

**Soderville Athletic Association**  
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2006

**Board Members in Attendance**

Steve Voss	President
Greg Stephani	Vice President
Phil Morem	Secretary
Rodney Gillund	
Dale Blonigen	
Doug Evans	
Randy McArthur	
Brad Eppenberger	

**Not in Attendance**

Brian Braden	Treasurer
Mark Domino	
Paul Krenz	

**Others in Attendance**

Celia Waldock  
Nancy Nelson  
Rhonda Rodger  
Brian Saba

Meeting called to order by Steve Voss at 8:06 pm.

Approval of the minutes from April 23, 2006. Randy McArthur made the motion to approve the minutes, Dale Blonigen seconded, motion approved.

**Public Forum** - none

**New Business**

**Addendum for East Bethel Ball Fields/Concession Stand/Expansion of Stand** - Steve Voss, Rhonda Rodger, Mark Domino, Terry Allen and Douglas Sell met two weeks ago and discussed the limitations of the concession stand. SAA is the main organization that uses their stand. East Bethel would like us to pay \$1,000 to use the stand, SAA would like that to be used to go towards upgrading the stand. We will discuss this again at the next meeting. Steve will talk to Doug Sell about this too.

**Trophies** – discussion around if Carl Stephenson is still interested in coordinating this; Phil Morem to contact him to see if he is going to; Phil wrote down information on what we need to order for trophies and medals; Brad to let Phil know what he wants for 16U/18U; Randy McArthur needs to know about trophies for the 10U/12U in-house invitational.

**Rules** – SAA specific rules for fastpitch are on the website, all the coaches know about it. There was discussion on clarification if the 10 run rule that the official score that should be reported is when the 10 run rule is reached; Rodney G. motioned to approve the fastpitch rules, Phil seconded the motion, motion approved.

Randy McArthur brought up how a coach wanted to allow six pitches, no strike outs in a game. Randy replied that we want to stick with the official rule of 3 strikes. When the season is over they will have a meeting about clarification of that rule and any others that are not clear. 8U question on how many coaches can be in outfield – 2 coaches can be. Discussion on the clarification on the drop third strike rule also. Phil Morem brought up that some of the 15U baseball players bought their own bats and they are not legal bats for that age group. Coaches have been discussing this before the game and coming up with a decision. They will have to use the proper bat for state. Doug Evans motioned to pass the updated rules, Randy McArthur seconded, rules approved.

**IRS penalty/letter** - SAA received a letter regarding the late filing of our taxes, the letter has been written but not sent. Celia Waldock is waiting for final input from Brian Braden and Steve Voss in order to send the letter out. Curtis Sharp filed the extension through November but nothing was filed after that.

**Possibility of hiring someone for field maintenance** - SAA is looking into hiring a person to change the bases, set the pitching mounds and chalk the fields when necessary. Rodney Gillund brought up that bases have always had to be moved in the past and the coaches just went a little early and moved the bases themselves. Rodney went to field 3 and put the plugs for the bases. Phil made the motion to hire someone for temporary help for this position at \$9.00/hour + mileage, Randy McArthur seconded it, motion approved. This position will report to Rodney Gillund. Rodney and Nancy will meet with the person interested in this position.

**Volunteer Coordinators Report** - Steve Voss, Nancy Bryand, Nancy Nelson, and Rhonda Rodger met to discuss how this procedure is going. We have dealt with issues of parents not wanting to volunteer. The schedule is out for the next month of games. Steve is sending out emails to the coaches to give them a "push" to get the parents to volunteer. We will have the stands stay open until 8:30pm so the umpires can put their gear in the stand. Some shelving has been installed in the East Bethel stand.

**Concessions Coordinator Report** – Rhonda Rodger reported that Ham Lake Park still does not have any shelves installed to help with organization there. We are not able to rent a refrigerator trailer from Coke anymore. Dale Blonigen has a cooler we can use and Phil has a trailer we can use to transport it. Dale also has an ice chest we can use at the building. The grill from the East Bethel concession stand is now in the dumpster. One grill called "The Big Event" was purchased for Ham Lake Park. Rhonda will purchase another one for Lion's Park tomorrow. The breaker at Ham Lake Park blows when there are two things plugged in. Rodney will take care of this problem. Rhonda will start having supply of products at the SAA building. Phil to reorganize the shelving next to the big garage door so Rhonda can use them for storage.

**Umpires** - Doug Evans reported that from 5/8 – 5/28 there have been 94 games played and 90 of those games had an umpire. They have received a lot of feedback on how it is going – good and bad. Randy McArthur commented that he has witnessed the umpires doing a good job. Steve Voss would like the umpires to sign waiver statements. Nancy Nelson helped the umpire coordinators with payroll by providing the "Certification of Services" forms they needed and writing the checks for the umpires that were given out at the umpire meeting on 5/21/06 at 6:00pm. Discussion on needing to establish a better infrastructure on training and rules. Doug Evans and Dale Blonigen are working with Nancy Nelson on payment of the umpire equipment. A motion was made by Doug Evans to pay the volunteer umpires that assist when an umpire does not show up, Brad Eppenberger seconded the motion, motion approved.

**In-house fastpitch** – Brad Eppenberger reported that everything is running smoothly in this league. Rodney is trying to move some of the 8U games back to the complexes when fields are empty.

**In-house baseball** – Randy McArthur reported that things are going well in this league.

**Senior baseball** – Doug Evans reported that things are going well in this league.

**Traveling fastpitch** – Rodney Gillund reported that the 16's will start playing at the end of June due to them playing for the high school now.

**North Metro** – Paul Krenz was not present to give an update.

**Field/Game scheduling** – Dale Blonigen will give us his key for Booster to give to the person we hire to do field maintenance. Rodney Gillund talked to East Bethel about cleaning up field #8. Rodney went to Burman's and put in a pitching mound. Rodney wants the umpires to let him know if there are any problems with the fields. Rodney said we can use the boxes at Blaine High School to put the bases in. Every coach will have a key and Rodney will make sure those are distributed. Pat Carlson is in charge of scheduling practices on the open fields. We have 3 more sets of Hollywood's coming. There are 2 extra bases at Booster, 3 at Ham Lake Park, but there may not be any at Lion's Park.

**Uniforms** – Coaches shirts will be ready Tuesday or Wednesday. Nancy/Mark Seracki will keep in touch with Tahoe on this. We will get an email out as soon as they are in to notify the coaches of when the pick up will be.

**Photos** – Discussion that Digital Eyes is not always calling coaches back in a timely manner. Steve Voss reported that there are over 40 teams scheduled to have their pictures done. Steve sent him the SAA logo to use in processing the photos.

**By-Laws/Policies** – Phil Morem reported that he would prefer to set a special meeting to discuss this subject. SAA needs to have a mission statement and new By-laws by the annual meeting set for October 2006.

**Operations Manager Report** – Nancy Nelson reported that there are approximately 40 registrations we have not received payment for. She will send out emails and copy the coach on these that the player will not be able to continue participating without making payment.

Discussion around waiving the fee for 2 players on a team due to hardship and it was decided that Steve would call the families and discuss this further with them. A coach also requested not to pay for his daughter and Nancy will call to request to see proof that they receive reduced lunches.

Another pallet of chalk was ordered to be here this week. We are sharing shipping charges with Meadow Creek school as they needed a pallet of chalk also.

Maxx Bar and Grill called Nancy to let SAA know that they are interested in having an association sell pull-tabs at their establishment. Nancy let them know that we are not interested at this time.

There was a check written to Ham Lake Lanes for \$734.60 on February 4, 2006 that has not been cashed. Rodney clarified that with the bank and placed a stop payment on that check. We will not reissue it at this time – just wait and see if they call requesting it.

The State sent information back that North Metro Baseball Alliance is now registered as such with the State. Nancy to look into what the next step is in publishing this and ordering appropriate checks once that has been done.

**Business Report** – Celia Waldock gave an updated budget/expense report. There was discussion around the umpire amount not being budgeted high enough. Per Celia we will be about \$10,000 plus after all the income/expenses are final for the year.

**Old Business** – Randy McArthur reported that there are 3 teams signed up for both the 10U and 12U invitational tournament. There was discussion that we need to have more communication going out to make sure other teams are aware of it. All the teams signed up so far are part of SAA. Randy wants to make sure coaches understand that teams can be combined.

Steve brought up that the Blaine Wrestling coach is interested in using our mailing list to send out fliers. It was decided we would not share our addresses as we would be allowing them to solicit our members. Nancy will let him know that he can get information from Mick's Printing on how to get fliers to the schools but that is all we will offer.

**Other** – Steve Voss and Brian Saba met and discussed the possibility of having lights at Ham Lake Lion's Park or Ham Lake City Park. Per Brian it is in the City's budget for 2007 to use \$350,000 for lighting. They need input from us on which fields would make the most sense to light. Discussion was held and it seems that it would be most beneficial to have them at Lion's Park. Brian also said the Lexington development is still in litigation stages so the baseball fields for that area are in future plans. If the right park area is made available there will be future plans for Baseball fields. Brian also reported there is \$100,000 in the budget for parking improvements at Ham Lake Park. Any input from SAA on how/where to do would be appreciated.

It was discussed that we should have a separate meeting to discuss what went right and what could use improvement for the 2006 registration and beginning of the season. Steve will send out an email to see if June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm will work for the majority of Board Members.

June 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm will be the next official Board Meeting.

Doug Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Randy McArthur seconded, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm.