

SABSA Board Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2018  
St. Anthony Community Center, Room CS9

Attendees: Natalie Dougherty, Katie Brustad, Sara Strain, Kathy Derr, Teresa Turner, Lora Kohan, Karl Pollard, Eric Thornbloom, Derek Stendahl, Deb Grillo, Scott Mc Cleary, Jerry Welch, Andrew Kagol, Brian Ramsey, Erik Lindgren, Rick Ballot, Tony Brown, Aaron Rosha, Al Bates, Rossi Cannon, Danielle Bogucki, Will Timmins, Pat Clark

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Al Bates, who then turned over the chairing of the (Annual/Voting) Meeting to Vice-President Rossi Cannon, who was running unopposed for re-election.

Introductions:

We went around the room with attendees introducing themselves and mentioning their daughter(s)' age group.

Approval of Minutes:

Danielle Moved to approve the November 18 Meeting Minutes, Rossi Seconded. The motion passed.

President's Update:

- Al expressed thanks to outgoing board members Lora and Danielle for their service, Natalie for her service as Secretary, and Kirsten Stendahl, Pat Clark, and Teresa Turner for the time they had put in this year.
- Al reported on the December 3 Tri-County League Directors' Meeting he attended, mentioning a League movement towards a Coach Disciplining Process – when Umpires issue warnings to Coaches - which will be finalized at the next Tri-County Meeting in March. Also, we had asked for clarification about who pays for the Umpire when a game is rescheduled. It was clarified that the team that hosts the rescheduled game is the one that pays for the Umpire.
- The dates and times have been set for the MFA Winter Skills Clinics at the SAVHS gyms this year; we will be doing a 3-session format.
- Finally, Al had a conversation with Lamar Brendemuehl regarding the miscommunication surrounding a SAVHS Teams – SABSA Teams tournament conflict during a weekend in the summer season. The confusion happened regarding a tournament that had been added to the HS Teams' schedule on a weekend that there was also a 12U Tournament. In the coming year, Lamar will try to do a better job about getting the HS Teams' tournament schedules out earlier so that SABSA Coaches & Players will know when the HS Teams are playing.

#### Treasurer's Report (Al):

- As of the end of October the SABSA Bank Balance was \$17, 615.15, which is the latest information from the Boosters Treasurer.
- Al will continue to pursue software for 2019.
- A Draft 2019 Budget was presented for consideration under New Business.

#### Director of Player and Coach Development's Report (Danielle):

- The current Pitching Clinic is full and there is a waiting list.
- We are waiting to hear back from MFA with possible dates on a Catching Clinic.
- Al offered to email out notices about additional pitching clinic opportunities as they come up.

#### Coaches' Update:

No reports.

#### Coordinators' Updates:

Equipment (Al): We have rented out a set of Catcher Gear to a Player attending Catching Clinics.

Fields: No report.

Umpires: We still need a Coordinator. Al mentioned that Tri-County had requested that every Association have a Umpires Coordinator.

Spirit Wear and Online Store (Erik & Rossi): The holiday sales were not as good as last year. Erik expressed that we may have saturated the market. Nonetheless, we should clear about \$200. Rossi will be picking up the Spirit Wear from the vendor and deliver it next week.

Uniforms (Erik): Nothing to report.

Fundraising (Andrew Kagol): Sponsorship letters went out this week, if you have any questions or ideas of additional potential letter recipients, please see Andrew. We discussed not mailing to DQ and Jersey Mike's, but putting their logos on the banner in recognition of the support that they give us in separate fundraisers.

HDC Liaison Report (Scott McCleary): Nothing to report.

#### Old Business:

Regarding the finalizing of the timing of Evaluations, Al is waiting to hear back from Troy. Baseball has Captains' Practice the morning that Evaluations are scheduled, and Troy is exploring options.

Further regarding Evaluations (and Team Selection) procedures, concerns regarding closed meetings and a lack of parent input were raised by Parent (Members) Attendees. The consensus of the Board was expressed that it is helpful when an open parent forum is held, followed by closed (meetings) for team formation finalization. Al & Rossi added that we had also had recent discussion along those lines, and the Board created a sequence-of-meetings format\* to address that. This format does include a “Listening Session” to solicit Membership Comments. (\*See October 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes).

#### Back Burner items:

- Karl Pollard reported that his team had a great experience at Nationals. Karl also mentioned that going to Nationals involves a lot of work, adding 3 weeks onto the summer season, and the Players who went to Nationals only had a couple of days off before Fall Ball started.
- *Designated ‘pickup spot’ at the end of the Villagefest Parade – awaiting Villagefest planning, not discussed.*
- *Ice Cream Social – not discussed.*
- *End-of-the-Year Party – not discussed.*
- *Winter Hitting Clinics – not discussed.*

#### New Business:

- 2019 Elections:
  - All Candidates introduced themselves and spoke to why they were running for office. A Question and Answer session for the Presidential Candidates, Natalie Dougherty and Al Bates, followed.
  - An Election Official was sought to distribute the pre-printed ballots and tally election results. Retiring Board Member Laura Kohan was accepted from the volunteers.
  - Voting and tallying followed, and the results were announced as follows:

President: Al Bates

Vice-President: Rossi Cannon

Treasurer: Erik Lindgren

Secretary: *(none chosen; position is vacant)*

Members at Large: Katie Brustad  
Andrew Kagol  
Sara Strain

- Budget Presentation:
  - The initial Draft Budget was presented.
  - Discussion followed, including:

- The price of the upcoming Winter Skills Clinics and affirmation of the desire to keep holding them. Al will send out an email to the Membership advertising the Clinics.
  - Raising the tournament budget to \$600 for each Fastpitch team. The consensus was to provide for two in-season tournaments or \$600 for each Fastpitch team.
  - Having outside evaluators come in to do our Evaluations, and the related cost and perceived benefits.
    - Danielle recapped the research she had done on potential outside evaluators with MFA, Macalester College Softball, and Flexx Sports. Macalester Softball appeared to be the lowest cost option at about \$1,200.
    - Danielle Moved to proceed to use outside evaluators and have Macalester Softball be the outside evaluators for the 10U-14U groups in 2019. Natalie Seconded.
    - Al offered an Amendment that we investigate with Macalester Softball to see if they would consult on our process to recommend improvements, rather than provide evaluators. The Amendment died for lack of a Second.
    - Voting followed on the original Motion to use Macalester Softball as our outside evaluators. The Motion failed, with votes recorded as 1-Yes, 3-No, 1-Abstention.
  - Discussion followed regarding ways other than employing outside evaluators to improve our Evaluations, Coach Selection, and Team Formation Processes. Jerry Welch offered that 7<sup>th</sup> Graders should be offered the option to play 14U, as the 14U schedule coincides better with the HS Teams' schedules. There will be follow-up discussions to come.
  - Discussion regarding Registration Fees for 2019 finished with a consensus to leave them unchanged from last year, as Fastpitch fees were raised last year.
- There was discussion regarding the Parent Survey of Coaches: the questions, the reporting, and potential use by the Coach Selection Committee. Rossi Cannon and Deb Grillo volunteered their expertise to assist in this area.

Next Meetings:

January Meeting: January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Village Pub – Restaurant Side

Pre-Evaluations/"February" Meeting: January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Village Pub – Rest. Side

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Natalie Dougherty, 2018 Secretary & Al Bates, 2018 President