

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
Feb. 23, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m., Bernadette Villarreal presiding.

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

Opening Business:

A motion to adopt the January minutes was made by Russo, seconded by Odell, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

I. President's Report

- New personnel: Martin Sublett has agreed to be the Rookies' league representative. A motion to add him to the board, proposed by Russo and seconded by Amader, passed unanimously.
- Bernadette noted that the try-outs worked out very nicely, and singled out Randy Karasek as due particular thanks, particularly in maintaining electronic records. She produced letters thanking the Pappases and Bill Phillips for all their help with tryouts; these were signed by the board and will be mailed. (As a side note there was some discussion about how to generate paper with the PG PONY logo as a letterhead. Brian Wood has the logo in electronic form.) Bernadette also wanted to acknowledge the hard work Jeff Odell put in organizing the equipment shed, fixing the drainage at George Washington Park, and working on dugouts.
- Brian Wood updated the key situation. Until the locks are re-keyed the existing keys will continue to be distributed. Randy will produce the necessary keys but we anticipate re-keying.
- Bernadette reiterated that we want NYSCA certification for all managers. League reps will need to collect evidence of this and pass it on to Bernadette. Softball coaches are encouraged to get ACE certification – it's required for managers and dugout coaches of tournament teams – but the board's current belief is that either NYSCA or ACE certification will be sufficient for softball coaches not interested in coaching all-star teams. Baseball coaches will need to have NYSCA certification even if they have ACE certification. Bernadette reminded the board about the scorekeeping and NYSCA clinics coming up, as well as baseball and softball field days.

II. Vice-President's Report PONY is again set for Good Old Days. Bryan Simmons reported that portable toilets (one each at the David Avenue campus' Country Club Gate end, Robert Down School, and PGHS) should be in place Monday. Final arrangements for Picture Day are awaiting scheduling of Pony and some of the softball games. Jeff

Odell will take care of procuring and installing a lattice to keep the Robert Down School toilet from being visible from the street on that side.

III. Softball Director: Sal Lucido reported on some upcoming softball items: (a) The upcoming rules clinic will be mandatory for first-year coaches. (b) There will be a softball clinic (for ages 9-14) \$10 on March 11th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., presented by PGHS softball.

Majors: Sal had thought there would be two teams for Majors, with ten players each; then one player on the waiting list dropped out. Since there are 20 girls currently on the PG JV, Mark Mehaney, the JV coach, will canvass among those girls and see if a few who might not play for the JV team can be persuaded to join PONY. The board's thinking is that even 15 girls on a team is far too many. Other local leagues are also short of players, so combining leagues between cities seems a difficult option. Another option is to have two underfilled teams and allow them to borrow players from one another. Joe Moses is in place as one of the managers; Mark Harbert was unanimously approved as the manager of the second Majors team.

Minors: Maria Lucido reported that the minors draft went well and produced three teams.

Rookie: Martin Sublett reported that there will be three rookie teams this season, with ten or eleven players each. Some scheduling issues were presented.

Pre-rookie: Jim Lowell notes that pre-rookies had enrolled 20 girls, making two teams of 10 players each. Jim will be one coach; another is needed.

General: Joe Moses, already tapped as one of the coaches for the Majors, has volunteered to be Majors rep. A motion to install him in that position was made by Villarreal, and, after a general second, passed unanimously.

IV. Baseball Director: Rich Russo asked that the league reps' reports precede his.

Pony: Greg Tarola reported that tryouts went well. There will be two Pony teams, which are awaiting the final schedule. Bryan Simmons arranged for a roller; Greg has been rolling the JV and Varsity fields. Rich will need to coordinate practice times with the Pony coaches because of other needs (for example, lacrosse and Bronco). Until daylight savings begins, the JV field will only be available one or two nights a week. Rich suggested that the two teams might get together in a clinic-style environment.

Bronco: Marcia Cody reported that the tryouts and draft went well. All four managers have had team meetings, and she reinforced clean-up day (and promoted the rules clinic) to the parents. There are four players whose birth certificates have not yet been produced, and she will continue to pursue that. One team has 13 kids; the others have 12. Rich is still working on the inter-city games (in which teams from another city play in PG one weekend, and the PG teams travel to the other city on another) and should have that

scheduled tomorrow. Marcia and Rich are also working on a mid-year “pick-up” game in which the two local teams will be mixed up.

Some practices at the Presidio have been approved – parents will need to supply driver’s licenses. The Managers’ meeting will be held Monday at 6:30. Jeff Odell has one Bronco equipment bag still to distribute.

