



Stratford Minor Baseball Association Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 10, 2019 @ 18:30
Stratford Army & Navy

Attendees:

Brian Hawley	Steve Vaters	John Brightwell	Dave Graff
Chris Redfern	Corey Bridges	Bevan Mathieson	Jeff Keller
Brian Grasby	Kyle Priestap	Ashley Mathieson	
Ben Ehgoetz	Amy Brightwell	Emily Priestap	

B. Hawley called the meeting to order.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting dated November 12, 2019.
Moved by S. Vaters, seconded by K. Priestap.

D. Graff had to leave early, so tournaments were moved to the top of the order. He stated that K. Priestap has offered to convene the mega tournament and E. Priestap will be the convenor on behalf of the 10U team. Convenor names for the 8U and 9U still need to be brought forward.

D. Graff discussed the number of teams that he will be capping the tournament at. It was discussed that the 8U and 9U will be capped at 12, and 10U capped at 8 teams due to pitching regulations.

J. Brightwell discussed the need to have discussions surrounding topics, such as limiting the number of teams, rather than individuals or committees making a decision on their own. It was agreed that opening items up for discussion at board meetings will be required before making definitive decisions.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Tractor:

B. Ehgoetz presented options for a new tractor. He spoke with Mark at D&S Downham Equipment LTD who advised that the best price he could do for a good quality tractor that is meant to last, a Kobota, is \$5,000, but he is also willing to consider sponsoring a team to help out SMBA in offsetting costs. He also advised that it is best to wait until spring when there is a promotion of receiving a \$500 gift card to use towards serving the tractor.

Motion to purchase the Kobota tractor from D&S Downham, in the spring, for the price of \$5,000.00. Moved by A. Mathieson, seconded by J. Brightwell. Carried.

Concrete for Dugouts:

S. Vaters discussed the price of dugouts for SERC. K. Priestap stated that he received a quote from Nicholson Concrete for the price of \$6,500. The other quote came in at more money. This price also includes taking out the benches and resetting them. Discussion took place regarding the high price of concrete. It was suggested that more quotes be obtained. E. Priestap advised that this also needs to be discussed with the City as they may have certain contractors that are allowed to do this work on City property.

Action Item: Board Members receiving additional quotes for concrete are to bring the quotes to the next meeting at which time the agreed upon contractor will need to be discussed with the City to determine if they are approved to do the work.

Pinnacle Fieldhouse:

B. Ehgoetz discussed the meeting he had with Pinnacle Fieldhouse regarding the future contract between Pinnacle and SMBA. 2X 5-year agreements were agreed upon with the option to opt out after 2 years. Pinnacle also requested 1 payment on December 1, 2019 for the 2020 season. In this agreement, payment would be for 2020, then we would be locked in for 2021/2022 with option to opt out in 2023, etc.. Price would be locked in for these agreements. The SMBA hourly rate is also to be honoured for teams requesting additional times. This is based on 18hours/team.

Motion to accept the proposed deal with Pinnacle Fieldhouse. Barry Grasby moved, seconded by A. Mathieson. Carried.

Hitmen Update:

S. Vaters discussed the slo-pitch tournament, and confirmed the dates of July 17, 18, 19th.

E. Priestap stated that she has spoken with the city regarding vendors permits. SMBA is exempt paying the fee for the business license because we are a not-for-profit organization. E. Priestap stated that she would like the Baseball Hall of Fame to contact the health unit themselves to obtain all necessary information/permits, etc. required for having food on site.

Discussion took place regarding the name of the tournament.

Motion to change the name to SMBA Hitmen Tournament. Moved by S. Vaters, seconded by J. Brightwell. Carried.

Action Item: B. Hawley to notify Baseball Hall of Fame that they are required to contact the Perth District Health Unit in order to comply with food regulations for the tournament.

New Board Member:

B. Hawley introduced Beth Hovius, and welcomed her.

Motion to approve Beth Hovius as a Director on the SMBA Board. Moved by Barry Grasby, seconded by B. Mathieson.

Budget:

C. Bridges discussed the budget, basing it on 144 Rep players (11 teams), and not taking into consideration the other potential 2 teams. He also based his house league numbers on the average of the past 2 years; estimating 194 house league kids and 18 house league sponsorships.

Barry Grasby proposed having SMBA pay for the umpire clinics because we are in need of umpires. He also suggested the option of having the umpire pay for their clinic, but after umpiring, for SMBA, an agreed upon number of games, the fee gets reimbursed to them.

J. Keller stated that he would rather see the umpires' rates of pay go up.

It was suggested that we get comparable rates from other organizations to know how much we should be paying our umpires. It was also discussed that girls' softball pays more, and the games are shorter. It was suggested that we implement a time limit for house league baseball.

