

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

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

Present: Nick Hertel, David Book, Marcia Cody, Bryan Simmons, Bernadette Villarreal, Crystal Hawes, Pete Huller, Randy Karasek, Jeff Gray, Jeff Odell, Sal Lucido, Michele Amader, Jim Lowell, Sam Buttrey, Jo Crisp, Jerry Chyo, Rich Russo.

Opening Business:

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

I. President's Report

Michele has circulated a draft copy of updates to the by-laws and constitution and there will be a vote on some or all of the changes at the April meeting.

Birth certificates (accompanied by the threat of children without birth certificates not playing) have come in nicely – there are two missing in Shetland, and one each in Mustang and Pinto. Softball has ten birth certificates outstanding.

PG PONY is continuing to make sure that every team has at least one coach who has filled out the coach's applications and code of ethics. Volunteers should also fill out forms as necessary.

Michele will pass out Pony Baseball rule books. Bernadette has received uniform patches and other all-star equipment.

Sign-ups are officially finished. We are not taking any more applications.

The final announcement concerned the dinner dance. Using a Mardi Gras theme will allow us to re-use a set of decorations from another party to be held at the Monterey Plaza. We may pick those decorations up 8:30 p.m. on April 13th.

II. Vice-President's Report Bryan Simmons reminds us that Picture Day schedules are now essentially complete, pending some consultation with softball. The date is April 29th, rain or shine. Randy will post the team schedule on the web. It was noted that there might be a conflict with the PG Recreation Department's Skills competition.

The Good Old Days parade, April 8th, will be the same as last year. Shetland and Pinto teams will assemble at 9:30, at the corner of Pine and Walnut.

III. Softball Director: Sal Lucido reports that the softball schedule is now complete, after significant problems. Sal is trying to locate keys to the sheds at Arnett and PG Muni. He will deliver a copy of the game and practice schedule to Rich, in the latter's pursuit of an overall master schedule which will help find fields to make up rained-out practices.

Majors: Two girls left Majors, so we're down to one team with 16 players. The PGHS JV coach has decided to keep all the team's players; the ones that were of age to play in our league were ones the coach wanted to keep. Practices are going well.

Minors: No report.

Rookie: No report.

Pre-rookie: There have been a few late sign-ups. Teams now have 12 and 11 members, and Angela Matthews and Barney Morgan have signed up as co-coaches. We're still missing a couple of birth certificates.

IV. Baseball Director: Pete Huller reported for Rich Russo and started by thanking the reps for their help. The infields are "hanging in there" despite the recent rain. George Washington Park had a sprinkler control valve break. There's a shutoff valve at GW, by Sinex near a stainless steel box. Pete points out that in general PG PONY should know where shutoff valves are. GW and Arnett outfields need drainage, but infields are in good shape. The PG JV field is also in good shape. After the few games played so far, there have been nothing but good reports regarding the umpires. Jeff O. has obtained a couple of L screens for the middle school. We had had two batter's box frames, and they're now lost. We need one of these at GW; there's one at Arnett made out of rebar which seems to work.

The mound at Arnett park is disappearing and we don't know why. Symptoms are consistent with vandalism.

Pony: Rich Russo reported for Greg Tarola. There have been some field prep problems, with Don Mothershead on vacation. Rich will ensure that Don and the Recreation Department get the schedule.

Bronco: Marcia Cody reported that field prep day a success. Jeff O. fixed the hole in the fence at GW Park. Marcia asks that everyone try to keep Fridays at GW open, so that make-up games can be re-scheduled. She is encouraging Bronco managers to arrange practices at the Presidio. Marcia agrees that the new umpires have been on-time and generally accurate. She reminds managers and others to document the times they arrive. The umpire director Ira has been present every weekend. Marcia notes that scorekeepers need to keep the book, especially counting the number of innings that pitchers pitch. She is very happy with the new baseballs.

Jeff Gray suggests that we consider a tall net along the right-field line at GW Park. This would keep balls from visiting the house that used to be protected by the recently-removed trees. Thanks were offered to Randy for his stellar work on weed-whacking; he will take another whack, so to speak.

Mustang: Nick Hertel reported that his umpires have been on time. There has been one rainout and Mustang is still short on practice fields. There was one change in the schedule (moving fields, not times). Bernadette reminded everyone to propagate changes to David Book so that he can ensure that concessions are taken care of.

Pinto: Crystal Hawes noted that some cinders are needed around home plate at the Robert Down School field. First base, however, looks a lot better. One teams' practice time has a conflict with one of the softball teams, but the overlap is only 15 minutes. The PGUSD has not been emptying the one trash can near the bleachers, and we will arrange with the school to have that taken care of.

Shetland: Jeff Gray reported. He would like to see the master schedule, so that rain-outs can be made up. The PGHS Varsity team will leave Forest Grove in the next week or so. A small number of additional uniforms continue to be needed. Jeff suggested that if we have trouble getting uniforms for the first game, perhaps we should look elsewhere than our current supplier. Some discussion ensued. The general answer was that it is PG PONY, more than the supplier, that is not using time efficiently.

Sam asked for a clarification as to who has the responsibility for calling games on account of rain. For Shetland and Pinto it will generally be the league rep together with the Baseball Director; for Mustang, Bronco, and Pony the decision will be made at game time by managers and umpires.

Jeff G. had one more note: some parents have complained about the cost of signing up. They ask questions like, "Where does the money go"? Of course the answer is uniforms, hats, equipment, field prep, and, for older players, umpires. It was agreed that we need to be able to communicate this to parents. David Book suggested that a sheet of paper, carrying a breakdown of income and expenditures, might be useful in addressing this.

V. Field Improvement and Equipment Guy: The Field-Dri compound turns out to be very expensive: a palette costs \$400, plus \$450 shipping, because it has to come in from Missouri and would require a special shipment. Western Farm Service carries Field-Dri at the right time of year; they have one palette in Watsonville, but they're not willing to give it up because they use it for their local leagues. The bottom line is that we will have to order the Field-Dri in the off-season. We will put kitty litter in the sheds as a stop-gap. Jeff also needs to put chalk in the sheds. Jeff also reported that two L screens have arrived. One will go to the middle school; the other will be locked in one of the sheds.

VII. Concessions: David Book asked that he be informed about rainouts and re-schedules. Keys seem to have been worked out. We will get 7 or 8 sets of keys to be distributed to "openers" and "closers."

David had a chat with Carlyn Boggan from the High School. In the past the school has not been happy with the arrangement regarding concessions for high school softball games at the P.G. Muni field. Under that arrangement, PG PONY would clean and stock the concessions stand and the stands would be operated by high school parents. At the

end of the year PG PONY has been sending around \$250 to the high school. Randy noted that we have been netting around \$700 from those activities. There is no formal agreement now, though, and there was general agreement that there should be. Apparently some at PGHS would like to get out of the agreement. The board agreed that PG PONY would be glad to staff the concessions stand and keep the money.

David noted that with the return of the outhouse to Robert Down, the complaints have returned as well. Jeff Odell will arrange for a lattice-type screen.

He called on Bronco and Mustang managers to produce more parents to operate concessions; 8 out of 12 managers have yet to produce parents.

Randy Karasek reported that, from a concessions perspective, both GW and Arnett Parks are in good shape. Muni will be stocked tomorrow. We have spent about \$2000 so far this season, and taken in \$450-600 so far (not counting today). We spent about \$140 at Hayward Lumber for shelving at Arnett and \$280-300 for a new hot dog roller at GW. The roller at GW will move to Arnett, and the roller at Arnett will be retired.

VIII. WebMaster: Randy Karasek reports that everything is up to date. He recommends that league reps check their rosters.

IX. Webmistress: Jo Crisp has just received the schedules, and will have the site up to date by the weekend. She is awaiting material for the Coaches' Corner.

XII. Sponsor Rep: Michele Amader reports that eight sponsors still have to be collected from. She distributed dinner dance handouts; tickets will be available tomorrow and will be at concession stands Saturday. She will also get tickets to the managers. In the past we have given jerseys to sponsors at the end of the year, with a plaque; this year Michele has done it at the start of the season, together with a team schedule and roster – and a dinner-dance flyer.

The Dinner Dance is set for with the Community Center as the location. The date is May 20th.

X. Treasurer: Jerry Chyo reported. All is well: the only issue is that Bryan S. and Jerry need to put together a budget for 2006. That will get done sooner. Or conceivably later.

XIII. Other business: Sam raised the idea of putting some of PONY's capital into serious field improvements, either into the drainage at GW or elsewhere. The proposed project at David Avenue is still open. Pete Huller notes that we have rules about the maximum number of innings one player can pitch. Might we not consider a pitch count, rather than innings pitched? Bernadette replied that we will look into that in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary