



Board Meeting Agenda + Minutes

October 15, 2023

7:30 PM, ZOOM

Our Mission: To provide the youth in the Spring Lake Park School District #16 attendance area the opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of fastpitch softball at a competitive level.

Our Focus: Teaching fastpitch softball fundamentals, promoting team play, improving individual skills and having fun in order to promote a life-long enjoyment of fastpitch softball.

Call To Order

1) Welcome & Role Call (Tanya)

Present	Board Member	Present	Board Member
X	Tanya Hartwell , President	X	Shelly Major , Player Development Director
X	Jeff Baskin , Vice President	X	Rich DiVito , Website & IT Director
X	Jen Rohds , Treasurer	X	Jodi Coleman , Brand & Marketing Director
-	Stacy Nugent , Secretary	X	Kristi Cobbs , Community Liaison & Fundraising Director
X	Amy Bennett , League & Team Schedule Director	X	Josh Glood , Director at Large/Treasurer in Training
X	Derek Roe , Program Director		OPEN , Director at Large
X	Dan Berendes , Panther Classic Tournament Director		OPEN , Director at Large

**Board Quorum for Approval Decisions: 50% of filled roles required*

Additional Attendees: Carlo Faccini, Mike Raymond, Sarah Gatlin, Zac Humphrey

2) Approval of October Agenda (Tanya)

Any additions?

No additions; motion to approve as is

Motion: Jeff

Second: Rich

Vote: Unanimous Approval

3) Review and Approval of September Minutes (Tanya)

Any updates/revisions?

No additions; motion to approve as is

Motion: Jeff

Second: Rich

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Financial Updates

1) Treasurer's Report & 2024 Financials Discussion (Jen)

- Updates regarding monthly financials
- First round review of 2024 Budget draft
- Tuition Analysis review

Discussion Notes:

- Refer to column Q for context around what each line item entails
- \$5,000 High School Score Board Ask
 - \$1000 contribution was initially approved by the board however it sounds like they are asking for more
 - Current HS board is being moved to JV field and HS field would get the new one
 - Do we want to consider a value exchange with the Gator we purchased knowing how much it is used by the HS for non-softball activities to help offset the ask
 - We currently don't have use of the score board as it's locked in the HS dugout and aren't allowed access
- Should re-look at what we are asking for Panther Classic tournament fees; could likely increase based on what other communities are doing
- Lots of discussion about potential fundraising opportunities to help offset costs/avoid tuition increases; will revisit options at a future meeting
 - Will need to better understand rules around Charitable gambling given our non-profit status
 - Could revisit NCAA Cards with earlier registration timing this year

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **(ALL)** Review 2024 Budget and send any specific feedback to Tanya by 10/30
- **(Tanya)** Consolidate feedback and send updates back to the group with November Meeting Agenda
- **(ALL)** Pending the level of feedback we get, we will have further discussion and/or vote on the proposed agenda during the November Board Meeting
- **(Tanya)** Follow-up with Will for more detail around the score board ask to share back with the group

Old Business

1) Fall Ball Wrap-up Discussion (All)

- Overall seemed to go well; work to be done for future around outlining approach to team selection/purpose of Fall Ball within our Handbook based on parent feedback
- (3) teams advanced to the Consolation Bracket Championship Games
 - 10U Blue | Tier 3 Consolation Bracket Runner-up
 - 12U Blue | Tier 4 Consolation Bracket Runner-up
 - 12U Red | Tier 9 Consolation Bracket Champs
- Discuss challenges with 8U/Centennial League

Discussion Notes: No notable additions

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **(Amy)** Revisit 8U league options when it comes time for Fall 2024 Registration
- Update Handbook to outline approach to Fall team selection; timing TBD

2) Batting Cage/Maintenance Updates (Jen)

- Update on how things went taking down the nets on 10/9
- SLP HS Boosters are responsible for putting back up, correct?

Discussion Notes:

- Confirmed SLP HS Boosters are responsible for putting back up in the Spring
- Casey is also working to have storage boxes built to protect the nets over the winter

Next Steps (if any)/Board Lead(s)/Timing: No immediate action items

3) September Roundtable Debrief (Tanya/All)

- Overall it seemed to go well and was pleased with the attendance
- Recap sent and didn't receive any further feedback

Discussion Notes: No notable additions

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing: Consider hosting again next year

4) Holiday Spiritwear Store Updates (Jodi)

Update on Holiday Spiritwear store

Discussion Notes:

- Jodi is working with Twin Pines to make some adjustments to the items being offered
- Hoping to have the items finalized in the next week or so
- Ordering will close early/mid-Nov to ensure they arrive in time for the holidays

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **(Jodi)** Send out store link once items are finalized
- **(Jodi/Tanya)** Develop/implement club-wide communication plan (email/FB)

5) 2024 Evaluations & Coach Identification (Tanya/All)

• In-progress/Complete

- Date Confirmed & Location Secured
 - Westwood Middle School Full Gym 3/1 – 3/3
 - 3/1 | 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM Set-up time
 - 3/2 & 3/3 | 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 - Cost: \$1,260.44 (\$1,821 in 2022 for NSC)
- Initial communication to families complete (email & FB)
- Coach Identification | Current confirmed interest
 - 8U: None identified to-date
 - 10U:
 - Jamie Larson (Fall 10U Blue)
 - Connor Stolz (Spring & Fall 10U Red)
 - Zach Humphrey (new)
 - Amanda Preisinger (new – previous coach with SLP HS program)
 - 12U:
 - Anthony Vertalino (Spring & Fall 12U Blue)
 - Mike Jezorski (Fall 10U Red)

- Jer Johnson (Spring 12U Red & Fall 14U Blue)
 - Amanda Preisinger (new – previous coach with SLP HS program)
 - 14U: None identified to-date
 - 16U/HS
 - Joe & Natalie Nusbaum (Spring 14U Blue & Fall 16U Blue)
- **Notable Outstanding Items**
 - Align on Coach selection/interview process & timing
 - Solidify team structure, level of play, program fees & registration timing; 2023 Pricing was as follows:
 - 8U: \$50 (included t-shirt jersey top)
 - 10U & 12U: \$450 (included t-shirt jersey top; full uniform purchased separately)
 - 14U: \$525 (included t-shirt jersey top; full uniform purchased separately)
 - Update website with Spring Season info
 - Discuss evaluation process/approach
 - Evaluators \$2250 (In HS Coaches Tony & Chris \$787.50 each + SLPHS Athletes Laura and Jill \$375.50 each)
 - Team Genius \$750
 - What adjustments do we want to make to the process? Do we want to consider an alternative approach to evaluators?
 - Discuss procurement of (borrowed or purchased) nets/safety fence for hitting velocity exercise
 - Discuss/align on offering a 16s/HS level
 - Secure space with SLP Community Ed for pre-tryout practices ((1) 1.5 hour practice per age group week of 2/26; includes 8U even though they don't participate in evals)

Discussion Notes:

- 8U Coaches Updates
 - Steve is TBD; waiting for his daughter to decide if she wants to play again
 - Luke said yes; has expressed that they would like to try to move up to 10U though so likely not a viable 8U candidate
- Current evaluation skills/process were established in partnership with SLP HS Coaches (Tony/Chris) and are consistent with the ones they use for Midwest Speed/Power tryouts
- We've opted to keep the evaluators "in house" in the past as we've felt it helps to better foster the relationships with the HS team and allows us access to HS athletes to help support (with Booster donation)

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- Coaches Selection:
 - **(Rich)** Post coaches application on website asap
 - **(Rich/Derek/Tanya)** Send club wide communication about coaches applications being open
 - **(Derek)** Send more personalized communication to those coaches who have already expressed interest and advise on next steps
- Voting Items for Next Month's Meeting: **(Tanya)** Prepare key items of focus that need to be voted on in advance of November Board Meeting

New Business

1) Board Member Position Votes (Tanya)

New Board Member Vote: Carlo Faccini

Propose we vote Carlo into one of the open At Large roles on the Board

Motion: Amy

Second: Rich

Vote: Vote: Unanimous Approval

Votes to come: Mike Raymond (November Meeting), Sarah Gatlin & Zac Humphrey (December Meeting)

2) SLP Homecoming Tailgate Event Recap (Kristi/Amy)

Event recap; cliff notes – hot chocolate was a hit!