Motion to implement a \$5,000 buffer for umpire fees. Moved by J. Brightwell, seconded by A. Mathieson. Carried.

Action Item: Brian Grasby to gather comparable umpire rates from other organizations for next meeting.

B. Hawley discussed the possibility of hosting more OBA qualifiers in order to produce more income. C. Bridges responded that it could offset the cost for the increase in umpiring costs.

Discussion then took place regarding allowing second teams into Stratford T1 tournaments. Barry Grasby stated that more money could be brought in if Stratford second teams were not allowed to enter. J. Keller suggested that we allow them to enter. E. Priestap conquered that we be inclusive for SMBA teams and allow them to enter if they wish to do so.

The discussion surrounding registration fees then arose, and E. Priestap suggested that registration fees be discussed after determining the price of uniforms.

Uniforms:

K. Priestap presented what Dunny's offered for the rep jersey presented at the last meeting, manufactured by Provision Sports. The hats are to remain the same model and price at \$21/hat +tax. Dunny's offered same jersey that we currently have at \$33 +tax. The new sublimated jerseys from Provision he offered to honour \$36/jersey for the first year, \$37.50 for the second year, and \$39 for the 3rd year if we agree to all 3 years.

Motion to sign a 3-year deal with Dunny's Source for Sports for the sublimated Provision jerseys. Moved by Barry Grasby, seconded by K. Priestap. Carried.

The discussion of house league jerseys then arose. The 2019 price from Evoke was \$14.95/jersey and \$11.95/hat. K. Priestap to contact Dunny's to see if they can do a more competitive price.

Action Item: K. Priestap to discuss with Dunny's pricing for house league uniforms.

Discussion then went back to registration fees. J. Brightwell discussed the need to put more money in our budget for reactivating house league. B. Ehgoetz stated that SMBA is not the only centre down in numbers, and that the success of the Blue Jays seems to influence registration. It was suggested that house league fees not be increased if we want to draw players. B. Hawley suggested the addition of coaches workshops to invest in our house league coaching. This is to be discussed with the House League Committees.

Motion to keep the registration fee for house league baseball the same. Moved by B. Ehgoetz, seconded by A. Mathieson. Carried.

Discussion then took place regarding registration fees for rep, and that rising costs of equipment, chalk, jerseys will require the rise in fees.

Motion to increase the fee for Rep Baseball to \$600/players. Moved by S. Vaters, seconded by Barry Grasby.

K. Priestap inquired if the fee should be adjusted if ICBA decides to shorten the number of games played during the regular season. Questions also surrounded whether or not WOBA teams should be playing the same. It was decided that the board can decide at a later time how to adjust pricing.

Sports Council:

Brian Grasby discussed an issue that happened with the girls' softball being charged to use Anne Hathaway ball diamond. SMBA Board agreed that more clarification needs to come from the City as to whether or not outside users wanting to use the field need to contact the City for approval or to book in the event that insurance becomes an issue.

Brian Grasby then advised that we need to bring forward nominations for the Sports Council Banquet in the categories of: Boy Athlete/ Girl Athlete/ Sportsperson of the year.

E. Priestap asked if AEDs for the ball fields were discussed at Sports Council. Brian Grasby responded that Sports Council will look into it.

Action Item: Clarification to be obtained from the city regarding outside parties booking the facilities in SMBA time. Sports Council nominations also to be brought forward to the next board meeting.

ICBA:

K. Priestap discussed items brought up that are to be discussed amongst associations, including:

- Coaches' Meeting in April – coaches will be given until 2 weeks after the meeting to make schedule changes or cancel games
- No Seeding in Regular Season – Barry Grasby was in favour of the idea because it may make it easier on umpires. Opinion was split with others not in favour of reseeding because it makes all of the games exhibition games with no sense of accomplishment at the end
- Should there be less games in Tier 2 for development? B. Hawley asked why there should be a distinction.
- Is it important that all regular season games get played? General consensus was that all games should be played with forfeits in the end if they don't get them in.
- Balanced or Unbalanced schedule? B. Ehgoetz stated that it is all interconnected with whether or not there is seeding in regular season. Should be balanced if so.
- Hamilton would like to join with 20 teams. Stratford open to the idea if there can be flexibility in schedule, e.g. double headers on weekends
- Current play-off format- Coaches to discuss at coaches' meeting.

SMBA schedules for home nights are to be submitted by March 12.

New Business:

S. Vaters announced the Umpire Clinic will be held at Northwestern SS on April 25, 2020 at 9:00am.

Committee Selection occurred. See list sent out by C. Redfern.

Adjournment.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday January 14th, 2020

Location: TBD