



# BLOOMINGTON FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION

Monday, April 7th, 2014 7:00 PM

Bloomington Center for the Arts- Dakota Room

- I. Call to order  
Karen Johnson called to order the regular meeting of the Bloomington Fastpitch Association Board of Directors at 7:03PM on Monday April 7th, 2014 at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN.
- II. Attendance  
The following persons were present:  
  
Board Members: Karen Johnson, Cathy Currier, Sarah Johnson, Craig Johnson, Mark Pearson, Grant Effertz, Carol Effertz, Gary Hanson, Mike Kopischke, Stacy Acketz. Tony Acketz.  
  
Non-board Members: Amy Christiansen, Tod Deming (representing Clutch Hitters),
- III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (March 2014)  
Motion made by Stacy Acketz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Hanson 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Minutes as distributed prior to the meeting. MOTION APPROVED.
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
  - a. 2014 League Registration Fee Increase  
\$575 per team due with registration of teams.  
  
Follow up to meeting: Fee due with team registration represents \$100 for state tourney gate fee plus \$475 per team fee to the league.
  - b. Kennedy/ Jefferson Game
    - i. Date: April 25 at Kelly
    - ii. BFA picnic between JV and Varsity games
    - iii. Need volunteers to purchase, prepare and serve food
      1. Amy Christiansen volunteered to organize tasks.
      2. Grant Effertz, Craig Johnson, Karen Johnson, and Stacy Acketz volunteered to work game day.
  - c. Field Status
    - i. J.Stutzman Email – Field opening on track for estimated date of 4/15.
    - ii. Upon receipt of email confirming fields are open, Mark Pearson will notify all board members.
  - d. Clutch Hitter – Spirit Wear Sales
    - i. Karen reported that Clutch provided check for spirit wear sales and that Jim Hanson noted Clutch lost money after paying sales tax. Board agreed follow up with Jim needed to make sure sales made to BFA or Clutch priced to avoid a net loss after tax.

e. Team Pictures

- i. Discussed May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Blast Off date) for pictures but that would require back up plan for indoors if weather did not cooperate.
- ii. Cathy Currier will send team tournament schedules to Carol Effertz to identify a date for team pictures and coordinate time/place with photographer.
- iii. Worked well at Game Changers last year with exception of limited parking.

f. FAQ's

- i. Cathy Currier prepared FAQ's for 8U age levels that have been posted to 8U team pages.
- ii. Karen Johnson recommended preparing FAQ's for other age levels as well. If too difficult to have a FAQ tab added to house all age level FAQ's in one spot is it possible to a FAQ link on home page so new users not familiar with website can easily use link to find appropriate age level FAQ.
- iii. Cathy will draft and work with Stacy and Karen to prepare FAQ's for approval to post.

g. Scholarships

- i. Sarah Johnson provided a summary of scholarship applications received and made recommendation to approve scholarships for 4 families covering 6 players.
- ii. Karen Johnson made a motion to approve scholarships per Sarah's recommendation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Pearson. MOTION APPROVED

h. Insurance Review / Risk Assessment

i. Player Insurance and Waivers

1. Can secure coverage through own carrier so long a required coverage is provided and appropriate additional insured endorsements are in place.
2. Coverage through ASA is a single rate per player regardless of age. Coverage meeting league requirements through current carrier is less per player for young players but higher cost for older players. Overall blended cost is more expensive to continue with current carrier than convert to ASA coverage (\$12/player). Cathy Currier has had email and conversations with ASA representative and there are still questions that need to be answered. Cathy will provide further update as she gets additional questions answered.
3. Cathy will update our Waiver form reflect new best practices

ii. Tournament Coverage

1. Cathy Currier reported that she did research and believe we have a gap in coverage with respect to tournaments based on recent case filings.
2. Cathy recommended and Board agreed to secure NAFA tournament coverage rider (\$100 cost).

i. Grant Awards

- i. BASH Elite tournament director (Bob Christiansen) applied for Bloomington Visitor and Convention Bureau Grant in the amount of \$1,200 to be used for new chalker equipment.
- ii. Stacy Acketz, BFA Fundraising Director applied for Sports Grant for portion of funds distributed by Hennepin County to Bloomington. BFA received \$3,500 for equipment needs. Stacy will follow up with John Stutzman to confirm that our application for use towards dugouts as part of our equipment needs was approved and process to obtain the funds.
- iii.

j. 2014 Fundraiser

i. Storage Construction funding

1. Catch The Fire Fundraising Event: Each player will be asked to send letter requesting \$10 donation to 10 people. Stacy will provide announce and provide overview at April 13 Parents Meeting. Players will receive packet with instructions at BFA Blast Off.

ii. Other

1. Chipotle after Blast Off – pick up Catch The Fire packets at Chipotle. Chipotle will provide BFA 50% of profits during 12-2 fundraising window.
2. Yogurt Sundae did well enough during winter clinics they will also continue BFA rebate program

k. BFA Blast Off

- i. Fields 2, 3, and 4 reserved
- ii. Parade of teams 8:30, age level teams scrimmage, 14's and 16's if available will teach younger kids cheers and act as umpires.
- iii. Followed by pick up of fund raising packets at Chipotle
- iv. Discussed need for PA system for this event as well as NAFA parade parents meeting and other BFA sponsored events. Grant made motion to authorize expenditure of \$750. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Johnson. MOTION APPROVED
- v. Mark Pearson will research options and procure equipment.

l. 8U League

i. Mike Kopischke succession plan

1. Mike would like to pass on responsibility for coordinating with other communities to schedule games and agree/manage 8U rules.
2. It was agreed successor needed to be identified so Mike could transition role over the summer in order to meet his objective of a new party taking over with fall 2014 season.
3. Mike suggested a coach in Eagan that might be willing to take on the role if Bloomington did not have an individual to assume this role.
4. It was agreed it was best to retain this role within BFA. It was further agreed that this role was best filled by an additional Director position to the BFA Board.
5. Tony agreed to bring recommendation forth to Board in May meeting.

m. BASH Planning Update

- i. Mike Kopischke provided general update on BASH planning. Key committee leads identified with Cindy Kopischke and Mary Tracy taking on concession committee leadership.
- ii. Mike will work with Lisa Leicht to provide information needed to establish Sign Up Genius prior to April Parent Meeting.
- iii. Karen will forward to Mike the volunteer jobs listing used for 10U NAFA, with caveat that BFA work for 10U NAFA only applied to concessions and field crews as NAFA was responsible for tournament coordination, t-shirts, trophy's umpires etc.
- iv. Generator Discussion – Craig met with city on what can be allowed. Will forward Paul Meyer (can provide generator support through Zeigler) contact information to Mike Kopischke.

n. Coaches Meeting Debrief

i. Post meeting feedback

1. Coaches meeting went well. Coaches excited to receive BFA coaching binders. Others Board Members also in attendance at coaches meeting agreed with assessment.

- ii. Final Coach Listing (Volunteer vs. Paid)
  - 1. Only 1 team with paid coach this year. This team will have a parent with extensive baseball experience and some fastpitch experience as co-coach. Hired coach is HS coach in Irondale and a pitching coach that will be assisting with ongoing BFA pitching clinics.
- O. Tryout Debrief (Tony – Inform)
  - i. What went well
    - 1. Outside evaluators used, except for two BFA coaches (8U children) both with extensive fastpitch playing time and one of whom played Division I college ball and does private lessons.
    - 2. Underestimated time need for 10U's on first date but 14's took less time than allowed so still completed on time.
    - 3. Makeup date very light attendance.
  - ii. What could Improve
    - 1. It was noted and all agreed advance notice needed next time advising that 2<sup>nd</sup> tryout date was makeup date only.
- p. Team Selection Debrief (Tony/Karen – Inform)
  - i. What went well
    - 1. Worked with spreadsheet Mike Kopischke developed prior year.
    - 2. Cathy Currier entered tryout results as evaluators turned in evaluation sheets.
    - 3. Cathy and Tony met after 2<sup>nd</sup> tryout date finished entering data and prepare 10, 12, 14 break outs. Identified top 12 scores for 12U A team. Checked how many of top 12 were pitchers/catchers and made calls to those parents offering A team or position choice.
    - 4. With the exception of identifying pitchers catchers for 12U A team calls process remained pure to Blind process. Player distribution was based on scores attached to tryout number no name.
    - 5. Recommendations sent to Selection Committee prior to Committee meeting date to review so prepared to discuss, debate if necessary and make decision in committee meeting.
    - 6. Coach Committee met in conjunction with Team Selection Committee so Head Coach approvals received with team selection approval.
  - ii. What Could Improve
    - 1. Karen Johnson noted that phone call and email inquiries asking about team selection decisions as 12U player/parent calls were being made and before teams had been determined created some distraction but the integrity of the blind process was maintained and overall worked well.
    - 2. Grant Effertz noted that assistant coaching should be considered when forming teams. It was noted that Grant did not have experienced assistant and further discussion indicated Tony was short parent assistants also. Action Item: Two former BFA players are available as assistants. Tony will follow up with them to provide appropriate assistant support.
- q. Parent Meeting Agenda Prep
  - i. Karen Johnson had circulated draft agenda for Board review.
  - ii. No changes requested.

## VI. Director Reports

- a. President: Karen Johnson (nothing further)
- b. Vice President: Cathy Currier (nothing further)

- c. Treasurer: Sarah Johnson (nothing further)
- d. Secretary: Melissa Walter
- e. Commissioner: Craig Johnson
  - i. Reviewed inventory – 2 bags short, will provide 2 tees per bag, if BFA pays for materials Craig will donate his time to make the tees. Need some misc. first aid supplies to supplement. Craig to acquire materials needed to include bags as needed.
- f. Facilities Coordinator: Mark Pearson (nothing further)
- g. Communications Director: Grant Effertz
  - i. Online store re-opened 4/13 until May 3<sup>rd</sup> – will close after Blast Off.
- h. Member Services & Membership: Carol Effertz
  - i. Uniform purchase will be finalized April 8, and then will work on Coach's shirts, which will be red.
- i. Marketing: Gary Hanson (nothing further)
- j. Fund Raising: Stacy Acketz
  - i. Need to order the player practice t-shirts that were covered with registration fee. Stacy Carol and Grant authorized to decide on a shirt and order.
- k. Player and Coach Development: Tony Acketz
  - i. Summer pitching catching clinics to continue. Grant and JJ will let Tony know dates as they understand their summer team schedules.
  - ii. All Star Team concept going over really well. Will have 10U team and a 12U team. Coaches will determine team with each coach identifying players from their team to be on the All Star Team. Tournament in Hudson scheduled.
- l. Mike Kopischke, Tournament Director (nothing further)

VII. Open Comments

None

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm

The next board meeting will be **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30pm** at the Bloomington Center for the Arts