

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
February 22, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m., Bernadette Villarreal presiding.

Present: Bernadette Villarreal, Bryan Simmons, Jeff Odell, David Book, Pete Huller, Nan Johnston, Jim Lowell, Sal Lucido, Crystal Hawes, Nick Hertel, Rob Kershner, Marcia Cody, Randy Karasek, Rich Russo, Michele Amader, Angie Matthews

Excused absences: Karen Cepress, Jo Moses, Bob Vogelpohl

Opening Business:

The meeting opened with a presentation by Tom McCartney of TMC Photo who has apparently supplied photography to PG PONY in the past. He circulated promotional materials (e.g. handout, buttons, magnets, current order form). He described details and pricing of his package. In response to Bernadette's question he noted that he employs two photographers and four assistants at a shoot.

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Book, seconded by Odell and passed by voice vote.

I. President's Report

Picture Day: Choices include April 14 (but people may be out of town, since that's the last day of spring Break), April 21st (but that's Good Old Days), or April 22nd (but that's a Sunday, so photography would have to start in the afternoon, after church). Bryan will check both potential photographers (TMC and Central Coast Photography) for the 28th and report back to the Board.

Budget note: Apparently we have a total of 16 full scholarships totaling \$1,670. Regular signups netted \$25,988.50; late signups (corrections pending) added \$5,158.50, for a total of \$31,147. That's almost exactly what we budgeted, even with scholarships and 34 fewer players that last year (389 to 356).

Birth certificate check: there are only about eight players who still have missing birth certificates.

NYSCA reminder: A Manager or Assistant Coach needs to get NYSCA certification, being offered Feb. 27 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) and March 1st (6:30-9:00), and then again March 19th and 21st. Times and locations were on the information sheet sent out to league reps. An on-line course is also available. There is also a scorekeeping clinic March 28th 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the PGCC. The softball certification meeting is March 10th in Marina; sign-ups should be through John Miller of ASA. Sal has let league reps and coaches know.

Bernadette notes that a number of coaches' applications, codes of ethics, and NYSCA certifications are still needed.

Karen Cepress is now on listed all accounts including the CD. She has bought the QuickBooks software and is going through former treasurer Jerry Chyo's notes.

Don Mothershead announced the basketball skills challenge for March 10th.

Keys: Sal needs keys for rookie and minor managers. He'll get them from Bryan. There was some discussion of key needs and combinations.

Bernadette reminded that board that Bob Vogelpohl was voted in as Shetland rep by e-mail.

PA System: there has been progress but this purchase is not yet complete. Joel Woods will give us some advice which David will forward to the donor, who can buy it directly.

Bernadette also made the **Sponsor's report** for Michele. Michele has five sponsors paid so far, plus a number of commitments. She has the rosters (except for Shetland and softball). During Bernadette's report Michele arrived and handed out forms for potential sponsors.

Rob Kershner has been installed as the Umpire liaison.

II. Vice President's Report: Locks and combinations have been tended to and the porta-potties in place. Field Day: Bryan sent out some e-mails, but it's not clear that all managers received them. It will be held Saturday 8-12. Sal will scope out the work that needs to be done at Arnett. There was some discussion of what needs to be done.

Approval of additional managers by relevant committee:

Shetland: Shoemaker, Vannaman

Pinto (already complete by e-mail)

Mustang: Thibeau, Stamm, Simmons

Rookies: Bell (voice vote)

Minors: Simonson (voice vote)

We now have all the managers we need, except one (Shetland) [but see below]. Names of people who might fill were bandied about.

III. Baseball Director: Rich Russo reported. Field day: Crystal says RHD is weedy, as it was last year; that park needs weed-eating utensils and bags. Also, the bleachers need a little repair. (Angie asked whether that would be suitable for an Eagle Scout project. General consensus was that it would indeed.)

Pinto: Crystal, who had another appointment, spoke next and thanked the softball teams for switching days. She needs two sets of pads for the pitching machines; they've worn

down. They're on Jeff's list. This is not crucial, because Pinto will be doing coach pitch for the whole year. Crystal has only 3 managers for Field Day. Pinto is up to 61 players (5 teams of 10 and a team of 11, which includes one child who will move out of town during the season.)

June 2 is ceremony day at Muni and the field is already reserved.

Rich resumed. He reported that tryouts went really well. There is no news regarding field usage at DLI, so we continue to be in bad shape for Bronco and Pony practice fields. PGMS is largely used by lacrosse. Clearly work needs to proceed on David Avenue. There was some discussion of grant-writing plans to raise money. We've had practice-time issues with Mustang and Pinto, but there are currently resolved. Rich notes that we need to be more stern with the managers; we simply have no open fields.

Schedules are set, except Pony for the 1st week in March. During this part of the meeting Moffett was voted in as the final Shetland manager. The Shetland schedule currently calls for games on Good Old Days and Memorial Day weekends, so that will need to be addressed. There was some additional discussion of scheduling and field issues. Sal notes that softball will not use Forest Grove on weekends (once the season starts)

Rich had been at the Intercity meetings the last two nights. There are a number of Mustang-level rule changes that move the organization more towards our instructional style of baseball. He has sent a copy to Nan although additional changes may take place. Specifically, stealing (one base at a time) will be allowed but runners may not advance to home on a passed ball/wild pitch. There is no dropped-third-strike rule, and games will be called with a 15-run lead after 4 innings, or a ten-run lead after 5. Intercity games will use a continuous batting order and the six consecutive out rule. They have also outlawed metal spikes and fake tags.

Every local city has had a notable drop-off in PONY enrollment except Toro Park. Salinas (which has Little League as well) may not have a Bronco team at all.

Rich reminded the Board about the March 4, 4:00 p.m. mandatory umpire/rules clinic at GW Park, scheduled to last 60-90 minutes.

Rich also discussed his plans for field day: take on Arnett (e.g. remove debris from drains by the 3rd base dugout and along the LF wall). The JV field looks great and Muni is a mess.

Pony: Nick Hertel reported that Pony rule changes are not yet in. He noted that Monterey now has a "no parents, food, seeds, or gum in the dugout" rule. Coaches have to be inside the dugout. Castroville is having a grand opening of a brand-new field, open to everyone, date TBA. Their team, however, is not confirmed. Rich added that at every level an inning will start if there's even one minute left. A courtesy runner will be permitted for the catcher only, and it will need the last defensive catcher.

Bronco: Marcia Cody was also at the Intercity meeting. She announced that the draft went well. She reminds Bronco managers that for inter-city, a single pitch – even a warm-up pitch – counts as a pitcher substitution. Bronco will enforce a “batter must have one foot in box while taking signs from the coach” rule.

Mustang: Nan Johnston reported that Mustang had one late sign-up, for a total player count of 55. The practice field setup is still a pain but the end is in sight.

IV. Softball Director: Sal Lucido thanked all who helped with tryouts. The draft is complete. Saturday’s work will be at FG putting in electricity. We thought we’d be able to get volunteers, but it looks like that won’t happen. The work will probably require about \$2000 worth. The High School softball program will kick in \$500; we have \$1000 on the books that was donated specifically for softball some time back. So Sal is asking for an additional \$500 from the PONY board. The motion to supply \$500 to Sal for electrification at FG was made by Russo, seconded by Cody, and passed by unanimous voice vote. Jeff noted that we should do this, but we should also draft a letter documenting this money as a donation. Angie recommended communicating with the Forest Grove PTA, because they have a beautification program in place for things like this. So our \$500 will only need to be a contingency plan. It was asked whether we can we put up a little plaque to commemorate the \$1,000 donor. Research remains to be done.

Sal has spoken to the softball people about getting tournaments, in order to increase concessions money. The pre-rookies tournament, June 23rd, would be one way to do that, maybe at Municipal Field. Schedules will be out in the next couple of weeks. Pitching has been a particular problem. Sal has been in contact with a PGHS alumna who played at Fresno St. She’s prepared to give a coaches’ clinic on or about next Wednesday 2/28, a two-hour event in PHMS Gym. (She will also offer pitching lessons). He proposed a small honorarium in exchange for the clinic. A motion to approve \$100 and two dinner dance tickets was made by Bryan, seconded by Jeff, and encountered no opposition.

Dave Stamm has told Sal that softball uniforms will be ready shortly.

Rookie: Jim Lowell reported that the draft took place Tuesday and produced three teams with 11, 10, and 10 members.

VIII. WebMaster: Randy Karasek reports that the web site has been kept up-to-date based on e-mails. Schedules will be posted when the inter-city games are set.

VII. Concessions: David Book needs game schedules so he can get volunteers figured out. Volunteer assignments should go to David as well. He reminded managers that we need double volunteers for inter-city home games (and that we do nothing for the away ones). With regard to community service, the rule is, children under 13 are not supposed to be in there. There will be no training day; the “opener” will be available for spot training. Most important, says David: promote the concessions stand and don’t bring snacks.

V. Equipment Guy: Jeff Odell thanked everyone for help at the JV field. He notes that we need to constantly nurturing our relationships, recognizing that we own no fields. Right now the work at the PGHS is “building the bridge.” Jeff has bought all the baseballs and equipment. We got a receipt from the PGHS acknowledging our gift; Jeff has passed that to Bernadette. He has equipment bags for all softball and baseball (though he’s one short from last year) and will distribute them and the baseballs shortly.

One board member donated lots and lots of good stuff: tons of cinders, infield sprinklers and so on. He wants to remain anonymous, but too bad: it’s Randy Karasek. Thanks!

VI. Other business: No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 22, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary