

Soderville Athletic Association
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 7, 2007

Board Members in Attendance

Steve Voss	President
Rodney Gillund	Vice President
Phil Morem	Treasurer
Brad Eppenberger	
Jim Jarvi	
Curtis Moe	
Marty Tynda	
Paul Krenz	
Dale Blonigen	
Greg Stephani	
Doug Evans	
Terry Speckel	
Brian Braden	

Not in Attendance

Others in Attendance

Nancy Nelson
Mike Nelson
Jeff Arvold

Meeting called to order by Steve Voss at 7:32 pm.

Paul K. made a motion to approve the December 10, 2006 meeting minutes, Phil M. seconded, motion approved.

Public forum – none

New Business

Coaches Clinic – Brian Raabe did the coaches clinic at Oak View Middle School last year and it was about 2 hours long, it was free for the coaches and Steve V. says we are interested in having him do this again this year, Steve V. would like to get a decision made tonight on if we would like to do this again, Mike N. made the comment that we should do this, Paul K. made the motion that the Board approve up to \$500 to be used for this, Greg S. seconded the motion, motion approved.

2007 Registration – Steve V. has updated the website, the online will be for credit card only, they will have to do walk in to do a check, possibly do two Saturdays and one weekend night, Feb. 10th and 24th from 9-2 and Wed. the 28th from 5-9, last year we were very flexible about late registrations but this year we will not be able to as easy since we will have the Fundraising cards to send out, we will be communicating well so should not be a problem, The Board discussed and approved Steve V. is changing the refund policy for this year, to 90% refund until April 1st, 50% until May 1st, and 25% until June 1st, Steve will add on the website "If you are trying out for traveling do not register for SAA" – we need to try not to have double registrations this year as this makes the team formation confusing.

Coaches – need to go to a coach application so they are not automatically a coach, so the will change the wording will be changed on the application so they know it is not automatic, and Steve V. would suggest The Board discussed and approved that we have selection committees to review them as they come in and decide, There was discussion around background checks for this year, Paul K. said North Metro will be doing the \$5 check this year as they have to do it every year for the Blaine League, Paul K. said that the Blaine Police Department does them also, Phil M. said he likes Paul's suggestion about doing the \$5 check this year, It was discussed that we will do the head coaches only and the Board members and do the \$5 check this year for those coaches that had the full background check in 2006. All new coaches would receive the full background check.

Umpires – Steve said he added a box to the umpire registration form to ask how many years of experience they have, other than that it will be the same as last year.

Volunteer program – ~~Steve V. is~~ The Board discussed and approved including the traveling fastpitch teams in this program.

The registration flyer is coming from Mark Yaeger with the change of the date to 2007.

Postcards – Nancy N. will work with Mick's printing on these.

Flyers – Curtis Moe and Marty Tynda will help Nancy get the fliers to the schools, Steve V. has signs that Jim Jarvi will make SAA signs for.

Field requests/attend meetings – field scheduling will be a process that will continue but Mike N., Nancy N, Steve V., Paul K., Rodney G. talked about this before the meeting and got some of the tournaments scheduled on a calendar; Marty T. and Phil M. will attend the East Bethel meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 7:15pm.

Steve V. spoke with Luke Scardigli about St. Francis Traveling Baseball wanting to rent a couple nights a week at Booster Park from us, even if they could get one field two nights a week that would be helpful.

Last year we had on the registration form that they could request coaches and friends, some players requested coaches they had never had before, ~~Steve V.~~ The Board discussed and approved changed-changing the registration form to state that you can select a coach you played for last year or you can select a friend to play with but not both, it also states there is no guarantee since there are many challenges in doing this.

Committee Reports:

Concessions – Steve V. reported that Rhonda Rodger resigned her position as Concessions Coordinator today so we are in need of a concessions coordinator for the upcoming season, we also had discussed having an assistant position, Steve V. will send an email out to the association about these open positions.

Umpires – Dale B. and Doug E. met earlier and they discussed that they will give the kick back on the equipment if they do so many games again this year; they want to do more hands on training with the umpires; they are still looking for someone to be the scheduler, Dale B. said his wife may be interested in doing this and he will know by the next meeting; Doug said it would be good if there was somewhere to hang up the equipment to dry out at the fields; Doug E. reported that they may have a floater in case an umpire does not show up, it would be about a 10% increase in cost to do this; Doug would like to talk to the coordinators this year to let them know what is expected from the umpires.

In-house fastpitch – Jim Jarvi checked on the differences in how many games the girls are not playing the are doing high school and SAA fastpitch, Tom Wherry said they can play both they would just want them to play the high school game over the others if there was an overlap, it was decided this actually only affects the traveling players and not in-house so Jim and Mike N. will discuss this outside the meeting.

In-house baseball (Junior) – there was discussion about deciding if we should split the 9's and 10's into two leagues, Greg S. is wondering if we have enough kids to split the league and Steve V. that yes, there are plenty of kids, Brad E. thinks we should keep the 9's and 10's together so the younger kids are playing with the better ball players as this helps them excel as ball players and it was decided not to split them up; we have decided we will not be doing tryouts; discussion around if it is a good idea to split the league part way through the season and that will be discussed further at another meeting.

In-house baseball (Senior) – Curtis M. reported he was trying to get with Tony Grof at MYAS and Steve V. would like to get to that meeting too, Curtis will also let Greg S. know when that meeting is, Curtis said Tony's feeling isn't so strong on us having stacked teams but just trying to get it fair for other associations, Paul K. can get a \$5 discount for the MYAS coaches clinic if anyone goes to that, Steve V. asked Curtis if there has been any discussion about what will be happening with the age group split and more discussion needs to happen on that.

Traveling fastpitch – Steve V. sent an email out today and talked with both Jeff A. and Mike N. about the changes that have been discussed for the fastpitch and traveling baseball, fastpitch will have their own checkbook, provide a financial

summary for SAA, in terms of the financials going forward is the fact that the tournaments bring in a lot of concessions revenue and there are administration costs that traveling did not pay for, for the kids in their program the registration fees go to the Traveling Fastpitch ledger, gate fees also go to their ledger, SAA in turn provides the concession stands and all the revenue from that stays with SAA, a paid field worker would also be provided (as available) and as many volunteers as possible, it is not as critical to have an exact dollar amount, main concern is to have their own checking account. Phil M. makes a motion to accept the financial relationship with traveling fastpitch and the concept of how their association will be ran, Paul K. seconded the motion, motion approved. We will wait to approve the new checking account at the next meeting.

Traveling baseball – North Metro wants to start a new league called The Blaine Area Traveling Baseball Association (BAT), it would be more associated with the high schools and the communities and they would have their own association, they have drafted By-laws and they would have a Board much like ours with 6 elected and 5 represented positions, someone from SAA would serve on their Board and the other leagues would also serve on their Board. North Metro would no longer exist after that association was officially formed. ~~they~~ They would still want to use the fields of Ham Lake so we would help with that, when they host tournaments the revenue from concessions comes to SAA, BAT would keep the revenue from gate fees, we would help with field maintenance and pay the person that would do this (when available). Steve V. reviewed the 2006 costs and revenues and estimated an administrative cost of about came up with a figure of \$90 a kid ~~for administrative costs,~~ he ~~He~~ projected it for 2007 and it should be far ~~was~~ less than for 2006. ~~our~~ Our net concessions revenue was 54% above costs ~~for concessions,~~ if ~~If~~ SAA is going to back what BAT is going to do we need to finalize the financials. Brian B. made a motion to say that the SAA Board of Directors supports the formation of BAT, Phil M. seconded the motion, motion approved;

~~They~~ The Board discussed that the SAA Rep. person would be expected to come to the monthly BAT meetings, but they would not have ~~but not to attend the "day-to-day" the other~~ meetings. Phil M. makes a motion to authorize the writing of an \$8,000 check to BAT from the North Metro account, Brian B. seconded, motion approved. Steve V. nominates Brian B. to be the SAA rep. Greg S. seconded the motion, motion approved. An alternate is also needed in case Brian is not able to make it, Greg S. was nominated to do this, Paul K. made the motion to have Greg S. be the alternate and Steve V. seconded the motion, motion approved.

Uniforms – Mark Seracki joined the meeting as he will be doing the uniforms again, he has spoke with Jim Hanson at Tahoe already and he does not see any price increases for this year so he is wondering if we want to go with them or if we want him to get other bids, it was a consensus that Tahoe did a pretty good job and we would stick with them, there was discussion that we will use the SAA logo hat and Tahoe has the logo as they did the hats two years ago when we used them before, Mark S. can get samples to look at; Mark S. asked if we are going to match coach shirts to the team colors or not and it was decided that we would go with the gray shirt instead this year, Mark will see if there is something a little nicer than a t-shirt, maybe the Henley; Mark will look at the light blue umpire shirt also; Mark S. wants to know what age to cut off for the shorts for the girls and it was decided that 8U girls would probably have shorts also, Mark S. will work with Nancy to let her know where he is at with it.

Field/Game Scheduling – Nancy N. will email to Phil M. the changes to the Booster field requests before the Wednesday meeting.

Equipment – Paul K. asked if anyone knows of anything we need to let him know, we are fine on baseballs, Paul K. is looking at replacing the bags and doing some this year and some the next year, he will start with the 16U girls and the 15U boys to get wheeled bags, Paul wants to have a volunteer day to reset the fields and explain how to use the fields to the coaches, Paul is wondering why the City never pulled the bases this year. Nancy will ask Tom Reiner why the bases have not been pulled this year.

Treasurer – Phil Morem had no report.

Fundraising – John Frank (Impact Fundraising) has 8 places already and is working on getting the rest of them, he then wants to meet again to talk about the final deal, he is talking about printing 10-12,000 cards and having 6 in each envelope.

Operations Manager Report – N. Nelson

\$500 Medtronic Donation received – this check was received thanks to Greg Ross that works for Medtronic.

Beacon order – Nancy is wondering what to order from Beacon this year, it was decided that she should order 3 pallets of chalk, Paul K. may want her to order some drying agent so he will decide and let her know.

Safe Deposit Box \$25 charge – Nancy reported that since this amount comes out of the gambling account and this account will be closing in May that this charge will have to be switched to another account. One of the signers on the gambling account will have to make this change.

Shelving at City concessions – Nancy reported that the city Ok'ed us to have shelving at the city concessions building in the storage area, Mike N. and Rodney G. are making plans to install these.

Snowbowl – Nancy needs to know if we are planning to have staff at the golf hole we are sponsoring for the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce Snowbowl on February 3rd, no one wants to do this so Nancy will print out a registration form and mail the \$100 to the Chamber. ~~The charge would be \$75 if we decided to staff the hole.~~

Old Business –

Building/training facility/program insurance - ~~DID WE EVEN DISCUSS THIS??~~To be discussed at a future meeting.

VFW Fundraiser – Rodney G. reported that this event will no longer be taking place.

Other

The next meeting is set for January 21, 2007 at 8:00pm.

Nancy will check with the website people to make sure the VISA thing is set up.

At the next meeting we need to talk about budgets before we go forward, Brian B. says Celia Waldock has the best budget.

Steve Voss has an assignment sheet to hand out to show that we have many positions we need help with and discussed that we should try to recruit more volunteers so the Board does not have to do the additional work.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Doug E., Paul K. seconded the motion, motion approved and meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.