. Would have to figure out what would need to be delegated and if it's worth it.

Discussion that house league jerseys are separate from rep.

Fundraising

Might have 2 companies that didn't pay their sponsorship / fundraising. Currently trying to collect those monies. Emphasized needing better communication between fundraising and treasurer.

Umpires

C. Bridges suggested that we bring discussion about increasing umpire costs to the 2025 budget meeting.

Facilities

Cost to fix lights at Optimist is \$40,000.

Sports Council

Need sports council girl/boy of the year by January for the April banquet. City is currently discussing moving the shed at SERC Softball.

Action Items: Bring forward nominees for the Sports Council banquet to the November or December meeting.

New Business

A.Mathieson – suggested getting the sign replaced at the National Stadium. Motion to explore options for, and get quotes to, replace the sign at the National Stadium, to bring to the 2025 budget meeting. 2nd by C. Bridges. All in favour. Carried.

A.Mathieson suggested hosting a Blue Jays clinic. Blue Jays association runs it. A. Mathieson going to put in application.

A.Mathieson suggested changing the names of SERC Softball and SERC Hardball. S. Vaters suggesting changing SERC Hardball to SERC 1 and SERC Softball to SERC 2. Discussed that signs should be placed if in the budget.

D. Grasby asked when it's decided who is playing where. He would like to have 15U play at the Stadium. It was also discussed moving 13U to SERC 1.

Barry made a motion that we make a \$500 donation to the Army Navy for using the facility all year for free. 2nd by J. Paola. All in favour. Carried.

Action Items: C. Bridges prepare funds to donate to the Army Navy.

Discussion about fundraising options.

L. Balkwill – creating some sort of coaches clinic sometime before the season starts to offer some sort of direction with baseball technique, practice plans, etc. whether it be rep or house league. Larry is willing to spearhead. Optional training. It was discussed that the coach's committee, once it is made, can come together and present a plan to the board.

22U

Brian Hawley's plan is to commit 5 years as the Jr. Coach. There has been interest from the Fighting Irish to sponsor them which would change them from the Nationals to the Fighting Irish. The consensus would be that they separate themselves from SMBA and have to rent the stadium. General consensus is that if the 22U change to the Fighting Irish, they completely separate themselves from SMBA and have to get their own insurance.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by J. Serf, 2nd by A. Mathieson. All in favour.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday November 18th, 2024 6:30pm at the Army Navy