On the subject of uniforms, Sal observed that PG PONY pays \$30 per player to the uniform supplier for Pony and Majors; they get a slightly nicer shirt than the lower leagues. This cost has remained at that level for some years now. Dave from Cages reports that \$35 will allow a much wider choice. The board’s thinking is that next year we might increase the fee by \$5 and pass that increase on to Cages or other uniform supplier.

It has been agreed that there will be no Bronco practice during Science Camp week. Rich proposed having Pinto play at George Washington Park that week, which should excite the Pinto players and generate some concessions income. This scheduling is already in place.

Mustang: Nick Hertel reported that the managers’ meeting was successful. He offered these rule clarifications: first, runners may not advance on a dropped third strike. Second, only small lead-offs will be allowed. A runner leading off will have to make an attempt to go back to the base on a throw (this keeps runners from advancing, anticipating a wild throw to the base). A runner who makes an attempt to return on a pick-off throw may then reverse course and advance if the throw is wild. Third, there will be no straight steals. Rich suggests that we keep these rule changes as a “gentlemen’s agreement” this year and contemplate that they be added permanently next year because that make life much easier for the catchers. We do not anticipate adding a line or other indicator to delineate a suitably short lead-off; the coaches will require their players to stay close.

Nick notes that equipment has been delivered.

Rich reports that Calvary High School is planning to use their field heavily: they have both baseball and softball teams and plan to practice until 5:30 every night. We can use it when they travel, but they don’t travel much. Even after Daylight Savings, we’ll only be able to get one Mustang practice in at that field per evening. Sending Bronco to the Presidio will open up the Middle School field, which will help somewhat. The upper part of David is now used by Community High School but not, it seems, in the afternoons, so that might be another option.

The Lighthouse Avenue fields (at the PG Adult School) can be used for Shetland but not for others. Rich wants to investigate looking at the Pacific Oaks end of David Ave. Rich talked to the president of Marina baseball, and with some drawings feels we will be able to make a proposal to Robin Blakeley, superintendent of schools. Woody will take the lead on producing and submitting plans for a skin infield at the end of the David Avenue fields. Much additional discussion about fields ensued.

Pinto: Crystal Hawes met with managers: one needs to change days but that can be worked out with one of the softball teams. The idea of having Pinto games at GW Park is already in the schedule. Some managers have requested that the equipment shed at Robert Down contain chalk for coaches' use between games – but it already does.

Shetland: Jeff Grey observed that field day will overlap with the funeral for Richard Chamberlin. A couple of tee-ball teams inadvertently had practice this week. Four teams practice at Forest Grove. The High School softball team had been practicing there, but after March 1 this should not be a problem. However, major and minor softball also use Forest Grove. After some discussion it was decided that most or all Shetland teams will need to move their practices to Caledonia Park. Someone noted that Caledonia Park will be in use on Monday March 20th.

Martin suggested that we use the end of the David Avenue field down by Pacific Oaks, since there are three backstops there. Our permit apparently covers that end of the field.

Jeff also noted that Shetland has six teams (and six coaches), five of which have eleven players each and one which has twelve. Uniforms will be distributed over the next couple of days.

Rich announced a rules clinic on March 12th, which is mandatory for at least one representative per Mustang, Bronco, and Pony team. This will be open to parents, players, and coaches and will also be useful for scorekeepers. He is also trying to arrange a free pitching clinic for coaches.

Rich has a number of notes on field preparation, co-ordinating with softball.

- Forest Grove field number two looks good.
- Arnett: Sal and Martin are co-ordinating a delivery of cinders to Arnett Park. There's a hole in the fence in left-center field that needs to be repaired. There's also a big hole where a pipe goes under the fence in right field. That can be filled up with dirt. Rich grabbed the outfield fence yardage signs, which had fallen, and they'll need to be re-installed.
- GW Park: the home plate that belongs on the right-field line plate is in Rich's truck. There are a lot of weeds along the foul lines and fences. The backstop screen needs to be tied up to keep balls from getting caught: Jeff Odell will take care of that. The mound has been destroyed; the city has dropped off cinders and we can use that to re-build the mound. There may also be some left over from Arnett. Woody suggested having two plates or two rubbers, one on each foul line, one for Mustang and done for Bronco, since some players having been using the wrong one.
- David Avenue: Calvary School has put in base pegs. Apparently they were planning to build a net for the foul lines of the Mustang field (the one farther from Congress Ave.), but there won't be much work done on the field itself. There's water on the new infield (the one closer to Congress), although that's 300' from the old field. Weeds need whacking.

On uniforms, we have been ordering block, not custom, lettering for the sponsor logos for the Mustang and higher divisions. Rich recommends sticking with that: a custom logo costs an extra \$100 per team. Michele points out that the letter we send to sponsors says we will provide “name or logo” on the shirts, and we should be clear to the sponsors that custom logos will cost extra.

Rich also reported that there has been some discussion of an inter-city Pony board. This board’s members would not be affiliated with a particular city, and its job would be to make policy to ensure that different cities are acting properly (for example, it would prevent cities from “stacking” teams). There will be more details on this as it develops.

V. Field Improvement and Equipment Guy: Jeff Odell has been looking at equipment sheds as well as fields. The sheds are all in good order except for the little one at GW. PONY has an agreement to share the shed at Forest Grove with the High School, but the High School has essentially taken it over. At some point during the season the High School will move down to the Municipal field, but as a board we need to decide how to enforce that agreement. Sal has received assurance that, when High School moves to the Municipal field, all their equipment will be removed, leaving just a pitching machine and a couple of buckets.

Jeff did do some temporary drainage work at George Washington Park. However, the system there has failed; the lines have collapsed. Jeff suggests a major job there, involving digging everything up and putting in proper pipe and rock. Left field is still pretty soggy and proper drainage will let us dry out left field. Jeff suggests that a dollar amount on the order of \$4000-6000, using volunteer labor, would suffice. There was some talk of getting the City to help. Of course capital improvements will benefit the City directly, but then all of our capital improvements benefit either the City or the School District. It was also observed that PG PONY is breaking even and has a running balance of around \$70,000.

All of the reps have been given their teams’ equipment – or will have been by the end of the evening. Jeff has also acquired and distributed a veritable plethora of ice packs. No game balls have been handed out yet. In fact there weren’t enough balls in the equipment sheds to go around, so Mustang and Bronco are getting all new balls. PONY also had to buy bags, softballs, throw-down bases and some other equipment. At this stage Jeff has all the essentials and PONY is not carrying much of an inventory.

The roof at the George Washington concession stand still needs to be fixed. Randy still plans to address that and Jeff will work with him on that. On an outside note, congratulations to Jeff and Patty Odell, who were recognized as Volunteers of the Year at the Taste of P.G. Pride.

VI. Treasurer: Jerry Chyo passed out up-to-date reports including completed 2005 data. Concessions was almost the same as 2004, despite a lot of rainouts. PG PONY has now made money four years in a row. Jerry opined that there is plenty of money for field improvements at, for example, George Washington, Arnett, and David Avenue. On

another note there seemed to be a lot of refunds this year. Sam proposes that anyone reading this far down the minutes should be given 20 bucks. I will take these last two sentences out after the initial draft.

VII. Concessions: David Book will be relying on Mustang, Pony and softball lists of which parents will do concessions on which nights. Each team should have at least one. David will consult with coaches so he can fill in his master list. Randy will set up a training night after field night to train “openers” and “closers” – people who know what to do to open and close up the concession stands. Coaches are asked to send lists of available parent volunteers to David.

Stocking will start soon. David and Randy will set a master game schedule for openers and closers. It was noted that we operate the concessions at Municipal field for Varsity and JV softball: they open and staff it, but we stock it and send them around \$200 at the end of the year.

VIII. WebMaster: Randy Karasek reports that the website is just about fully updated. He encourages reps to send rosters, coaches to post their introductory letters and parents to send in pictures.

IX. Webmistress: Jo Crisp states that everything on the softball website has been updated though pre-rookie rosters are missing. The sponsor info for softball is not quite ready – Michele will have it ready by the weekend.

XII. Sponsor Rep: Michele Amader has thirty committed and twenty paid sponsors. At \$300 apiece, that means we have already collected \$6000 from sponsors. We need thirty-four sponsors and were able to get all the teams sponsored last year. Several leads for the remaining spots have presented themselves. Michele has an e-mail in to the sponsors who wanted custom logos explaining that those will not be offered.

The Dinner Dance is set for the Sally Griffin Center in April, with the Community Center as the backup location in case Sally Griffin isn't ready. The date is April 20th.

XIII. Other business: Sam will put together an internal board member list with contact numbers: name, addresses, phone numbers, and cell phone numbers. Board members are asked to send that information to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary