

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes will be approved at the March 3, 2015 meeting

(These minutes to be approved at the March 3rd, 2015 meeting)

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Kevin Conklin

Players present: None

### 1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on October 13th, 2014, were reviewed. One change to the minutes was noted: the date of the next Board meeting was recorded as Thursday, November 13th, 2014. Due to a scheduling conflict at the Teen Center, the meeting date was subsequently changed to tonight, Wednesday, November 12th. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### 2. PLAYER COMMENTS

None

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Kevin Conklin, Commissioner Lathrop gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached). The league checking account balance was \$9,037.56. The only account activity since the last report at the Annual Meeting was income from picnic refund. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### 4. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop previewed the 2015 season. April 1st to the 10th will focus on evaluation of new players, April 13th to 17th will be team practices, April 20th to 24th will be exhibition games, and April 27th will begin the regular season. He also mentioned that a couple of teams need new shirts, that he is looking to buy new softballs from USA Senior Softball at \$39 per dozen, and that we probably won't need to buy any new bats. Lastly, the idea of having a mat for the batter's box was mentioned by another Board member and Commissioner Lathrop would like that idea to be explored.

### 5. INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain commented that VSS had a good year with several new players being added to team rosters and he hoped to see another good group of new players in 2015. He also proposed a rules change to eliminate having courtesy runners from home (VSS Rules of Play Section K – Designated Courtesy Runners). After a lengthy discussion, a motion to change Section K was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The following is the text of the changed Section K. It replaces the old Section K in its entirety.

## SECTION K – DESIGNATED COURTESY RUNNERS

All batters are required to proceed from home to first. Under no circumstances can a batter whose batted ball touches the outfield grass be thrown out at first.

A player may request to have a courtesy runner once he reaches first. A batter must declare to the umpire at the first at bat that he/she wants a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner must be used at each subsequent at bat. If the batter fails to announce the need for a courtesy runner at the first at bat, he/she will not be

allowed a courtesy runner for the duration of the game. However, if a player becomes injured during a game, he/she should advise the umpire and request a courtesy runner at the next at bat. The umpire will announce the use of a courtesy runner to the defensive team.

A courtesy runner may only run once per inning and twice per game. Should a courtesy runner be on base when it is his turn at bat, he shall be recorded as an out. (End of Section K)

#### 6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

No report

#### 7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

No report

#### 8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report

#### 9.OLD BUSINESS

None

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS

Various member comments and ideas from the Annual Meeting were discussed, among them being the registration fee for next season. A motion to keep the registration fee at \$40 for 2015 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. No action was taken on any other items that were discussed.

#### 11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon

#### MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the November 12, 2014 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Bruce Chamberlain

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT - None

2.PLAYER COMMENTS - None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT - None

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - None

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION - No report

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION - No report

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE - No report

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS - No report

9.OLD BUSINESS - None

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS

Bob Lathrop welcomed new board members Rich Andreoli and Tim Cromwell and indicated that they needed to be assigned a position on the board. A motion for Rich to be External Competition Chairman and Tim to be Public Relations Chairman was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### 11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th, 2014, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon

#### 2014 VSS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2014

These minutes were approved at the ??? Board Meeting

(These minutes to be approved at the next Annual Meeting)

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Board members present: Dave Bakulski, Keven Busque, Kevin Conklin, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, Dick Nabel, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Bruce Chamberlain

#### COMMISSIONER'S OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Bob Lathrop welcomed all members to the annual membership meeting of the Vernon Seniors Softball League. He noted that 42 members were in attendance (list is attached) and therefore the League Bylaws requirement of a quorum is satisfied.

