



# FINAL Minutes

## VSS Annual Membership Meeting October 25, 2021

**Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM**

### **Board Members Present -**

*League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin  
Internal Competition – Bill Hettinger  
Social Committee – Ronny Griffith  
Public Relations - Kevin Massey  
External Competition - Ken Hartwright  
Treasurer – Richard Nabel  
Umpire Committee – Keven Busque  
Recording Secretary -Gail Gretzmacher*

**Absent-** *Craig Tanner (Past Commissioner)*

- *Proof of Quorum was achieved with 35 members present and online. Attendance sheet recorded names.*
- *Opening Remarks by Commissioner – Kevin C*
  - *Overall, the season went well even with challenges of heat, torrential downpours and hurricane; season finished on time.*
  - *Congratulations were given to the Cardinals for winning the playoffs and that the oldest league member batted in the winning run.*
  - *The Board was thanked for the solid job they did*
- *Motion was made and seconded to approved the minutes from the October 20, 2020 annual league meeting. Motion passed.*
- *Treasurer update- Dick*
  - *The Year-end Treasurer's report for fiscal year 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2021 was distributed*
  - *Report showed FY 2020 and Dick shared the nuances for that unique year of non-play*
  - *Checking Account ending balance - \$4093.02*
    - *After 9/30/21 – a \$250 check was received for a tournament fee and will be included in the next season's fiscal year report*
    - *Yard Goats have retained \$180 sent in prior year for tickets but not yet used*
- *Audit Committee Report – Joe Handleman*
  - *Representatives were Joe Handleman, Joe Marsala, & Kevin Conklin*
  - *Process included an examination of the books on October 20, 2021 for activity during 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2021*
  - *Findings noted that books were fairly accurate and passed the audit*
- *External Competition report - Ken*
  - *VSS-sponsored tournament:*
    - *With partnership from Kevin M., a one-pitch tournament was held on Saturday August 28 at Community field*
    - *4 teams participated with positive feedback that the tournament was one of the better-run tournaments*
    - *There was a round-of-applause for Ken & Kevin M for organizing a well-run and successful tournament*
  - *With an insufficient number of over 70 players to send to the Cape tournament, no team was sent*
- *Umpire's Report- Keven B*

- *Thanks were given to those who umpired this season*
- *Challenges included heat and weather & Covid for staffing umpires*
- *The Board decided that makeup games held at Henry Park would be self-umpired (seemed to work well)*
- *The 2022 Board will be considering a few different umpiring models for the next season but if the current model is to continue, additional umpire volunteers would be needed*
- *Social Activities- Ronny*
  - *Fall picnic was attended by ~50 people on Sunday September 19 at East Windsor Park. From 11:30am-2pm. A recommendation to reduce food was made for any future picnic.*
  - *Board made a decision to NOT have a holiday party this year.*
- *Public Relations- Kevin M*
  - *Letters sent to our previous 2019 sponsors (24) in March indicating the 2021 VSS season would be played.*
  - *Sponsor donations for the season totaled \$1975.00. This total came from 9 of 24 total sponsors we've had in the past. In good faith, we kept all of our previous sponsors out on our website while encouraging all of our VSS members to support them all. (From 2015-2019 we averaged \$4517/per Dick Nabel)*
  - *"Thank you" letters were sent out to all 9 sponsors who donated.*
  - *List of sponsors were:*
    - *(Up to \$100) Rockville Pharmacy, The Garden Barn, Integrated Rehab Services, (\$250) UPS Store in Cromwell (Dave Coppolelli), Stateline Senior Services, Paul's Pizza, Olender's Body Shop, Fiesta Mexicana (New Sponsor), Shea's Sports Bar \$500*
    - *Fiesta Mexicana came on as the result of a few key guys who supported them early on in the season (John Massey, Jack Frascarelli, Mike Smith)*
  - *Framed "Certificates of Appreciation" were presented to the 6 sponsors who contributed \$250 or more. The certificates were once again created by Karen & Rich Andreoli.*
  - *Thanks to those of you who have supported our sponsors. Get out and continue to support not only the sponsors that donated this year but any of our previous sponsors. Let them know who you are and that you play for the VSS. We're starting now to solicit their 2022 support for the league.*
  - *If anyone has ideas for new sponsors for next year, let the new Public Relations Chairman know; I will be working to support a smooth transition.*
- *Historical - Vintage VSS – Kevin M*
  - *Vintage VSS articles published in the newsletter thanks to Dave Hutchins*
  - *Continuing to solicit info and pictures from members. Would like to digitize this information to put out on our website. Recently received several videos of the Cardinals-Orioles championship game from Tiffany Szych and would like to incorporate these as well as any other videos going forward.*
  - *Continuing to work on more binders. 13 of the 28 years of VSS completed.*
  - *Recently completed 2021 binder. Included our VSS One Pitch Memorial Tournament documents and photos in this binder.*
  - *Always looking for new ideas and, any document/pictures anyone wants to contribute to complete some of the years from membership*

## ***New Business/Discussion***

- *Election of Board Members*
  - *Board members whose term is ending: Craig, Keven B., Ronny and Bill*
  - *Bill wished to continue on the board and the others welcome new blood to take their spots*
  - *The following were nominated, voted and approved to be on the 2022 Board:*
    - *Bill Hettinger (re-elected)*
    - *Matt Kellie*
    - *Brian Battles*
    - *Tim Poloski*
- *By-law change proposal*
  - *Bill discussed the rationale for the following by-law proposed change and addressed questions*
  - *Existing language: Article V, Section 4 last paragraph, last sentence*

- 'Rules Committee responsibilities ..... amended to current **ASA** Regulations'
  - Proposed change:
    - Rules Committee responsibilities ..... amended to current **SSUSA** Regulations'
  - Motion made, seconded and unanimously accepted to adopt the proposed change. Motion passed.
  - It was noted that VSA rules supersede SSUSA rules when different
- Rule Changes - Bill noted that membership is always able to submit rule changes for consideration to the Board.
- The Commissioner recognized and expressed sincere appreciation to Dave Hutchins for his work in support of our league which included guidance and opinions to the Board, involvement in the newsletter and publishing the standings. A round of applause was given to Dave for his outstanding contribution to the league.
- Umpire model
  - The Commissioner reviewed the situation with the current umpire model, its challenge with having enough volunteers and that the 2022 Board would be evaluation alternative options. Options reviewed included:
    - Continue with current model (but need additional volunteers and representation from all teams)
    - Self-umpire (each team supplies 1 ump for the game they are playing); this model seemed to work well at Henry Park
    - Paid umpires (This would increase membership fee by ~\$35); would only need 1 paid umpire per game
    - Flip-flop model – Team playing at 4:55 supply an ump for the 3:30 game and the 3:30 game teams supply an ump for the 4:55 game)
  - There was group discussion and in polling the group it was felt an internal option was preferred over a paid umpire model.
  - Other input offered: on umpiring:
    - Self-umpire home plate and have a volunteer umpire to do the bases
    - Self-umpire regular games and have umpires for playoffs
    - Consider an ad-hoc group with representatives from all teams to evaluate options and make recommendation to the Board
    - Keven B noted it was better to have 2 umpires over 1
    - Any new umpires have concern with understanding league rules beyond softball basics
    - Dave Hutchins is willing to host an umpire workshop for prospective umpires
    - Bill H suggested creating a cheat sheet of key rules for umpires
    - Current model includes umpires who cover 10 games earn free membership
  - Other topics
    - A Suggestion was offered to create VSS cards for membership that could be presented to sponsors when a member goes there
    - Consider lowering the age for females to join the league to 50; this would require a by-law change with advance notification and then approval at a membership meeting.
    - Home Run rule - the rule where a 2<sup>nd</sup> home run is an out was heartily discussed and the group feeling was this needed to change. Options – 2<sup>nd</sup> home run would be a double. Being a recreational league there would not be an unlimited number of homeruns endorsed.
    - Registration fee for 2022 would revert back to \$50 & 60 (or \$65 as new members need to cover shirt costs which are higher)
- Closing remarks – Commissioner thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their ideas and questions.
- The winner of the raffle for complimentary 2022 membership is Greg McGowan.

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 7:20 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary*

*10/25/2021*