

Brainerd Baxter Baseball Association BBBA

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 13, 2023

Meeting Time: 7:00 pm Central Time

Meeting Location: Riverwood Bank Branch – 14540 Dellwood Drive – Baxter (Right by Target)

Call to Order:

7:08 pm

Present:

Chair	Steve Hanson
Treasurer	Matt Castle
Director	Andy Campbell
Director	Corey Johnson
Director	Chris Velasco
Director	Mike DeRosier
Director	Nate Olson
Director	Mike Eidenshink
Director	Matt Means
Director	Mandy Vanek

Absent:

Director	Wade Haapajoki
Director	Jeremiah Piepkorn
Director	Phil Berg

Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Approval of last meeting minutes pending completion/submission by Ann Scheinost

- Motion to approve January meeting minutes made by Mandy Vanek and seconded by Matt Castle = motion unanimously approved

Additions to Agenda:

- Corey Johnson wanted to discuss a strategic planning committee and potentially adding that committee to the Board
- Age vs Grade discussion for eligibility to play travel ball in our association and upcoming player fees

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Open Forum

- Coach Trent Grams joined the meeting to present updates on what he has had going on with the high school program and what he and his staff & players have been working on.
 - ❖ Expressed his support for the Wednesday night skills night during the winter
 - ❖ Expressed a goal/future desire to have two teams for each age level for travel ball
 - ❖ Updated the Board on recent training tools the high school program has purchased (they purchased two Hack Attack pitching machines). Additional discussion on collaborating use of the Association's machines and the high school's machines during pre-tryout workouts by Association players and high school players – storage at Forestview?
 - ❖ Asked the Board about 9U coaching status as he had some potential candidates in mind and just wanted to learn a bit more about the coaching application process as well as general questions about tournaments the 9U team might potentially participate in
 - ❖ Informed the Board that Derek Owens has taken over social media and PR/marketing for the varsity team. Expressed a desire to get more youth team involvement at varsity games: on-field recognition, etc.
 - ❖ Introduced coaching staffs of the 8-10 grade teams. Allen Balsly (sp?) and Ben Anderson coaching the 8th grade team. Matt Means and Bryce Flannigan for 9th grade. Thomas Fairbanks and Mike Bialka coaches for 10th grade team. Varsity led by Trent and Dillon Knipple (sp?)
- Steve summarized recent conversations/discussions he had had with Joe Pohlkamp and some concerns surrounding communities had brought to Steve's attention regarding competitiveness between the Brainerd Pony League and other local communities.

Reports:

- Steve Hanson:
 - ❖ Officer nominations – Mandy nominated for VP
 - ❖ Motion to accept Mandy's nomination for VP made by Nate Olson and seconded by Matt Means. Unanimous approval of Mandy's election to VP.
- Discussion on Andy Pickar and Matt Delany coaching applications for 10U team to assist Nate Olson.
 - ❖ Motion made by Chris Velasco to accept both Andy & Matt's coaching applications as coaches for 10U team. Seconded by Mike DeRosier. Unanimous approval of their applications.

- Discussion on ensuring that coaches are getting/keeping/updating their coaching credentials such as safe sport, etc. Additional conversation about which credentials we would accept as many coaches/Board members have credentials through other sports and whether or not we can/should accept the credentials of another association. No decisions made.
- Update on meeting with the City of Baxter: Steve, Jeremiah, Mandy, Joe P. Cylinda, Alex Hondo were participants in the meeting. General discussion on how the Association can get on the fields as early as possible before rec ball gets on the fields as well as scheduling overall. The meeting was characterized as positive. The City identified Jaycees field as kind of the field that they prefer the Association to use. The Association delegation expressed our desire to get on the fields as often as possible with the offer to drag fields and put them back in pre-use condition. OK Fields continue to be the City's "baby" and they want to protect use of those fields (2 & 3) to rec ball vs travel teams. Field 1 at OK park, Bane and Jaycees will be targets to use as well as Loren Thompson and Buffalo Hills for the 9's & 10's.
- Discussion on MYAS rising stars clinic Feb 25/26 is cancelled. Steve mentioned Eric Lovedahl was available to hire privately to put on a pitching clinic just for our Association should we decide we want to hire such a clinician.
- Discussion on potentially allowing kids from outside of our Association's borders to play in our Association. The bylaws govern what our borders are and there was discussion of waivers potentially being accepted. No action was taken.
- Discussion was also had on a scheduling conflict for pre-tryout skills sessions for the 14U team. No action was taken.
- Discussion on pre-tryout skills sessions as well as tryout schedule in March.
- Discussion on age vs grade when it comes to what team a kid tries out for. No action was voted on but the Board agreed that an established guideline should be in place that what team a child tries out for is up to the family. If they try out for their grade and not their age and don't make the team in their grade, they will still be allowed to try out for their age team. For example, if a child is 10 but in 5th grade, he would be allowed to try out for the 11U team and then if he doesn't make it, would be allowed to try out for the 10U team.
- Matt Castle – Treasurer's Report
 - ❖ Reviewed Association balance sheets
 - ❖ Discussed what player fees should/need to be in 2023
- Corey Johnson with regards to his idea for a committee formed for strategic planning mentioned a conversation he had with a Brainerd City Council member about land that the City owns that they would be willing to sell to the Association for \$1 provided the Association paid for and built their own baseball complex with 5 fields.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Eidenshank and seconded by Mandy Vanek. Unanimously approved.

