



FINAL Minutes

VSS Board of Directors Meeting December 4, 2023

Meeting called to order at 5:57 PM

Board Members Present –

League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin
Internal Competition – Tim Poloski
Public Relations - Jack Frascarelli
Public Relations – John Murphy
Recording Secretary -Gail Gretzmacher
Umpire Committee-Jeff Schiavetti
External Competition- Jim Kenney
Member at large – Bill Hettinger

Missing – Treasurer Richard Nabel

Guests: Kari Martin (Ravens Manager)

- *Motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting and the October 19, 2023 meeting. Motions passed and Bill will post to the league website.*
- **Opening Comments**
 - *Holiday party was a success with 42 people attending. Both the location (Lena's) and the food were good.*
- **Treasurer Update – Dick, Board**
 - *\$3841.92 in the Operating Account*
 - *Next expense for the league will be insurance ~\$1800*
 - *Holiday party cost ~\$850*
 - *Some discussion occurred on possible expenses for the 2024 season*
 - *Suggestion on buying new hats (Tim)*
 - *May need a new pitching screen (Jeff)*
 - *Consider planning for 2 balls per game*
 - *Leftover softballs from 2023 season – 6 dozen (\$68/dozen)*
 - *Per VSS rules, use .44/375 balls (Sr softball specs-the core is .44 and the compression is .375); agreement to use same type balls for 2024 season*
 - *No need to purchase any new bats as VSS has a full complement of bats (thanks to Tim & Ken's work in 2023 season)*
 - *SR bats are SSUSA and Regular bats are USA*
 - *Funding per season is ~\$10,000*
- **Old Business**
 - *Fall League debrief – the season went well, and the 'no runners from Home' worked out well.*
 - *Some thoughts for the summer league as a result of the Fall League*
 - *Consider playing 1 double header a week rather than 2 games/week*
 - *On Thursdays, there is no other league play after VSS games and so VSS games could be 4:45 then 6:15*
 - *If changes are needed for league growth, send out a survey to membership to collect data*
- **New Business**
 - *Preparation for 2024 season*
 - *Season registration Jan 1, 2024 – April 14, 2024*
 - *Fee Structure: A motion was made and seconded to set the returning member fee of \$75 and new members \$100. Motion passed.*

- Schedule of key dates for 2024 season:
 - Jan 1 – registration opens
 - April 15– in-person registration
 - April 15 – last day of registration
 - Week of April 15 – evaluation of new players
 - Week of April 22 – Practice week for teams
 - April 29 – Regular Season begins
 - August 16 – Regular Season ends
 - Playoffs – weeks of August 19 and 26
 - Playing venue will continue to be Community Field with makeups at Henry Park
 - Web site: Bill
 - Sponsor information will need to be updated; content should include information of the sponsor’s business
 - Tournament/Travel team content dates to be posted
 - One-pitch tournament
 - CT Masters tournament in July
 - Cape tournaments after Labor day : Fri, Sat ,Sun- 65s, Mon,Tues,Wed- 70s & 75s)
 - Confirm board structure
 - Roles confirmed
 - (i) Bill’s role- maintaining the rules and by-laws; the schedule; the website; and assisting Tim with internal and Jim with external.
 - Internal competition –
 - No changes needed
 - Rules Committee
 - (i) Meeting date is Jan 22
 - (ii) Rules Committee recommendations to be reviewed at Feb 2024 Board meeting for final decisions
 - (iii) Some Input received from league members via emails – yellow card for non-compliance with VSS Code of Conduct, hit into outfield is an automatic hit, subs only in Right field or catcher, play 2 innings at a time for less movement ;
 - Umpire preparation – Jeff
 - Jeff will seek 2 umpires from each team,
 - Umpires who cover 15 games or more get free registration the following year
 - Consider best means to confirm umpires at games - Home team sends in score and umpires?
 - Financial – It was noted that the Board should operate to a defined budget with formal Board approval
 - Gail and Dick will work to craft a budget for the 2024 season and review at the Feb Board meeting
 - Sponsorship- John,Jack
 - Majority of work occurs offseason
 - Expect to retain the sponsors from 2023 season
 - New sponsor expected is Long view (financial planning company)
 - Need explanation of what sponsor’s do
- ***Player/Manager comments***
 - Kari inquired about how team managers were determined and whether the Board had involvement
 - Answer: The internal competition committee and the board have come up with every manager on each team. It’s not a vote thing on the part of the team. The league is responsible for the teams, the balance, the players and the managers too.

Next meeting: February 5th, 6pm at Shea’s

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 7:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary
12/4/2023