



# **FINAL Minutes**

## **VSS Board of Directors Meeting February 7, 2022**

### **Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM**

#### **Board Members Present –**

*League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin  
Internal Competition – Bill Hettinger  
External Competition – Ken Hartwright  
Treasurer – Richard Nabel  
Recording Secretary – Gail Gretzmacher  
Public Relations – Brian Battles  
Social Committee – Tim Poloski  
Historian – Kevin Massey*

**Missing:** *Umpire Committee – Matt Kellie*

*Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021 meeting. Motion passed and Bill will post to the league website.*

#### ○ **Opening Comments**

- Commissioner reported on his meeting with Marty, Director of Vernon Parks & Recreation to discuss items of concern for our league:
  - 12' indicator on backstops at Community and Henry Park will be implemented (to have a visual for the league's pitching 12' maximum height)
  - Reviewed charge for the Community port-o-potty (charge is split 3 ways with VSS paying 1/3 of the cost)
  - Left field – commitment to continue leveling this area, better mowing, and to address at a concrete barrier that is exposed to the playing field
  - Bag of lime will be available to the league and stored in the shed
  - Notes:
    - weekend field preparation (for a weekend tournament)– there would be an additional \$150 charge; otherwise, field is 'as is' from any Friday activity
    - Henry Park will have a new scoreboard, & better bench (metal with backrest & ledge on back)
    - Community scoreboard replacement will be in the future when funding secured (~\$25,000)

#### ○ **Treasurer Update – Operating account is \$3746**

- Softballs have been purchased
- Next expense will be insurance (~\$1800) – due in March
- VSS Paypal account will be revised appropriately for being a non-profit which reduces fees charged
- Joe Handelman filed IRS form 990, an informational tax form that most tax-exempt organizations must file annually. This form gives the IRS an overview of our organization's activities, governance and detailed financial information.

#### ○ **Internal competition**

- Rule committee meeting (5 volunteers) held on January 18<sup>th</sup> with discussion and consensus on a list of proposed rule changes to submit to the Board
  - Motions approved by Board: (rules will be updated appropriately)
    - Home runs after the first home run will be doubles
    - Substitutes during the playoffs will be allowed with opposing manager approval
    - Player returning from injury can be a designated hitter for up to 2 weeks
    - Section J, replace the phrase “the ball is put in play” with “**the ball is hit by the batter.**”
    - A courtesy runner from home cannot leave until the ball is hit by the batter. (Note: a rubber base will be used instead of the line and moved further back- the distance to be determined at the

next Board meeting); Courtesy runner decided by game. At the next board meeting the penalty for the Courtesy runner leaving the base BEFORE the ball is hit will be determined.

- #1 players – managers will recommend up to 3 #1 players which would then require Board review & approval
- Henry Park games will be self-umpired unless a volunteer umpire is available
- Pitching from the pitcher’s box/rubber will be enforced (box is 2’ wide and 50’ from home plate); box must be touched to start the pitch
- Senior bats may now be used by members 70 years and older (reduced from 75)
- Rule discussed and NOT approved:
  - To change the infield fly rule to when the umpire calls ‘infield fly’ and the ball is not caught, it’s a dead ball, the batter gets first base and all other runners advance one base.
- Registration update
  - 30 registrations received; 5 via Paypal
- Equipment update –
  - Bats – Tim will partner with Bill on research for our future bat purchase; the purchase of 4 new league bats were approved (a maximum spend of \$1200) at the Dec 6, 2021 Board meeting
  - Hats – more hats will be ordered for this season
  - 4 rubber home bases will be ordered (2 for Community; 2 for Henry) and will be used for 3<sup>rd</sup> base line and courtesy runner starting point
  - A better bat bag (metal not canvas) was discussed; would need 2 (1 for each side of the field)
- *Social Committee-Tim*
  - Facebook and Instagram pages available as of Jan 15th
  - Consideration for future content includes sponsors, historical pictures (Throw-back Thursdays), & post game results
- *External Competition – Kenny*
  - Tournament planning – content to be posted on VSS website
    - VSS one-pitch tournament planned for August 27th
    - VSS registrations will determine 70’s eligible players for any travel team tournaments (like in Cape Cod which is the weekend after Labor Day)
    - Researching other local tournaments for VSS travel team opportunity
- *Umpire Update-*
  - A motion was made and approved to exempt umpires from the registration fee for the 2022 season for those who dedicated time and umpired a minimum of 15 games in the 2021 season.
- *Public Relations – Brian*
  - Discussion occurred to consider business cards for league members to deposit at any sponsor’s business used
- *Historian update – Kevin M.*
  - Binders completed for the years of:

○ 1993-1999	○ 2008
○ 2000-2002	○ 2021
○ 2003	○ 2016 binder about 75% complete
  - Appreciation given to Bill for his significant help providing league registration documents to supplying more pictures from the migration when Edson Phelps documented this info. (Bill has updated our current website with all the team pictures to date.). Appreciation was also extended to Dick for his invaluable help.
  - In-progress:
    - Consolidation of information 2013-2019
    - Collecting team member names from managers for binder team pictures

**New Business:** Covid policy for 2022 season (deferred)

*Next meeting: March 14, 2022 6pm*

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 8:22 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary  
2/7/2022