

**West Central Baseball Association Board Meeting
Community Center Humboldt, SD
Sunday, March 3, 2023**

Call to Order

Andy called the meeting to order at 6:02. Everyone is present.

Roll Call:

Andy Lueth- President

Jacob Ellens- Vice President

Joe Hanisch- Treasurer

Tyler McCoy- Secretary

Josh Halverson

Rob Lind

Tom Schartz

Guests

Nolan Whiting

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Jacob approves minutes and Tom 2^{nds}. Everyone approves

Reports

- a. President Report- Andy Lueth
 - a. Andy says all the rosters are out. Reminds parents to check emails to get jersey information and contact information entered. Thanks, Jacob, for handling all the teams. Andy wants to address why we are going to competitive ball, and we are hoping to make it better every year. Asks parents to please join our meetings and voice their concerns.
- b. Treasurers Report- Joe Hanisch
 - a. Joe transferred our \$10,000 donation from Reliabank to help pay for field turf. Opened a separate account to help pay ump's through Venmo. Total of \$152,469.76 in all accounts. Andy asked Nolan if he knew about the field/grandstand and Nolan says the bid wasn't even close to what we need to replace the old grandstand. Joe has a copy of the claim. Joe says it was a little over \$23,000.
- c. Social Media Report- Jacob Ellens says Andy touched on the google sheets and wants to make sure parents get them turned in.

Old Business

-Metal cleats on Field A

1. Andy says that we have been talking about this for a long time because of how much damage the cleats have caused. It's causing issues with the amateur team and high school baseball team. Joe called and he said it's more common to have no metal cleats rule than he expected. He said that he hasn't seen it where a field with grass outfield has banned metal cleats. He also said that teams that require it don't usually ban them unless it's a league wide ban. Joe wants us to reconsider. Nolan asks how many teams that don't want metal cleats have turf infields. Joe and Jacob said a lot of them have infields that are turf. Nolan said a lot of fields are only turf for pitching and catching. We could charge a team \$2,500 a team to play in our fields with metal cleats. Joe thinks we need to go as a league and not be separate. Either the league says no metal cleats, or

everyone allows metal cleats. Rob said Alexandria would follow us, but Salem wouldn't. Rob said the city is letting us make the decision since we have a contract to oversee the fields. From online Brookings and Yankton do not allow metal cleats. Jacob said the South Dakota High School Activity Association says we hold the right to deny metal cleats and there is no option to not play on our field. Rob agrees that maybe we need to push this back another year. Tom says we need to find out the actual cost and find out how to split it through the different leagues to pay for it. Andy says they have 3 \$500 bats, gloves, and batting gloves, so what's another pair of cleats? Nolan is totally against it because he knows who's going to be fixing it. Andy asks that maybe we just ban pitching and catching for this year and maybe ban everything in '25. They asked online is there a safety difference between metal and molded shoes. Nolan says there is a huge difference, you slide different, and turf with metals you don't slide right you will snap your ankle. Andy will contact the turf company and get a cost to replace the mound/batter boxes.

-Coaches Clinic

1. Jacob said last Monday on the 26th we had two coaches from DSU and DWU to talk and wished we had a better turn out. Not very many people showed up. Andy said it's supposed to be required but we need to release the coaches' names before so that they show up.

Public Comment

1. No public comment

New Business

-+1 Petitions

1. No one showed up, but Andy said we need to vote on all the players that did a plus one. We will vote on them in executive session.

-Baseballs order

1. Andy stopped at Dauby's and who he has always dealt with retired, but he did tell Andy that he did order our league balls with our league logo on it which costs about .53 a ball to get stamped. Andy ordered 45 dozen balls at \$54/dozen. Rob approves the order and Jacob 2nd it. Everyone approves the order.

-Replacing batting boxes in Field A

1. Andy says the batter boxes are flipped and he talked to the turf company, and they are coming to fix it correctly by April 1st. Since they are using our turf maybe they can fix the pitching mound for free. Joe asks if we have done it before and they said Bob has done it. Rob said that other towns that are replacing the mounds are pouring concrete below the mounds before they do it.

-Field clean up date

1. March 23rd, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

-Umpire clinic date

1. April 6th at 9:00 a.m. Anyone that is going to ump are required to show up.

-Making all 14u and up kids' umpire

1. Other towns require every kid to umpire a minimum of 4 games for free before they start to get paid as part of their registration. Josh said at Brandon Valley does it this way and it's not hard for the kids to do. The kid also said that after he did it, he

realized how he saw the game at a different level. Rob asks how much it costs to play Brandon Valley baseball because if we are cheaper then it makes sense to have them umpire. If they want to get certified, is they must attend the yearly clinic and attend the one-day clinic. The league will reimburse them if they get certified. Andy said that any VFW tournament the umps must be certified. Tom asked if we need to push it off until next year since we didn't have it out before signing up. Everyone agrees that we need to wait a year to push this out. We think we need to have someone in charge at the complex that in charge of making the calls whether its weather or parent/coach issues. Jacob says we need to ask Bob to be that guy.

-Releasing kids to play from outside WCBA to play in a different league.

1. Rob says that West Central kids that decide to play outside of the WCBA league that they shouldn't be allowed to play on our league teams for tournaments. Nolan says our league can advise the VFW to not allow them to play but the VFW has the actual authority to deny it. It only really affects the 8u league because we already have the competitive teams built. Rob says that we ask the parents and players if they care if a kid outside of our league play in the state tournament through our league. If parents and kids say no, then we tell the VFW that we asked the team and they said they would not like them to get accepted. Then the VFW would get to make the final decision. Andy and Rob say no HBO 8u team would be allowed in state tournament. Andy has reached out to the HBO and they have not responded.

-Players moving down one league to play in state tournament

1. Rob says example a kid plays +1 16u and then at state tournament they move to 14u. doesn't seem fair for the kids that have been playing 14u all year. Tyler says we have them play in the league that they played in all year. Andy says you can play up, but you don't get to play down after you start. Andy and Tyler are against them moving down after doing the +1. Andy said if freak injuries happen, or a kid is on vacation, and they need another kid that they need to petition the league. Tyler will motion to not allowing players to play down for state/region tournaments. They would have to play in the division that they registered for unless the board deems it necessary. The coach will have to talk to the board for the approval. Josh 2nd All in favor

-Sponsors

1. Jacob sent out a form and is asking anymore that wants to sponsor a team to get the form to us. We have three levels, Gold, Silver and Bronze. Those sponsorships come to the league and the uniforms that they sponsor will have their logo on them. Nolan suggests that we announce them on field A whenever there is an announcer. They will have banners at the complex and in the state tournament brochure. Field A banner is \$500 for one year and \$300 for one year. The one year is for anyone that already has a sign.

-Fields in Hartford

1. Jacob says we have Turtle Creek and Milo Lowe. Milo Lowe has issues with weeds, restroom and field maintenance. Tyler suggests it wouldn't take much labor to work the field every two weeks and suggests getting an outhouse. Andy will talk to the school about getting an outhouse.

-16u league tournament- 129 league on June 14-16th

1. Rob said that he is talking to them because it might change because of the no metal cleats on Field A. 16u coach thought it was awesome and said he can get volunteers to help run the tournament.

-Concessions Coordinator

1. Still looking for someone. Andy is wondering if we could ask the school if a teacher would be willing to do it. Joe asks how we advertise. We email everyone and post it all over social media.

-Tournament Committee

1. Clint Koehn is the only member besides Rob. Andy is asking for anyone to help volunteer and help to take pressure off the board. Nolan said he would also help out when he could.

-Playground grant for small fields

1. Andy asks that we ask the city to check on grants to get playground equipment for the small fields. Andy says that he has been at some complexes, and they net the whole side of the playground, so no one must worry about getting hit. Tom is going to talk to the economic development board.

-Updated field agreement with the City of Humboldt

1. City sent the agreement to Robin and Robin sent it back to the city with a couple issues but haven't heard back from the city. Andy sent her thoughts to the rest of the board.

-10u or 12u league tournament

1. Andy said we talked about that, and we know we will have one, but they haven't told us which one yet.

Executive Session

Josh motions to enter executive session at 8:06. Joe 2nd and everyone agreed.

Josh motions to get out of executive session at 9:01 p.m. Joe 2nd and everyone agreed

The board approved the following +1's in executive session.

Waylon Wubben

Graham Pischke

Carson Vessels

Landon Klinkhammer

Flynn Moore

Beckham Thurn

Jet Link

Rob motioned to end meeting at 9:02 p.m. Jacob 2nd and everyone agreed.

Next Meeting

March 3rd, 6:00 p.m. Humboldt Community Center