

BASEBALL MEETING NOTES
May 9, 2010

Those in Attendance

Jim Hauge
Rich Sjodin
J. Rumpca
Becki Boldt
Brian Jachymowski
Shelly Sieben
Dale Wippler
Jennifer Geiselhart
Rob Germinaro
Jeff Rustom
Scott Leffler
Jeff Lathrop
Nick Vetter
Tricia Olson

Treasurer Report

-We spent approximately \$70,000 last year. Dale messed up the checkbook somewhat but he got someone to help him and he now needs to go back and re-enter the information up through March, 2010. Dale has done all the refunds for the credit card paying families and still has five people that need to be paid by check and he will get those done soon. Dale has a check to give to Mike Haubner for the fences at Alpine.

New/Old Business

- The fences at Alpine are now done except the yellow plastic at the top.
- We have had mixed reports about Alpine Field #1. Some maintenance issues are occurring but it should get better when the city help arrives for the summer. However, no coaches should be calling the city directly about these issues. It is a big no-no. All calls need to be made to Mike Haubner and he will communicate with the city.
- We have some In-House U9 teams starting to play at Rivers Bend; we need to make sure the umps are notified.
- Jennifer Geiselhart wanted to know if we officially changed the name of our Coaches Pitch level to be Machine Pitch? Some families are confused and do not realize this is one in the same level. Jennifer was not aware the name change had taken place.
- Jennifer Geiselhart brought up that a U11 game had recently been scheduled too late; it didn't start until 8 p.m. Apparently the game before them ran late so theirs started even later. Rich Sjodin indicated we lost some fields from last year so we had to schedule some games later. Rich also mentioned all games are suppose to be at an one hour and 50 minute time limit and the games should then end regardless of the score, even if it is a tie. Rich will send out an email to all coaches to remind them that ties are okay. We may also want to make sure the umpires are aware of this since they umpire all over and each city has different rules. Jennifer feels we should not schedule later games next year because it is simply too late for the boys to still be out,

especially when school is still going. However, Rich stated we are restricted by the city and it will probably actually get worse next year as some fields will not be maintained. We do have lights at the Central Park and they automatically should go out at 10:00 p.m.

In-House News

- Brian Jachymowski inquired if his 13/15 year old teams could get a sponsor for a tournament. Rob said you can. The sponsor should give the check to ARAA and then we would pay the tournament fee. The sponsor would also receive a plaque for the donation. However, the uniforms cannot be changed in any way; the sponsor's name cannot appear on the uniforms at all.

- Jim Hauge would like to add U9 to the extended season and have it open for a \$40 registration.

- Jim brought up the discussion of doing four individual levels for the extended season, 9, 10, 11 and 12's instead of combining 9s and 10s and 11s and 12s. He said the 10s last year did well and they all went into traveling this year. If we have four separate levels we have a higher chance that more of them will try out for traveling next year. This way we could also have more kids playing and experiencing ball. We would need to check with the other communities to see what they are doing; we probably cannot do four separate levels if the other communities are doing two and combining their ages.

- It was mentioned that Randy Barker had voiced an interest in taking over the All-Star Coordinator Position. Rob has spoken to Andover already and they are in for this year.

- We had a quick discussion about the May 21-22 Open Season tournament. Are we doing a cookout or any special hoopla? Jim Hauge brought up having all the teams arrive at one time for a big In-House Group Picture. We went over the possibilities of having it Friday night or Saturday. With work and the weekend traffic we thought it best to avoid Friday night and try for Saturday. It was asked if we had someone with a camera that can do a panoramic photo. Shelly Sieben put a call into someone that does photography.

- Becki Boldt's uncle owns a grocery store so she can get all the food donated for a cookout. She will get hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, chips, pop and Gatorade. Jeff Rustom and Rob said they would run the grill. We were going to have traveling teams run the concessions but no one has contacted any teams. We will have to find someone to help run the cookout.

Volunteer Coordinator & Uniforms

- Shelly Sieben feels that the volunteer requirements are getting out of control. We had tons of people getting upset, they are confused by the requirements, it is taking a lot of time tracking all the money for every family, etc. Shelly and Jennifer Geiselhart are feeling it is too much work for the goal we had been trying to obtain by it. We also have circumstances where people cannot physically serve volunteer hours. We have seen grandparents that have custody of their grandkids and they cannot fulfill the volunteer requirement and it just penalizes them to have to pay \$50. Shelly suggested we get rid of collecting money and just basically recruit people to fill certain jobs as they are needed throughout the season and for the tournaments and take the money requirement out of the picture. There are families that cannot afford it physically and financially. Shelly said the uniform handouts were complete chaos. Rob feels we could probably tweak the volunteer system but that we should not stop it. Softball is starting this same sort of process and most other sports have done this sort of system for awhile now. Most families have come to expect it for the most part. We may need to better communicate our requirements for new families to avoid the confusion. We may need to look at also having ARAA change

demosphere so new families can go in and create their family information but not register for a sport at that time. Once they enter their family information they will start receiving all emails and communications. This will help new families become aware of the volunteer policy and requirements ahead of time. Nick Vetter brought up the idea that other sports organizations do their volunteer requirements by team instead of individual families. If they team does not fulfill their volunteer job then their next game is a forfeit. Team moms come into play and would track the team's requirement and when it was fulfilled. Jeff Rustom mentioned it seems we have a few families that make a big stink for the hundreds of families we have involved. Most families have been fine with it. Maybe we should go back to the team moms collecting the volunteer checks and signing up for jobs and tracking when things are accomplished instead of Jennifer and Shelly.

Picture Representative

- Shelly Sieben had a huge headache this year with scheduling pictures. So many communication issues occurred. First she was not told about the equipment handout dates. She usually tries to attend these nights and have picture packets all ready. When she did call Sports Star to schedule teams she found they were already booked for most dates and only had a few available. She then scheduled pictures and found out there was a Gopher State mandatory coaches meeting on one of the nights so she had to cancel those and get them all rescheduled. If she would have been informed by someone in traveling of this mandatory meeting she could have avoided that night to begin with and if she had been notified of the equipment handout dates she would have started working getting the schedules going earlier. We need to really work on better communication amongst ourselves next year.

Traveling Update

- All coaches need to make certain they are aware of each tournament's rules before the tournament. We had a team kicked out because they were unaware of a pitching rule and the opposing team filed a protest after the game.