



DRAFT Minutes

VSS Board of Directors Meeting March 11, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Board Members Present –

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

Missing: Public Relations – John Murphy

Guests: Kari Martin (Ravens Manager), Bill Ganem (Owls)

- *Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024 meeting. Motion passed and Bill will post to the league website.*
- **Player/Manager comments**
 - *Comments to be held until discussion on team Owl's shirt request*
- **Opening Comments**
 - *Commissioner shared that several teams will be losing a significant number of their team for this coming season. He stressed the need for our collective effort to bring parity in the league as we work through player placements.*
- **Treasurer Update – Dick**
 - *\$5276 in the Operating Account*
 - *League insurance paid - \$1847*
 - *The revised draft budget was reviewed and formally approved*
- **Old Business**
 - *Bill presented 3 options for storing critical, sensitive documents for the Board's ability to continue effective management of the VSS league:*
 - a) *We have the access info for the IRS filing, the website, the server, the email, PayPal, and the bank account on pieces of paper and put them in a pocketed folder. Each officer of the board (commissioner, asst commissioner, secretary, treasurer) gets a copy. When you get off the board, you give your folder to your successor. This is my favorite since there is nothing online to hack and it doesn't depend on somebody's account. We could change passwords if needed when people change.*
 - b) *I or another board member could create a shared dropbox folder and give access to the board members. If somebody dies or leaves, you would just have to move the files to a new place before their dropbox doesn't get renewed. If we don't like dropbox, we could do iCloud or Google drive. There is a risk any of them could be hacked. I created a shared dropbox folder with this type of info a few years ago and other than Kevin Massey, nobody even looked at it.*
 - c) *We put it on website server. It's just stored there in a file that isn't that easy to access but it would be there if needed. We'd be subject to somebody hacking the Godaddy servers.*

After discussion and a recommendation from Bill, Option A was selected by the Board. Bill noted that other non-profits he spoke with also use this method. The Board will provide Gail with all ids and passwords and she will produce a complete inventory in a physical copy for the 4 Board members (Commissioner, VP(Bill), Treasurer, Recording Secretary).

- *Masks and chest protector use for pitchers*
 - *Masks will still be mandatory; all other protective equipment is optional*
- *Rules – a minor change was offered for better clarification. Bill will apply and repost.*

New Business

- Internal Competition-Tim/Bill
 - Registration update:
 - 50 received as of tonight
 - 3 teams (Blue Jays, Ravens, Orioles) seem to be in greatest need of players
 - Outreach was discussed and best channels to recruit new players for the league:
 - Bill to create a league pdf for distribution
 - Gail to send or post to town Rec Dept web sites (eg: *Vernon, Manchester, Stafford, Tolland, Ellington, South Windsor, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Wethersfield, Coventry*)
 - Tim noted the facebook page could be shared with town web sites
 - Jeff noted retail (Dick's Sporting Goods) might be an opportunity
 - 120 grey hats to be ordered by Kevin
 - Owl team request for new team shirts-
 - The current Owl shirt is no longer available from the current provider and shirts are needed.
 - Bill G shared his experience with an online vendor and felt this was a cost-effective and high-quality provider of sport's shirts.
 - The Board expressed the need for a uniform look for our recreational league and that this might be an opportunity to upgrade team shirts.
 - At this time, the Board felt a pilot by the Owls using the online vendor is warranted and will be supported financially by the league. With positive results, the other teams can then be planned for new shirts with the same online vendor.
 - A motion was made for the Owls to purchase 20 shirts for a maximum cost of \$450 from Overcomeaverage, an online vendor. Motion passed.
 - The league tax exempt code will be used. The league will then reimburse the Owls upon receipt of the invoice.
 - Bill H recommended the continued use of last year's bat stickers; Board agreed.
 - Bill H confirmed that pool players must complete waiver and registration and would only pay the registration fee if placed on a team.
- Sponsorship Update-Murph/Jack
 - Check for \$250 was received from our UPS sponsor, Dave Coppolelli, Honorary Hawk
 - Sponsor funding collected - \$600
 - Returning Sponsors– French Club, Frankie B's Family Pizza, Vernon Coffee Roasters, Roccas, Riley's pkg store, Sheas, Precision Power Washing, American Legion
 - Bill noted the web site needs to have an accurate listing of the sponsors which can then be linked to the sponsor's web site
 - Sponsor booklets
 - Content needs to be defined the 2nd week in April for timely publication & distribution to the league membership
 - Bill requested that VSS should be included in the booklet
 - Prices are defined for ¼, ½ and full-page ads

- Yard Goats game – Kevin to speak with Murphy about planning for a game that league members could attend.
- Umpire Update-Jeff
 - A list of volunteer umpires is being collected; working to get 2 volunteers from each team
 - Assignments will follow last year's model; first half of the season and then later the 2nd half
 - Plan to have 2 umpires per game
- External Competition-Jim/Bill
 - One-pitch date will be August 10th
 - Jim shared the Cape Tournament dates:
 - 65s - Sept 6-8
 - 70s, 75 - Sept 9-11
 - Board discussion resulted in the suggestion to enter a 65 and 70 team noting that it is critical to define the managers. Possible managers could be Joe M., Bill H., or Jim K.
 - Bill to send an email out to the league announcing the Cape Tournament dates and if interested to contact Jim Kenney
- Social – picnic is a deferred topic for a future meeting
- Yard Goats game – Kevin will discuss with John Murphy offline and work to plan a game for league members to attend.
- Historian – Kevin Massey , who did a wonderful job in creating historical binders of league seasons, needs to transfer the binders to an active league member. Bill volunteered to get the binders from from Kevin.

Next meeting: April 17 to assign players 6pm at Community Center

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary
3/11/2023