

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
Jan. 26, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Bernadette Villarreal presiding.

Present: David Book, Nick Hertel, Bryan Simmons, Bernadette Villarreal, Pete Huller, Jeff Odell, Greg Tarola, Randy Karasek, Maria Lucido, Crystal Hawes, Jeff Gray, Rich Russo, Don Mothershead, Sal Lucido, Jim Lowell, Brian Wood, Sam Buttrey, Michele Amader, Marcia Cody.

Opening Business:

A motion to adopt the December minutes was made by Wood, seconded by Book, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Bill Uretsky, formerly of Monterey Peninsula Umps Association, addressed the board. This group currently serves 9 cities and some dozens of divisions; Uretsky has sold the business to Ira Beyah Sr., but will stay on as a consultant. Both Beyah and his son Ira Jr. (“Bubba”) attended. Ira is a lifelong Monterey County resident who has umpired and coached for years including the high school JV level. Ira will continue to offer the “rules for coaches” clinic.

I. President’s Report

- Board Personnel business: Bryan Simmons was proposed as Vice President and agreed to fill the position. Rich Russo made the relevant motion; Michele Amader seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- A number of volunteers were proposed for vacant positions. They were Jim Lowell, Pre-rookies rep; Crystal Hawes: Pinto rep; Marcia Cody, Bronco rep; Pete Huller, Assistant baseball director, Nick Hertel, Mustang rep; and David Book, concessions coordinator (leaving his current post as Field Improvement Guy). A vote on the motion to add these candidates to the board was unanimously in favor.
- Martin Sublett was proposed as Rookie representative. That election was postponed pending further information.
- Bernadette reported that she called Jim Edwards (Western Zone Rep.) to ensure that our teams will be eligible for all-stars even if they have fewer than 12 players. Edwards assured her that our teams will be eligible.
- Bernadette being unavailable, Rich Russo and Bryan Simmons attended the PONY Presidents’ meeting. Much of the discussion there was on paperwork. There are a few important notes. (a) Only twelve teams will be admitted to the Bronco Tournament in Monterey; (b) There will be an all-star tournament organizational meeting in mid-

May; (c) A rule has been changed so that no player may play in two Pony-sanctioned tournaments with different teams in the same year. Last year the rule prohibited playing in any two tournaments with different teams. (This rule can, of course, be superseded by local rules, as it is in Monterey.) (d) The PONY organization awarded the board a plaque for our support.

- Sign-ups were held January 7th and 20th were very successful. There were 328 sign-ups in two days. Late registrations will be routed through the Recreation Department.
- Randy Karasek will coordinate baseball try-outs at George Washington Park on February 4th. Bernadette has ordered a new set of try-out jerseys. Some discussion of the quality of the park ensued, referring particularly to drainage problems in left-center field.
- Picture Day will be Saturday, April 29th at George Washington. Bryan Simmons will coordinate that, once the schedules are set. We do not have a backup date.
- The Dinner Dance is set for Saturday May 20th ; Randy or Sam will send out a mass “save the date” e-mail.
- Field permits are done and all approved. The only possible glitch is at the Middle School which is being re-seeded; once the re-seeding takes place we will not be able to use the field.
- Brian Wood suggested that we might re-work our locks that we can to try to reduce the number of keys outstanding. He has produced a spreadsheet of which locks are available to us and will pass that to Bryan Simmons. It was agreed that the equipment lockers at Arnett and George Washington should have identical keys. Bryan will coordinate the portable johns.
- The Manager Selection took place yesterday. One decision from the committee was that we need to require the manager and one assistant coach from each team to get certified by the NYSCA. Those classes will be offered as a two-day class through the Rec Department: those dates are Feb. 27th and Mar 2nd, and re-offered Mar 28th and Mar 29th.
- An idea for the money in the Fred Crocker fund (about \$1,000) was proposed by Brian Wood. That idea is to build a batting cage at PG High and include a plaque. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

II. Softball Director: Sal Lucido proposed buying an electric generator for Forest Grove, which has no electricity for the pitching machine. Bryan Simmons will look into that. There will also be a no-charge clinic for coaches and parents but details have not been filled. We have two Pre-rookies teams (which may expand to three), three each of Rookie and Minor teams, and one Major team with just about enough players for two. If a second Major team cannot be fielded some of the players might be permitted to move to

Carmel teams. All the teams have coaches in place, except for one Pre-rookie team and a second Major team.