Discussion Notes: No notable additions

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing: Consider participating again next year

3) Halloween Training Event Update (Shelly)

Shelly to share details on an all-skills training event she has been working on with the newly named HS Coach Chris Bangle for this fall.

- When: 10/28
- Where: SLPHS
- Time: 12 PM -2 PM
- Space available: Up to 30 athletes
- Facilitators: Chris Bangle & TBD HS Softball Athletes
 - How many SLPSA Board Members do we need there to help?
- Cost: \$302
 - Field Rental: \$2 for the day
 - SLP High School Softball Boosters Donation: \$300

Discussion Notes: No notable additions

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- **(Shelly)** Update board on final numbers and what she needs for support as we get closer
- **(Jodi/Tanya)** Send out follow up communication as reminders for registration as needed

4) Winter Dome League Discussion (Shelly)

Update on next steps coming out of our discussion at the Roundtable event

- 10U
- 14U/HS

Discussion Notes:

- 14U/HS: Chris has opted to start up a JV Domeball team this year that would likely take the bulk of the girls we thought would be interested and has been discussing with Natalie N. about coaching so we're going to pass on this opportunity for the time being
- 10U:
 - Appetite to move forward and scope who might be interested in the Soderville Domeball league
 - Aiming for a team size of 12; will add waitlist to Dibbs for back up
 - Would aim to split the cost between 10 players so we can offer free registration for the coaches child

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)/Timing:

- 14U/HS
 - **(Rich)** Send Shelly 14U/16U email list
 - **(Shelly)** Send email to 14U/16U families to determine interest in Spring
- 10U
 - **(Rich)** Send Shelly 10U email list
 - **(Rich)** Set up Dibs for Domeball opportunity
 - **(Shelly)** Send out communication to 10U families about Domeball opportunity

5) Rookies Program Discussion (Shelly)

Sam & Amber reached out to Shelly proposing bringing back the Rookies Program focused on 4-5 year old athletes. They also offered to facilitate it.

Discussion Notes:

- Program would focus on intro to softball skills using a variety of different basic techniques and drills to get kids interested in the game
- Would be worth exploring a partnership with SLP Rec program; could be a good way to build that relationship and help communicate the offering
- Many of our current HS girls participated in this program back when they first started
- Likely could get creative on location and timing to solve for field space concerns
- Exact schedule to be worked out but would likely follow similar schedule to 8U teams
- Agreement that this sounds like something we'd like to scope further

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)Timing:

- **(Shelly/Zac)** Work with Sam/Amber to develop a more detailed proposal around what the program could look like and bring to November Board Meeting for a Vote (assuming we'd like to include with the rest of Summer registration – if not we can look at alternative timing)

6) Field Space Updates (Jen/Jodi/Tanya/Kristi)

- Blaine Parks & Rec Committee Meeting (Jen/Jodi)
- Westwood Middle School Fields Meeting (Tanya/Kristi)

Discussion Notes:

- Blaine P&R Meeting:
 - There is understanding and interest supporting the need for more field space however there are widely varying opinions on how we might achieve it
 - Airport fields are likely go away in the next 3-5 years
 - In the past we've been challenged to use the Airport fields for anything beyond practices due to concerns around fencing, foul balls and parking; something worth re-exploring for future
 - For next meeting, would be helpful to have some notice so we can come prepared with more concrete numbers to support our position (ie. how many Blaine families we serve)
- Westwood Middle School Fields
 - We have support from the school district to move forward with fixing up the fields
 - Work is in progress to put update estimates together; should have a draft by the end of Oct
 - Exploring tiered options including establishing practice ready vs. game ready fields
 - This is something SLP Traveling baseball would likely want to support so long as we could provide flexibility for bases and movable mound; we should reach out to discuss
 - Over the winter, we'll need to align on a plan for funding; the earliest work could start would be this Spring so it's likely we wouldn't be able to use them until Fall 2024 season

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)Timing:

- **(Tanya)** Work to confirm when next Blaine P&R Committee meeting is
- **(Tanya/Kristi)** Share updates on WWMS Fields as they become available

7) Updated Handbook & Bylaws Kick-off (Tanya)

Looking for a volunteer to lead a review of our current Bylaws & Handbook documents and make updates as needed. Understanding discussions on the addition of Fall Ball approach may take some more time, but in the meantime, feel like there's opportunity to clean up our current materials so they are in a good place in advance of the Spring season.

Next Steps/Board Lead(s)Timing:

- **(Tanya)** Send working documents of Bylaws and Handbook to Carlo
- **(Carlo)** Take a pass at updating and send to Tanya by 11/3 so they can be included in the pre-read for our November board meeting (timing can be flexible if need be)

Wrap Up and Adjourn

- Reminder: Next Meeting: November 12th at 7:00 PM
- 10/25 End of Season MN Softball Directors Meeting; I'll plan to send notes!

Motion: Carlo

Second: Jodi

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Potential November/Future Agenda Topics:

- Winter Pitching/Catching Clinics
- Winter Try Softball Event (last year was in Feb)
- Spring SLP HS Youth Night
- Rental Equipment (Inventory and Go-Forward Plan)
- Spring Uniforms (New Design, New Vendor, Roll Costs into tuition? etc.)
- Field Space Assessment
- Mental Health Training Opportunities
- 2024 Board Meeting Calendar
- Spring Field Maintenance
- Fundraising Opportunities

Appendix A | 2023 Board Meetings

Day	Date	Location
Sunday	January 22, 2023 @ 7:30pm	TBD
Sunday	February 19, 2023 @ 7:30pm	TBD
Sunday	March 5, 2023 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Monday	March 6, 2023 @ 7:00pm (Parent Meeting)	ZOOM
Sat/Sun	March 25 & 26, 2023 @ TBD (Evaluations)	NSC Expo Center
Monday	March 27, 2023 @ 7:00pm (Team Selection)	TBD
Saturday	All Teams must be registered on the BigWest Website	N/A
Monday	April 10, 2023 (Big West Schedule Meeting) – 10U/12U @ 6pm & 14U/HS @ 8pm	Medina Entertainment
Sunday	April 16, 2023 @ 7:30pm	TBD
Sunday	May 7, 2023 @ 9:00pm	TBD
Sunday	June 11, 2023 @ 8:00pm	TBD
Sunday	July 16, 2023 @ 8:00pm	TBD
Sunday	August 2, 2023 @ 7:00pm	Zoom
Sunday	September 10, 2023 @ 7:30pm	TBD
Sunday	October 15, 2023 @ 7:30pm	TBD
Sunday	November 12, 2023 @ 7:00pm	TBD
Sunday	December 10, 2023 @ 7:00pm	TBD

Appendix B | Important Dates

Event	Dates	Location
Big West Director Meeting	1/23/2023	Medina Entertainment Center
Big West Coach Schedule Meeting	4/10/2023	Medina Entertainment Center
8U League Meeting	4/13/2023	Maxx Bar and Grill
10U & 12U State Qualifier	6/24/23-6/25/23	TBD
10U & 12U State Tournament	7/8/23-7/9/23	TBD
14U & 16U State Qualifier	7/15/23-7/16/23	TBD
Monsta Championships 10U	7/20/23-7/23/23	TBD
NAFA Nationals 10U & 12U	7/20/23-7/23/23	Cottage Grove & Eagan
14U & 16U State Tournament	7/22/23-7/23/23	TBD
USA Softball Nationals	TBD	TBD
NAFA Nationals 14U & 16U	7/27/23-7/30/23	Prior Lake/Lakeville & Coon Rapids
Club Evaluations can begin	7/31/23	TBD
Monsta Championships 12U/14U	8/3/23-8/6/23	Mounds View
Fall Ball Meeting	8/9/2023	Medina Entertainment Center
Fall Ball Weekend #1	8/19/23-8/20/23	TBD
Fall Ball Weekend #2	8/26/23-8/27/23	TBD
Fall Ball Weekend #3	9/9/23-9/10/23	TBD
Fall Ball Weekend #4	9/16/23-9/17/23	TBD
Fall Ball State Tournament	9/23/23-9/24/23	TBD
Year-End Directors Meeting	10/25/23	Medina Entertainment Center

