

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

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

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

Excused absences: Joe Moses, Sal Lucido, Bob Volgelpohl.

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

Opening Business:

I. President's Report

Birth Certificates: We are only missing 6 for all of softball, plus 3 for Shetland.

Bob V. found a key Saturday at Forest Grove School bleachers. Bernadette has it and will return it to a suitable claimant.

We have received two additional sponsorships; we need 4 (or maybe 5) more. There was some discussion of organizations that have agreed to pay but from whom payment hasn't been received. Furthermore, Bernadette notes, it's never too early to start looking for dinner dance donations.

Bernadette sent a letter of condolence to the family of the boy who died unexpectedly in Carmel.

Rule books and registration forms are complete, and tournament entries will go in today to make sure everything is done on time.

The insurance company sent Bernadette a large packet of information. Shockingly, some of it makes for dry reading. One note is that "eligible participants" as defined under the policy include players, coaches, managers, scorekeepers, bat boys, and volunteer workers. This is a good thing.

Bernadette asked the secretary to write a letter thanking the Crocker family, who donated the \$1000 recently used as part of the electrical project at the Forest Grove field. Maria will e-mail Sam with details he can use to prepare the letter.

II. Vice President's Report: Bryan Simmons wants to move forward on David Ave. He has been looking into granting agencies.

III. Softball Director: Maria Lucido reported for Sal Lucido. The softball schedule is now complete. Season-opening games will be played at Arnett Park; the season opens March 31st. Maria's note to managers is that teams need to remember to staff concessions. Uniforms are just about ready (though some will not have sponsors); Maria will pick them up from Cages.

The Minors schedule continues to be subject to change.

Rookies: Jim Lowell got his schedule today and will e-mail them out. Rookies has also picked up two new players, so each team is up to 11.

Jim was at Arnett after a Mustang game. Parents were trying to lock up the cash drawer. Jim asked whether the instructions covered this. David Book noted that handling money is a challenge every year. There's a safe into which envelopes can be deposited.

IV. Baseball Director: Rich Russo reported that Opening Day went well, that there were two rain-outs. He led a discussion of Pinto coaches' pitching distance and pitch-count limits. The general thinking was that "coach pitch" is a success so far. There was agreement to set a maximum of 8 pitches, allowing coaches to move in as necessary.

One parent sent a letter to the board regarding negative conduct by parents. It was suggested that reps send the letter to their managers. Don Mothershead noted that some of the coaching organizations say that the community needs to foster a culture in which parents need to stand up to loud and unsupportive parents. There was substantial discussion. Since this conduct is covered by the Parents' Code of Ethics, it was suggested that this be reinforced. Rob K. suggested that a large, blown-up copy be posted at the concession stands. More discussion followed.

Rich asked reps to be sure to pass inter-city scores to Kenn Morrison.

The new scoreboard will be dedicated at P.G. Municipal Field on March 31st. After some discussion it was decided that two Bronco and two Mustang games will be played at the park that day as part of the ceremonies. Rich will finalize times and Randy will update the schedule on line.

One umpire missed a Mustang game (yesterday, Wednesday) and no contact could be made with Ira the Umpire Guy. Rich got an e-mail this morning (Thursday) in which Ira apologized. He had apparently turned off his telephone and it was generally acknowledged that Ira is almost always easy to get hold of on the telephone.

Pinto: Crystal thanked all her volunteers for field preparation. There's some equipment in the RHD shed – basketball rims, for example – that might belong to the City and it would be helpful to have it moved. Crystal will get one more player tomorrow, so Pinto

will have two teams with 11 players each and four with ten. Rich noted that we will try to get him a cap but that he will not get a shirt. Crystal noted that Pinto has sliding this year and is interesting in getting proper instruction. The suggestion that some of the older players might help was made.

Shetland: Bernadette reported for Bob Vogelpohl, who was handling an injury sustained by a child at practice (fortunately, nothing serious). She reminded managers to keep copies of application forms available at practice, since they have contact and medical information.

V. Concessions: David Book has been handling questions organization (drops, cleaning and so on). These are reasonable questions but people are getting more experienced. In any case all games have been staffed.

Joel Woods continues to work with the parent who has volunteered to buy the sound system. With a total budget of \$1,000, there could be a choice between one nice set-up or two lower-budget ones. The cordless equipment that had been looked at sounds as if it may not work after all, since it's apparently intended for interior use.

David noted that in the fall, he took a bag of chalk from the City and that we need to pay that back.

This past Sunday, David reported, there was a big pick-up game at George Washington Park. Is there any danger that this can be perceived as a league event, with attendant liability? The general thinking was that if we are not providing equipment, instruction, or umpires, this is just children playing baseball in the park, even if we lend them our bases. The board is not worried.

Randy K. reports that we kept most concessions prices the same this year as last. We continue to make a reasonable profit per item. He has no numbers yet and will provide a statement next month. We did spend \$90 on nacho cheese pump repairs. George Washington Park's hot chocolate machine is broken, and may not be repairable. The supplier's representative has taken the expensive machine and will try to have it repaired. Randy reminds everyone never – ever – to pull the plug on the cocoa machine, since it uses an electric valve and without power the internal water basin completed drains.

As in previous years, P.G. PONY will be staffing the Municipal Field concessions stand for PGHS softball games. Since we supply the materials and labor, we will keep the money. In the past we have made a small donation to the high school, mostly as a courtesy. Discussion will continue on this item.

David Book had one more interjection: often, he said, there is one parent, or even none, staffing the concession stand. He called on Board members who see staffers overwhelmed to pitch in and help.

VI. WebMistress: Jo Crisp's website server has been down. She now has softball schedules and is working to post those. She will create a calendar with games, times, and parks, as she did last year. That will also be posted. A Word document with each team's schedule will be placed on each team's page so parents can download and print it. Jo still needs sponsor information.

Jo also has a list of local businesses, which might be useful for solicitation. She volunteered herself to help out with our fund-raising, writing letters, and other tasks as needed. She wanted to make sure that donors get thank-you letters or other acknowledgements, understanding that caring for sponsors is a difficult job.

VII. Equipment Guy: Jeff Odell reported. Everyone seems happy so far. It was reported that there is a bag of Sta-Dri in GW Park's shed that seems to be leaking. Jeff reminded board members not to chalk the outfield at the high school. He has receipts for Karen for things like first-aid kits, base plugs, and fuel (for field day). The electrical work at Forest Grove is finished and paid for. It's been difficult to get this work and our donation in sync. In order to keep our materials supplier happy, we will pay the material bill in full, which means we will pay about \$2,000; then PGHS will write us a check for \$500, to put us out our planned \$1500 net after that check comes. The power is working well.

Rich noted that we need some new bases, especially at George Washington.

Jim Lowell asked how equipment gets replaced when that is needed. The answer: go through Jeff.

VIII. Treasurer: Karen Cepress distributed a profit-and-loss statement for the period January 1 to present, and a statement of financial position. (She made one minor correction orally.) By next month, all checks and late sign-ups will be in and we'll know precisely where we are.

One member asked whether we have an official policy on sign-ups. The answer is that we are now closed. There was some discussion of a particular application.

IX: City Rep: Don Mothershead confirmed that the dedication of the new Municipal Field Scoreboard will be noon on March 31st. We will run a barbecue; the City will issue tickets and reimburse us for the cost. Rob K. will get involved. Don might bring in tables for family members of the honoree, the late David Kuwatani. Nick H. can supply tablecloths. Randy will e-mail parents. Some discussion.

A softball clinic was proposed for five all-day sessions in July. Don would prefer two weeks of 9-noon sessions, suggesting the weeks of July 9-13 and July 16-20 at Municipal Field. PG PONY is hoping to host Bronco sectionals, which would conflict. Bronco sectional field preparation work would then need to be afternoons or weekends. It was agreed that timing is everything. Don noted that Saturdays in May through August are also possible times for softball instructional camps or clinics.

Don observed that on Saturday mornings there can be up to six fields to prepare. He asked the board if it was okay to prepare some fields Friday night? The Board felt this was fine. Don noted that certain less-intensive preps are charged at half-price. The board will try to have GW and the PGJV fields dragged Friday afternoons.

A PG resident who was long active in PG PONY is not well. Since that resident is known to guard his or her privacy, the Board will take no action at this time.

In previous years City employees would provide paper goods for the Arnett Park restrooms. Don is not sure how the mechanics of this supply are going to work.

X. Other business: No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary