

Soderville Athletic Association
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 20, 2009

Board Members in Attendance

Greg Zimmer	President
Open Position	Vice President
Mike Laciskey	Treasurer
Brian Braden	
Steve Miller	
Brad Hensler	
Tom Dreshar	
Nick Braden	
Heather Lund	

Not in Attendance

Derrell Singh	Secretary
Dale Blonigen	
Steve Rajtar	
Justin Dahlberg	

Others in Attendance

Nancy Nelson
Mark Romick

Meeting called to order by Greg Zimmer at 7pm.

Tom D. made a motion to approve the August 9, 2009 Board meeting minutes, Brad H. seconded, motion approved.

Public forum – none – Mark Romick introduced himself and said that he has been part of SAA for a while and wanted to come to an SAA Board meeting to learn more about what SAA is all about. He has had boys in the baseball program and now has a daughter in the fastpitch program. He may coach next year but right now is not sure if his daughter will do in-house or traveling. The Board welcomed Mark and asked that he attend the annual meeting coming up on October 13th at 7pm if he is interested in being a Board member or hearing more.

Greg asked Heather if we still need an in-house commissioner for fastpitch and she said definitely. She said it would be helpful to have another person since Steve Miller will not be helping for the in-house next season. It really takes two people to run that program. It would be nice if it were a parent of an in-house player so that person would be at the fields with those teams on a weekly basis. Greg will talk to Dale B. to see if he is interested in commissioner of in-house fastpitch as he would be at the fields for the in-house games. Everyone thought Dale would do a great job at this.

New Business

Determine Annual Meeting Date – It is time for the SAA Annual Meeting and according to our by-laws it needs to be scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, which is October 13th, 2009. So the meeting will be on this date at 7pm with a regular Board meeting to follow. The meeting will be at the SAA building. Nancy will advertise it and put it on the website and probably send a reminder email as well.

2009 Coach Evaluations – Greg would like to read some of the outstanding coach evaluations we have received from parents for the 2009 season. He would like some of the positive ones posted in the minutes in order to give those coaches the recognition they deserve. This does not include all of our great coaches, just a few of the ones we received from each age group and league. All of these coaches received ratings of all 5's or mostly all 5's: 8UBB, Jeff Bates/Eric Pardo; these parents commented that they are always positive and helping the kids and by far the best coaches they have ever seen or any of their kids have had. 8UBB, Eric Potthoff; with the parents commenting that Eric had excellent communication. 10UBB, Ryan Bebeau; with the parents commenting that he was the perfect combination of fun and strict.

12UBB, Jeff Brown with the parents commenting that the coaching, game and level of play and the overall experience were all fantastic on this team. 12UBB, Jamison Dejarlais with the parents commenting that he is a great coach and their child learned a lot from him. 8U FP Dean Zahratka with the parents commenting that he does a wonderful job with the girls. 8UFP Steve Little; with the parents commenting that their child had a lot of fun and was excited to go to every game. 10U FP Kathy Myran with parents commenting that she is wonderful and works with the kids marvelously. Traveling FP for 12U Lisa Cassidy; with the parents commenting that Lisa really cares about the kids. We realize there are many more coaches that did a great job this past season and we thank all of them also!!!

Practice Facility/Building Use – Greg stated that we need to decide what to do with the building for this off season again. Steve Miller suggested we keep it the same as last year where FP had it Tues/Thurs and Baseball is M/W/F with weekends being open to anyone, first come first serve. Coaches or Board members will be allowed to bring in groups of players to use the facility, not parents. They will be encouraged to come in with a group of players and not just their own kids. Steve thinks we should have the coaches in to show them what we have here and what equipment is available and how to use the space efficiently. Nancy stated that we need to make sure the pitching machine is working and see if we have the proper balls for it and for other drills. Mark R. said he had troubles keeping the net back so the cables may need to be adjusted. Steve will bring in the T's that they used for last winter. Greg would like to bring in a person for player development and he is wondering if they would take precedent over anyone else and everyone agreed that it would. This would be a clinic type of situation that would be open to all baseball players. Brian and Nick agreed they will make sure we have the correct equipment for the indoor facility. Steve M. made a motion to purchase equipment for the building not to exceed \$500, Greg Z. seconds the motion, motion approved. It was decided that the building should be cleaned up and ready for use by November 1st.

Committee Reports:

Concessions – Pierro – not present

Umpires – Hensler – no report – but Brad did mention that Gail Hensler is planning to be the umpire scheduler again for the 2010 season so the Board was very happy to hear that.

In-house fast pitch – Lund – Heather held an in-house FP meeting last week to get feedback on the season from coaches and parents. Only one coach and some parents showed up but they did have some very good suggestions. She will also be meeting with Centennial soon to see if they can work on some issues like them keeping track of wins and losses. She had complaints about the chalk machines and that they were not working well for the fastpitch tournament and Tom D. said he will make sure they are in working condition for next season. There are 2 at Lion's and 1 at City right now so we really could use more since they have a tendency to break. It was decided that Nick and Brian will be in charge of getting two new chalkers by next season.

In-house baseball (Junior) – open position – Greg Z. – no report

In-house baseball (Senior) – Blonigen – not present

Traveling fast pitch – Miller – Steve reported that traveling just had their State Qualifier this weekend for all age groups and the State tournament will be next weekend. We will be hosting an age group on Saturday and one on Sunday at the Ham Lake Lion's fields. Traveling is working in getting bat holders put up at the fields for 1-6 at Lion's. This will help make chalking in between games easier without bats lying around and it is better for the bats also.

Traveling baseball – Zimmer – no report

Field/Game Scheduling – McArthur – not present

Equipment – Braden N. – Nick reported that they had two equipment turn in dates so they have received most of the bags back. Nick showed us a sheet they created to show what each bag has in it so now they will be able to see what they need and won't be ordering blind. They will shoot to have all the bags ready to be put on the high shelves by November 1st so the building will be ready for use. Nick will get a date set for going through the equipment bags and he will let the Board know so others can come in and help out.

Treasurer – Laciskey – Mike has the financials for August year to date. He handed out copies of a Balance Sheet and P&L Analysis for the Board members to review. Mike went through account by account and showed everyone where we were over and under budget. For the Balance sheet it shows what we have in our accounts. Mike expects that we will have approximately \$50,000 above what we will need for expenses for the remainder of the year.

Then Greg brought up that he still wants to make sure that everything is being done fairly since traveling has their own account and checkbook. There was much discussion between Steve and Greg and others about how fastpitch is running their part of the association. Steve stated that it is frustrating to have to have this same discussion every year and reiterated that the main reason traveling has a separate checkbook is so they don't have to get Board approval every time they need to make a purchase. This can be time consuming and difficult when they are in need of equipment last minute. The reason their account is so large right now is because of all the tournaments they have hosted this summer. Steve wanted the Board to know how much work he, the coaches, parents and players put into running these large tournaments. Then there was a big discussion about the fact that fastpitch will not be able to host as large of tournaments with losing that field that is being converted to a grass baseball field at City Park. Some Board members still think that traveling should be able to use an outlying field in place of it but Steve tried to explain that it just can't work that way for fastpitch as games are set up back to back because they play shorter games than baseball and there is no time allotted for travel in these large tournaments. Mike L. said he would be happy to break down the accounts by group if we want to see who is making money and who is losing money. He said it would not be that difficult. It was never really decided if he should move forward with this or not. At then end of the discussion Greg said he is fine with how everything is **"for now"** and that it is working, he just needed to ask the questions to make sure.

Fundraising – Braden – Brian talked about our fundraiser and said that so many organizations are doing card types of fundraisers like ours now that we may need to look at a new fundraiser for the future. Nancy gave the numbers for sales of fundraising cards for 2008 – 2,573 and 2,615 for 2009 (this is just counting the extra sales made above and beyond what everyone buys at registration time) and the Board was pleased that our sales did still increase this year. Nancy stated that as long as we have an increase in sales we may want to continue with this same fundraiser; if sales begin to decrease that may be a sign that we need to switch. Brian would like to see SAA and the Board focus on getting as many outfield advertising signs sold and put up on the fences for another source of income but realizes it could be really time consuming for someone to do that type of marketing for us.

Uniforms – Singh – not present

Photos – Nelson – Nancy was asked if there would be any reason for us to switch to a new photographer for next season and she responded that so far Sports Star has been so great to work with that she would see no reason for that. Mike L. commented that he had an issue with a photo for one of his players and Sports Star took care of it in a very efficient and professional manner. Nancy responded that she has had the same luck with them and would like to continue with them for the 2010 season.

Operations Manager Report – N. Nelson

Metro Dining Donation of \$420 – Nancy reported that there was an 8U fastpitch team that had a grandparent on the team that represents this company for fundraising. This particular team sold some of the dining cards and they donated the amount back to SAA. The Board was excited to hear that and Nancy said this person may come to a future meeting to discuss this fundraiser further with us and see if we are interested in using it for our main fundraiser.

Credit Card Transactions – Nancy is looking into other merchants to process our credit card transactions. 21st Century Bank, who we bank with already, is saying they would be able to get us a much lower discount rate than ECHO merchant account currently is. Nancy will move ahead with her research on this and may also have to get Steve V. involved to determine if this is something that is possible with our website.

Mike Stitt – would help with scheduling for 2010 – Mike was an intern for SAA for the summer of 2009 and let Nancy know that he would be interested in helping with scheduling for the 2010 season as this is something he thinks he could do from his Bemidji College location. Greg Z. stated that he knows that Randy is still interested in doing the scheduling for next season and the Board would like Randy to continue to do this. The Board did discuss though that Greg would talk to Randy and see if he would like any help with coming up with a way to make sure teams play each team the same amount of times and such and Mike may be the right person for that. He is very computer savvy and may be able to analyze the best way to set up the schedule.

Old Business –

HLCP ball field update – Greg reported that black dirt should be brought in soon and that irrigation should be going in soon on the field at City Park that is being converted to a grass infield ball field. City Council did not approve the well at Soderville Baseball field though; the lawyer at the City did not look into if they are going to try to buy that land from the gas station so things could not move forward. Steve would like to see if we can also do a sand point well at Lion's since it is now approved at the City Park so Tom D. will have Jon Kallestad go to Lion's and look at it so we know what the possibility is. Jon is also the one working on the irrigation at City Park. Tom D. estimated the costs for us at \$1800 on irrigation, \$1600 on home plate and pitchers mound for Soderville irrigation and \$1000 for the pump. Brian made a motion that we spend up to \$5000 at Ham Lake City, Brad H. seconded the motion, motion approved.

Tournament Ball – Brian would like to friendly suggest as they had good communication with MYAS so he would like to suggest to the Board, as Mr. Klinkhammer was on Board with what we are doing, this is not about traveling ball and Brian coached tournament ball this past summer and Brian would like something on the website that we are planning to offer from 10U up to 15U that there will be a tryout process and we will have tournament ball for next season, the price may have to go up based on the costs from last year and we should be able to reduce costs on uniforms and go with something simpler, he does think we will get a phone call from MYAS soon and he thinks they will want to have a meeting to see if others agree with SAA having tournament ball, this is about giving kids the opportunity to play in tournaments they would not have been able to otherwise, Tom D. suggested we can move out of the MYAS league if they don't agree with our tournament ball but Brad H. thinks we should keep in good with MYAS since they do so much for our association and the umpires and such, Brian said that the max that could be taken from a regular team and brought onto a tournament team would be 5 players, Greg said that for tournament teams we would not have to stay with MYAS for our tournament teams, as the kids get older we want to make sure the kids can play in the North Star league because that is a great league for those kids to play in and Brian totally agrees with that, Brian thinks the tournament teams should play in a variety of different leagues for tournaments so they can play all kinds of baseball, Brian would like to get it on the home page

August BATBA tournament discussion – Mike L. and Greg Z.'s teams participated in this tournament. Mike reported that it was not a great tournament and not very well organized. Greg agreed with this and said that we should just say we are not going to continue to participate next year.

Shelving update from Derrell – Derrell was not present and Nancy said he had come to get a key and said he was planning to put the shelves into the uniform room in the next few weeks but she has not heard anymore from him. Greg and Mike both said they would be able to take this project over. Mike will design it and Greg will install the shelves. Nancy will tell Derrell not to do anything for the shelving. Nancy told the Board that Dale Blonigen would like to use some of those big green shelves in his pole building that used to be in the SAA building and everyone agreed that SAA has no use for those now or in the future and anyone that can use them is free to take them.

8U baseball tournament at East Bethel update – Nancy reported that the 8U end of year tournament at East Bethel did not go well on the Sunday of the tournament. There were portable toilets lining the fence of one field, garbage cans were left right where the spectators were sitting and fire work debris in the fields. We will have to consider more carefully next year if we will be able to have a tournament at those fields during the Booster day weekend.

Other

The next meeting is set for October 13, 2009 at 7:00pm. This is the Annual meeting and the regular meeting will follow.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Nick B., Mike L. seconded the motion, motion approved and meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