#### 1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop distributed copies of the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### 2.TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kevin Conklin presented his report for Fiscal Year 2014, covering 10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014. In summary, the Beginning Checking Account Balance = \$8,956.16; Income = \$12,435.00; Expenses = \$12,428.20; Ending Checking Account Balance = \$8,962.96. The full report is attached. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### 3.AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Audit Committee Chairperson Joe Handleman read the report of the Audit Committee (see attached). Motion to accept the Audit report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### 4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop highlighted a number of accomplishments, among them being a year-end double elimination tournament, league parity, working cooperatively with Vernon Park and Rec, travel team

activity, and new league shirts. He thanked the Board for its work and thanked in particular two retiring members, Dick Nabel and Dave Bakulski. Commissioner Lathrop's full report is attached.

#### 5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Commissioner Lathrop read Bruce Chamberlain's report which is attached. Keven Busque thanked the umpires and noted that he tried to have two umpires at every game.

#### 6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Dick Nabel noted that the Commissioner had already mentioned travel team activities, but he wanted to add his congratulations to the 65's team for doing well at the Cape Cod Classic.

#### 7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr reported that the annual picnic was a success, with great weather and good food. Everyone seemed to have a good time. She also noted that the Christmas party is December 7th at a cost of \$10 per person and that there will be a DJ. Members should look for a notice via email or snail mail.

#### 8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dave Bakulski expressed thanks to Rich Andreoli and Dick Grote for the work they did in recent years to gain sponsorships for the league. It eased the way for Dave to grow the list of sponsors, which he passed out (see attached). Commissioner Lathrop noted that there is a standing offer of a free membership for the upcoming year for any member that brings in a sponsor. Robert Marquis did so in 2014 and will get a free 2015 membership.

#### 9.OLD BUSINESS

None

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS

Mike Lowell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, mentioned that there were two open positions on the Board of Directors and thus presented a slate of two nominees for the board, Rich Andreoli and Tim Cromwell. Commissioner Lathrop asked for nominations from the floor. There were none forthcoming. A motion to close the nominations was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Since there were two candidates for two open positions on the board, a motion that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of candidates was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### 11.MEMBERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Lathrop encouraged all members to bring any issues, thoughts, and ideas to the board for its consideration throughout the year. The following comments for the board were offered by various members in attendance tonight:

- play all games with 11 players on both sides instead of 11 against 10;
- clarify the infield fly rule;
- limit hits to doubles vs. allow all you can get;
- revisit courtesy runner rule;
- lower membership fee;
- reduce checking account balance;
- make rules changes in the spring, keep as is for the season and don't change mid-season;
- extend the regular season into September.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

After adjournment, there was a drawing for a free 2015 VSS registration from the pool of members in attendance at tonight's meeting. The winner was Dave Coppolelli.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon

The next BOD meeting is THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 2014 at 6:15pm at the Vernon Teen Center

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes will be approved at the August 14, 2014 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Board members present: Keven Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Kevin Conklin, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Dave Bakulski, Mary Gracyalny and Dick Nabel

Players present: Rich Andreoli

### 1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting held on June 12th, 2014, were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed.

### 2. PLAYER COMMENTS

Rich Andreoli noted the following:

YMCA staff have observed VSS players occasionally using the men's restroom to change into playing clothes. Players are not to use the YMCA to change.

Cape Cod tournament has confirmed that the VSS 65's travel team is all set.

He would like Board approval for reimbursement of food and drink for 65's game with the Relics on July 19th. Board approved the reimbursement.

He's withdrawing his protest of a game he protested last week.

Two players left the Hawks and he wondered about getting them back. Board consensus is that they are still eligible to play in the Cape Cod tournament since they quit on their own, are still in good standing with VSS, and wouldn't be displacing anyone on the travel team.

Uniforms are not always being worn during games. Managers need to remind players to wear their VSS hats and shirts.

In a recent game, the ump didn't call interference on contact between the runner and fielder. Board agrees that such a call should be made, but also agrees that it's a tough call to make between accidental or incidental contact and intentional contact.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin reported a balance of \$12,734.01 in the league checking account as of July 1st, 2014.

Account activity for the month of June included:

income from sponsorships, a registration fee, and a donation;

returned registration fee and reimbursements for banners and the Falcons jerseys.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

### 4. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Bob mentioned the following:

A donation of \$250 has been received from a VSS player.

Parity in the league still seems good.

The VSS shirt order is being distributed.

A 55's travel team has been assembled for a local tournament in August. A motion to spend \$250 to enter the tournament was made, seconded, & passed.

He presented a draft of an end-of-season double elimination tournament setup. It showed the need to use Henry Park for 2 days. Weather and make-up games will dictate whether the tournament is single or double elimination.

#### 5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain commented that the league has lost some players, but the games remain competitive.

Keven Busque had nothing to report on umpires.

#### 6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

On behalf of Dick Nabel, Bob said there was nothing to report.

#### 7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr reported that Tim Cromwell has been confirmed as the DJ for the Christmas party.

#### 8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bob reported for Dave Bakulski and indicated that thank you notes need to be sent to all VSS sponsors.

#### 9.OLD BUSINESS

None

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Conklin asked if anyone in the league is CPR certified. No one on the Board knew for sure, but it was noted that EMTs are relatively close by. Consensus was that no action needed to be taken.

#### 11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14th, 2014, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center. Also, the playoff schedule will be posted on August 15th, and players should reserve the two weeks following the 15th for make up and/or playoff games.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon

#### MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the July 17, 2014 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Board members present: Dave Bakulski, Keven Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Kevin Conklin, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Mary Gracyalny and Dick Nabel

Players present: none

#### 1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting held on May 22nd, 2014, were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed.

## 2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

## 3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin reported a balance of \$12,485.55 in the league checking account as of June 1st, 2014. Account activity for the month of May included:  
vincome from sponsorships and registration fees for 2014;  
vreturned registration fees and reimbursements for a new American flag, Softball Senior rule books, a clock, spare keys, and umpire pitch count indicator.  
Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

## 4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Bob mentioned that the league is about at the mid-season point with this week's games, so he wanted to revisit the topic of parity in the league. He noted that there have been few blowouts with most games being competitive, so league parity seems good. The consensus of the Board was that no action on parity is necessary at this time.

## 5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain commented that the league seems pretty competitive and that there has been an infusion of several good new players.

Keven Busque indicated that the league could use a few more umpires because we are spread thin at times in that regard.

## 6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

On behalf of Dick Nabel, Bob reported that Bob Rand and Rich Andrioli are taking over as co-managers of the 65's travel team.

## 7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr said that the Christmas Party is set for December 7th and that Tim Cromwell (player on the Owls) will be providing the music as the D.J. Discussion on the ticket price ensued. Motion to set the price at \$10 per ticket was made, seconded, and approved.

## 8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dave Bakulski indicated that sponsorships are at approximately the same level as last year. The new banner which includes new sponsors is now available.

## 9.OLD BUSINESS

None

## 10.NEW BUSINESS

Bob opened up a discussion of the checking account balance and what might be done to reduce it. It was noted that the number of sponsors varies from year to year, so some surplus in the checking account is needed as a hedge against a lean year or two in sponsorship level. The Board voted earlier in the meeting to have the league pick up more of the Christmas Party cost by reducing the per ticket price. The league already pays for the total cost of the September picnic. Another idea is for the league to buy apparel with VSS wording on them, such as T shirts and/or windbreaker type jackets, and offer them at a discounted price to league members.

#### 11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17th, 2014, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon

#### MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the June 12, 2014 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.

Board members present: Dave Bakulski, Kevin Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Kevin Conklin, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, Dick Nabel, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Mary Gracyalny

Players present: none

#### 1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting held on April 3rd, 2014, were approved.

#### 2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

#### 3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin reported a balance of \$10,934.35 in the league checking account as of May 1st, 2014.

Account activity since the last board meeting included:

- income from sponsorships and registration fees for 2014;
- payment of league fee to Vernon Park and Rec, returned registration fees, and payment to E. Windsor Parks and Rec for end-of-season picnic.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

#### 4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Bob mentioned that we have all the equipment needed, plenty of softballs, and 2 umpires at most games. He thinks the umpires are doing a good job overall. Based on what he sees in the standings and in the closeness of many games, he indicated that the league seems to be fairly balanced a quarter of the way through the season. This led to a discussion of the possibility of in-season player transfers to achieve team parity. It was noted that the strengths or weaknesses of a team's roster on paper do not always translate to



predictable results on the field. The consensus of the board was to revisit the topic of parity at the mid-season point.

#### 5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Kevin Busque indicated that there have been a few instances where an umpire was not clear on a rule in a game situation. When this happens, let him know so that he can review it with the umpires.

#### 6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Dick Nabel reported that travel team practice dates on June 14th and August 16th have been approved by Vernon Park/Rec Department. Approval of a third date is pending.

#### 7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr said that the end-of-season picnic on September 14th is all set and all paid with the E. Windsor Parks and Rec.

#### 8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dave Bakulski gave a final accounting of 2014 sponsors. There are 15 full and 5 partial sponsorships. He also said the banner is being updated.

#### 9.OLD BUSINESS

None

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS

None

#### 11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th, 2014, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon

#### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the May 22, 2014 meeting  
Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

Board members present: Dave Bakulski, Kevin Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Kevin Conklin, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, Dick Nabel, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: none

Players present: Rich Andreoli and Paul Davies

#### 1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting held on November 14th, 2013, were approved.

## 2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

## 3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin reported a balance of \$10,194.35 in the league checking account as of April 1st, 2014. Account activity since the November 14th, 2013, board meeting included:  
vincome from Christmas party signups as well as sponsorships and registration fees for 2014;  
vexpenses noted in the Commissioner's Report section of the November 14th board meeting minutes as well as payments for the Christmas party at Maneeley's and for the league's insurance premium.  
Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed.

## 4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Bob indicated that we are good to go for the 2014 season with the purchase of equipment and other supplies as noted in the minutes of the last board meeting.

Bob mentioned Kevin Busque's wish to get rule books for the league's umpires. After a brief discussion about which rule book to obtain, a motion to purchase a dozen Senior Softball Rule Books was made, seconded, and passed.

Bob also mentioned the idea of getting a new flag. A motion to purchase a flag was made, seconded, and passed. Rich Andreoli said he would take care of this.

## 5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain presented the results of the 2014 survey that was sent to all members in January. The votes for each survey question were as follows:

1)Single elimination tournament	15-single	29-double
2)Extended season	34-yes	22-no
3)Continue 2 base rule	36-yes	19-no
4)Should players be required to run to first	24-yes	28-no

Discussion of these results ensued, out of which a motion to do the double elimination tournament, weather permitting, was made, seconded, and approved. The consensus of the Board regarding the 3 other survey questions was that no action be taken at this time.

Bruce reported on registrations and team rosters for 2014. There are approximately 120 players between those returning and those new to VSS. Bruce passed out the proposed team rosters. All teams have at least 14 players. New players were distributed among the teams with an effort to get balance in the league. A motion to accept the rosters as presented was made, seconded, and approved.

Bruce proposed two rule changes for 2014. The first change is the elimination of the extra base at home plate, replacing it with a white line. The second change is allowing a batter to continue to bat on the first foul ball after getting two strikes and calling him out on the second foul ball with two strikes. After a brief discussion, a motion to accept these two rule changes was made, seconded, and approved.

Bruce passed out copies of the proposed April practice schedule and the proposed 2014 league schedule. After a brief discussion, a motion to accept the schedules as presented was made, seconded, and approved.

## 6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Dick Nabel indicated that he is willing to be the manager for the 65's travel team. A motion to accept Dick's offer was made, seconded, and approved.

#### 7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr announced that the end-of-season picnic will be on September 14th.

#### 8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dave Bakulski reported that he has obtained 16 full and 7 partial sponsorships so far for 2014. He is following up with potential sponsors who have not responded to his initial mailing.

#### 9.OLD BUSINESS

None

#### 10.NEW BUSINESS

None

#### 11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th, 2014, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Gamzon