On June 2-4, the PGHS JV and Varsity fields will be being used by the high school baseball team for some kind of a tournament, which may conflict with Pony scheduling. Rich and Sal will coordinate.

We have permission from the City to use the P.G. Muni Field every Friday and every other Saturday, which will ease the pressure on Arnett somewhat.

Sal will have a meeting with all the coaches on field prep, putting in bases, and so on, date to be announced.

III. Baseball Director: Rich Russo reported on the manager selection meeting. We have small teams at every level: most teams have ten or eleven players. Right now we have two Pony, four Bronco, six Mustang, six Pinto and six Shetland teams. Pony, Bronco and Mustang have all their managers. Shetland seems to be full pending confirmation from some of the candidates. Pinto has four confirmed and two tentative. Rich asked for permission to buy a palette of bags of Quick-Dri for both Arnett and GW Parks and has one quote for about \$335. Jeff and Greg will look into getting a better price. There was some discussion about where the bags could be stored.

Brian Wood noted that small teams can lead to problems. Last year, he related, some teams had to borrow players from the other when they got down to 7 or 8 players (around spring break, for example). It was suggested that Mustang should take Science Camp week off, as Bronco already does; Mustang is more affected by that this year because of the change in the age cut-off. A number of kids, especially those outside PGUSD schools, tend to drop out of baseball, and Brian suggested that we call the families of the children who were in last year and did not sign up this year. Rich will ensure that umpires will officiate games in which one team has only eight players.

Rich and Maria will be alerting their managers to the free scorekeeping clinic, which will be held 22 March.

Gil Ruiz has offered to hold a coach's clinic; Rich will co-ordinate with Greg, who is arranging the Rich Taylor pitching clinic. Dates will be forthcoming.

IV. League Reps: In response to concerns on the part of some of the league reps, Rich will be finalizing the schedule over the next few days with league representatives. Greg Tarola reported that the JV infield is in excellent shape. He will, however, need help in readying the outfield; this will take place on one of the Saturdays in early February.

V. Field Improvement Guy: Outgoing field guy David Book has identified a number of volunteers who appear to be willing to help out with field improvements. The field improvement day will be the 25th of February (8 a.m. – noon) and the league representatives will need to take the lead on that by organizing parents and volunteers.

David Book has spoken to Linda Williams, principal of Robert Down, about the bleachers there. His understanding is that she will support the bleachers being replaced. will report back to the board regarding the aluminum bleachers offered to us by the City. They are currently without side or back rails.

VI. Equipment Manager: Jeff O. does not yet have a key for the equipment locker at the City Yard, and needs to know draft dates as well as which leagues get what equipment. Jeff O., Maria and Brian Wood will meet tomorrow at the City Yard to inspect the equipment. Jeff Grey will pass on equipment checklists and other information. Jeff O. will look into Quick-Dri to see if it's kept in stock locally and whether it's worth buying a palette rather than a couple of bags at a time. He will also make sure that there is enough line-marking chalk.

VII. Treasurer: Jerry Chyo delivered the end-of-year financial statement. He and Randy have arranged for concessions information to be entered electronically into a system operated by WAMU. The current statement is still lacking information for May 2005, but this will be made available under the new system. Bryan and Jerry will get together over the next two weeks to go over the proposed budget.

- Signups were ahead of last year by a small amount.
- Our insurance premium went up \$30, although that may change a bit if a second Major team is added. Our policy has not lapsed.

VIII. Concessions Manager: Nothing to report.

IX. Baseball Webmaster: Randy reminded league reps to get their schedules to him as quickly as possible after the draft, so that rosters can be posted to the web.

X. Softball Webmistress: No report.

XI. City Rep: No report.

XII. Sponsor Rep: Michele Amader has secured the Sally Griffin Center for the Dinner Dance Saturday May 20th. She distributed a budget and has secured a DJ and liquor permit and is raising items for the auction. She discussed some ticket sale plans – she will, for example, arrange to have tickets sold at picture day. Bernadette noted that a “save the date” e-mail would be useful in raising awareness and keeping support. Sam and Randy will arrange that, and a second e-mail a few weeks before the event will also be sent. After some discussion it was proposed to raise the ticket price to \$25, \$30 at the door. Buttrey made the motion, Odell seconded, voice vote.

Michele has about ten commitments from sponsors and a number of checks have been received. She needs a list of teams and players, since some sponsors want to sponsor the team of a particular player.

XIII. Other business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 23, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary