

April 2025 Soderville Baseball Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 04/13/2025
Present: Eric P., Nate, Eric L., Corryn, Tim S., Terry, Sophia, Troy
Not Present: Greg

Call to order at 5:00 PM

Approval of Committee Minutes for December:

Tim motioned to approve March 2025 meeting minutes. Nate second the motion. Motion carried by committee vote.

Public Forum:

Katie Aronson and Aleshia Sydness were present and expressed to observe the meeting and consider joining the baseball committee. Katie and Aleshia introduced themselves. Present committee members introduced themselves.

Old Business

- Storage Container Mural
Eric P. talked with the muralist again to give more details on the mural. The muralist is not interested in doing the mural(s) on the storage container. We will need to investigate other options.
- Diamond Doctor (late spring/early summer) – *Estimated cost is \$1500 per field for Soderville field and City Park Field #3. There is an opening for this work in mid-May. We need to decide if we want to move forward with this.*
- Handle for Storage Container – *Nate has the new handle. We need to cut off a bolt to remove the old handle. This work is not yet planned.*

New Business

- Sophia Schesso treasurer duties – *Sophia Schesso has expressed interest in taking over the Treasurer role on the baseball committee. Nate has been getting her account setup so she can take on the role. Nate motioned to add Sophia Schesso at the treasurer position. Tim second the motion. Motion carried by committee vote.*
- Registration numbers (as of 4/13/25)
 - 445 players (436 in 2024)
 - Full at 12U, 14/15U and 16/17U. *Still accepting late registration for 13U.*
- Help with fields next Saturday 4/19 – *The current plan is to work on the fields and hang nets for the batting cages. Nate will send out an email about volunteer opportunities for this work.*
- Purchase clay for Soderville Field and City #3 (\$33.30/50 lb bag at Site One) – *Committee members briefly investigated cost from other sources via internet searches. No better price options were found in this brief search. Plan is to purchase 6 bags per field.*
- List of things we want the city to do to improve or maintain the park – *Corryn recommended we develop a list of things the committee would like the City of Ham Lake to do to maintain and improve the fields and parks. The committee developed the list of items as follows:*
 - *Add electrical outlet near batting cages for pitching machine use in cages*
 - *Paint foul poles*
 - *Add light for the flagpole and install a new rope*
 - *Add slats to fence for sun screen behind field 2*
 - *Repair shed at Ham Lake Field*
- Committee Shirts or Hats – *A proposal was expressed to obtain shirts or some type of apparel to make it easier to identify baseball committee members at events like tournaments, uniform try-ons, etc. We will need to budget for this*

expense. Add to next month's agenda to decide whether to include in the 2025 budget, the 2026 budget, or not pursue.

- Tournament team – Add to agenda for the next meeting.
- Move to A Baseball for 13U and 15U – This was initially discussed in the February meeting. We need to develop plans to investigate this option for 13U and 15U. Table discussion until future meetings.
- Committee Positions –
 - Umpire Coordinator
 - Junior League Coordinator
 - Senior League Coordinator
 - 2026 Soderville Classic Chair/Coordinator

Nate and Eric P. summarized the responsibilities of each of these open positions.

 - Katie Aronson expressed interest in accepting the Umpire Coordinator role. Troy motioned to add Katie to the Baseball Committee in the Umpire Coordinator Role. Tim second motion. Motion carried by committee vote.
 - Aleshia Sydness expressed interest in joining the committee in a Committee Member at Large role. Troy motioned to add Aleshia to the Baseball Committee in a Committee Member at Large role. Nate second motion. Motion carried by committee vote.

Committee Reports

- Budget
 - The current baseball account balance is approximately \$85K. Need to review actuals vs. plan
- Tournaments -
 - Soderville/Ham Lake Classic May 9-11
 - Need help on Friday during the day to get ready for the tournament – still open
 - Need Tournament Site Directors – still open
 - Order flowers – Complete

Reviewed tournament schedule. No changes recommended. Agreed we will go by MYAS rules for this tournament.
 - A-Town Classic (12U ONLY): May 31 - June 1 – No discussion, note date.
 - Anders Flaa Tournament (13U and 14/15U): June 20-22 – No discussion, note date.
 - 6U/8U Tournament: July 11-13 – No discussion, note date.
 - 12U All-Stars: July 15th – No discussion, note date.
 - 10U/12U Tournament: July 18-20 – No discussion, note date.
 - Gopher State All-Star: August 2 Lions and City – No discussion, note date.
- Junior League Baseball (6U-10U) – No new discussion.
- Senior League Baseball (12U and up)
 - Discussed minor coaching issue with one team at 12U.
 - Scheduling is coming up for 13U and 15U.
 - 12U has been asking about portable mounds. The committee agreed we will allow 12U use of the portable mounds but coaches must take them off the fields after games. Eric P. will send out email to 12U coaches explaining this.
- Tournament Team Baseball – No discussion.
- Uniforms – All uniform deliveries are on track. Corryn recommended ordering some online store items for sale throughout the season. Troy will check into this.

- *Equipment – Eric L. will buy new catcher’s gear. Discussed new process for getting gear bags back and re-assembling gear bags in the fall. Discussed plan to check with Banner Canvas in Ham Lake for possibility of repair/reinforcement of the end of the gear bags that get the most wear.*
- *Development & Training – Eric L. has talked with the owner of The Ballpark about training opportunities for Soderville Baseball. Work will continue on this.*
- *Umpire Coordinator – This role is now filled by Katie. Eric P. will talk with Gail to make her aware of Katie’s role for Soderville Baseball.*

Other

- *Banners will be up the second week in May*
- *Mounds*
 - *Plan for portable mounds during season will be discussed at coaches meetings*
 - *Lions Park is still not in great condition, but all other fields are good. Currently either all fields are released for use or no fields are released for use – based on the condition of the worst fields. The Baseball Committee would like to know why the fields that are in good condition cannot be released for use. This topic may be discussed further in the SBAA Board Meeting.*

Next meeting date set for May 4th, 2025 at 5:00PM (tentative time)

Tim motioned to adjourn meeting, Eric L. 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM