

Minutes from the 9/23/19 VSS Board meeting. DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

In attendance were Craig Tanner, Kevin Massey, John Seyboth, Bill Hettinger, Kevin Conklin, Dick Nabel, Dave Hutchins, Mary Gracyalny

The minutes from February to August were reviewed. After discussion it was decided to allow voting by email. It was also agreed to a two step process which allowed members to 1<sup>st</sup> recommend modifications and secondly to vote for approval on each one.

Treasurer - Dick Nabel presented the Treasurer's report which this month included the purchase of a new flag which Dave Hutchins purchased for VSS.

Public Relations - John Seyboth stated no report.

Internal Competition – Bill Hettinger stated no report.

External Competition – Kevin Massey distributed a list of tournaments for the 2019 season which included local and out of state events.

Asst. Commissioner – Dave Hutchins stated no report.

Commissioner's Report – Craig stated that he was very pleased with the Howie Bromage which was held on a new date of September 14<sup>th</sup> due to a rainout in July. He stated that we need to keep the event going in future years. Bill Hettinger suggested that the Board should do something each year to recognize members who have passed. Suggestions were made to use plaques, build a display area at the field, and honor them at some point during the season.

Craig reported that there were 65 people who attended the VSS League picnic in September and thanked them for coming. He also congratulated the Blue Jays for winning the season ending playoffs at the end of August.

New Business – The suggestion was made to have the VSS Board appoint a rules committee of 5-6 members once the annual meeting is over. The committee should include 2-3 Board members and the rest would be players who are interested in serving on an Ad hoc committee.

Dave Hutchins stated that at the end of the season VSS players can submit suggested rule changes for the 2020 season. This ad hoc committee would meet over the winter months to create these changes and then submit them to the VSS Board for discussion and consideration. The ad hoc group should take into consideration possible current rule changes proposed by a cross section of players in the league.

Other items to be considered in addition to rule changes will include a recap of the season, highlights, and transition meaning where is the league going looking ahead 5 or 10 years in the future.

Nominating Committee – At the end of the October Board meeting some members terms will be up and they will be leaving the board. There was some discussion about terms and what positions will be open. This should be decided before the Annual meeting in October and hopefully candidates will step up and agree to serve the VSS.

Dave Hutchins and Craig Tanner met with representatives from Vernon Parks and management to discuss and review how well things went this year for both VSS and Vernon Parks and Rec. Three projects were discussed for 2020. 1. Repair the lip where the dirt and grass meet at the edge of the infield; 2. Do repairs to the left side of the infield and down the left field line and foul ball area to prevent injury; and 3. Reset the batting mat at homeplate so that is flush with the batters boxes.

Additionally, there will be no change in the fee we pay to Vernon Parks and Rec. It was also agreed that the Rec. Dept. will need 3 weeks to get the field ready depending upon weather conditions. Henry Park can be used as a backup as needed. The Community Field should be ready for play by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Old Business – Winter softball at the Dome in Tolland.

The VSS league will sponsor winter softball practice and games starting on 10/1/2019. Practice goes from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Management has requested that the field be left as it was found meaning VSS players need to push the goals back onto the field and pull the netting into position, pick up the bases, etc. Bill Hettinger has created a website for VSS Winter softball where you can find out more information. Some dates it will not be available such as during school vacations or when outside organizations are using it such as dog shows.

Plaques for sponsors need to be printed and framed and given to the various sponsors preferably in person. Subway on Rte 30 about half a mile from the Dome would like to be a winter sponsor and have members stop by after practice and enjoy a sub and drink!

There was some discussion about issues that come up such as injuries during the season that affect the players ability to play, or as players near retirement some start to have medical issues and can no longer safely play in the field. These will be addressed on a case to case basis.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Gracyalny  
VSS Secretary

