



Mankato Peppers Softball

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Peppers Training Facility

Officers

President:

Ryan Kapsner X

Vice-President: Dan Grack X

Secretary:

Kelly Biedscheid

Treasurer:

Brenda Stevermer

Positions:

Tournament

Director:

Phil Tostenson X (via Zoom)

Organizational Coordinator:

Ashley Staunton X

Equipment

Manager:

Marty Ray

Concession:

Stephanie Davis

Members

Eric Davis X

Grant Poehler

Jamie Aanenson

JJ Helget X

Kelly Terrell X

Mike Kirchoff X

Ryan Altmann X

Bob Elsen X

Brittany Schloesser X

Next meeting

Scheduled:

03/11/26

Peppers Facility

Agenda

- Welcome and introduction Called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Ryan Kapsner
- Adoption and/or correction of the minutes of the last meeting – **Voting Item All voted in favor to adopt the minutes from last meeting**
- Financial Report – **Voting Item** Ryan reviewed financial reports. Checks for large sponsorships will be arriving soon. Some larger expenses will be coming out and that'll be about all for facility expenses. Cash position looks good. Player fees continue to come in. **All voted in favor to adopt the financial report.**

Committee Reports

- Tournaments: **(Phil)** Provided an update on status of all tournaments. May Madness - 24 of 32 teams. Showdown is just starting to get going. Rising Star: 32 of 48 teams - we had 44 last year. Classic: 61 teams so far, Phil will be adding on 2 Peppers Nationals teams and possibly the 14B team - the 14A and 14B teams may be combined due to not having enough players. Monsta Championship (we're hosting only): 14 teams signed up so far.
- Umpires- **(Rose)** Ryan talked to Rose and she will still be our coordinator. Will try to get her to attend the next meeting. No further update yet.
- Concessions: **(Steph/Eric)** Steph is going to start conversations with HyVee to determine if it's feasible to collaborate with them or continue doing concessions the old way. If we have HyVee, we'll have less volunteers.
- Equipment **(Marty)**- Equipment bags need to be gone through. We want to ensure our equipment bags have up to date equipment. Needs to be done in the next couple of weeks. Scheels would like the opportunity to bid on equipment. Eric will email Scheels to get an idea of turnaround time for ordering equipment.
- Summer Travel/Dome- **(JJ/Dan/RyanK/KellyT/Bob)**- 7 players are registered for 8u. 2 coaching applicants. Tryouts are March 1st. Warmup clinic starts this weekend. 10u teams are done registering for tournaments. 12u teams are almost done. 14u and 16u are almost done as well. JJ will circle back to coaches on which teams are

playing in a league. JJ will circle back with NAFA - 3 teams for sure are registered. 16A is going to do NAFA. 16B has paid the fee but hasn't registered. Background checks and concussions - 26 of 48 are done. JJ will resend to coaches to get that stuff completed for all coaches. 8U - we had discussed pitching development. A couple years ago they played in a 10U SSL equivalent league to develop pitching; last year they played only in 8u league with pitching machine only. What direction should we encourage they go to develop more pitching? A discussion continued amongst the Board. Most agreed that it would be good to have them play 10u league to help develop pitching and play 8u tournaments. Discussed doing more camps with Peppers Nationals to offset their tournament fee to the Classic. There are 2 applicants for coaching - how soon do we want to get on having them register for tournaments? Travel committee and Phil will get them signed up knowing they can back out later to ensure they don't run into difficulties with registering. Ashley will continue to send reminders about registration to boost numbers.

- **In-House/Lil Peppers/Fall Ball**

(**KellyB/Mike/Brittney/Eric**) Registration for In-House is open. Numbers are down. Ashley will continue to promote and send reminders to boost numbers. Committee meetings have been set. Registration for Lil Peppers is not open yet.

- **Marketing/Social Media (Emily/Brenda/KellyB/Ashley)**

✓ **Website/Facebook/Instagram/Social Media- EZFacility** is up and running. Board members are playing around with it. One downfall is members can't delete their bookings on their own - admin needs to do that. When you reserve, do so under parent name otherwise won't work. Will need to include that in the instructions. Brenda met with marketing firm (Forward Minded Media out of the metro area). Website needs an overhaul. The firm will create marketing videos, spotlight players, do interviews, etc. Cost will be \$6,000-\$10,000 to overhaul all of that. Board agrees that we need some marketing help. May invite marketing firm to come down and make a pitch. Discussions will continue and a decision will be made at a later date.

- **Jerseys/ Peppers Apparel**

(**Brenda/Eric/KellyT/Brittney/Mike**) Committee is meeting Monday - they are close to making decisions. Will have pricing and selections at that meeting. Do we send out on social media to get input or just make the decision? Looking at rolling out a new logo. Maybe do 1 with old logo and 1 with new logo. More to come - the sooner the better. Committee will provide options to the Board. Need to have sleeves - most girls don't like tanks anyways. Needs to have room for OFC logo because they

are a big sponsor. Will continue doing online stores.

- **Sponsorships (RyanK/Eric/Grant/Bob)** Ryan and Bob have been working on sponsorship spreadsheet. There's a bunch of businesses we haven't contacted yet. Biggest thing is to get the ones back that haven't committed to a long-term sponsorship. We need a 4th pitching lane sponsor. Sponsorship committee will continue to push that.

- **Gambling/Fundraising (Eric/KellyB/JJ/Dan)**- Eric got a little information on raffles. Going to try doing some raffles during tournaments. JJ has a tentative date reserved (Friday, August 14th) for a golf tournament with Terrace View. Would like to set up a meeting with the Blue Earth County Gambling committee so we can start doing pulltabs, etc. to get some recurring revenue coming in.

- **HOF/Foundation (Brenda/KellyT/Brittney)** - are going to meet to begin moving forward. Things are finalized with Maschkas for the lobby. Everything will look very nice once finished.

- **Facility (Dan/Mike/RyanA/Brenda/Grant/Eric)**- Turf is in. First clinic is Sunday. Fencing needs to go in and nets need to be buttoned down so they're tight. Final TV needs to be hung. There will be a computer at the facility. Ryan Altmann will assist in getting that set up. Will try to get things open next week. Do we roll it out to certain teams first? Monday (10U), Tuesday (12U + Kirchoff), Wednesday (Poehler + 16U) next week - will help families sign up and get their fobs - not to use the facility yet. Open to public on Thursday, February 19th. Board should clean this weekend. Messages will be sent on Band. April 18th is the grand opening with Maschkas. HyVee have food catered in. April 18th and 19th is bagging groceries at HyVee to help raise money for your team. Sign ups will be coming.

- **Camps/Development (JJ/KellyB/RyanA/Bob/Jamie)** Sam Macken coming down - we've reserved times on June 9th at Thomas to do a clinic.

Old Business

New Requests- Discussion and voting items

➤ Walker – Habaneros coming to talk about partnerships Walker, GM of Moondogs and Habaneros, and Noah Vos, Assistant GM, were present at the meeting. Discussed Peppers in the Park - would love to do that again this year. Provided a couple of date options. Discussed a specialty jersey the weekend of the Peppers Classic and rebranding the Habaneros for that weekend as the "Mankato Peppers", this also will be done for Peppers in the Park night. Discussed a silent auction of specialty jerseys at the end of season to get some money back to

the Peppers. Discussed Habaneros team's overall season and successes. Provided handouts (schedules, etc.). There's a sixth team added to the league - the league continues to grow. Would love to continue a partnership between Peppers and Habaneros. Would like a list of coach contacts so they can reach out to them. Discussed camps that they're planning for the summer - will send more information. Would like information on sponsoring Peppers again this summer.

➤ **Fundraising Cards** Eric emailed his contact for the fundraising cards. Committee met. Should we build something like that to give players an opportunity to pay down fees? If we commit to them, they'll give extra cards to sell in concessions, do an inside fundraiser at the golf tournament - extra ways to recoup cash. Cards would be Mankato based and Twin Cities based. Cards cost \$20 a piece. Cards give you the greatest return on your investment. Jersey Mikes will do a fundraiser too and do 50% of the sales. HyVee will also allow our players to sit in their lobby (Jersey Mikes too) and sell cards. Company will give us cards to sell at concessions. Thinking of starting this in the summer to start preparing kids for next season and paying fees. May be a volunteer opportunity if cards are being sold at tournaments. Cards need to be paid for up front - that's a reservation. Eric will see if they can do something different for us so families don't need to pay for cards up front. JJ will discuss with the guy he uses for West Football to see what they would offer. Discussed Kwik Trip cards - which one would do better? Will continue to look into fundraising opportunities to lower fees as they increase. Eric has a call with BW3 to discuss a future fundraiser.

Adjournment – Voting Item JJ motioned to adjourn. Dan 2nd. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.