

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
May 24, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m., Bryan Simmons presiding.

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

Excused absences: Joe Moses, Rob Kershner, Sal Lucido, Maria Lucido.

A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Nan Johnston, seconded by Michele Amader and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Opening Business:

I. Vice-President and President's Report Visitors include Tom Wagner and Steve Thompson. Tom Wagner has expressed an interest in volunteering for the board. It was generally felt that a spot for his talents could be found.

Bryan deferred most of the president's business to Bernadette who was to arrive late from a softball game.

A re-order form for pictures is available. The board was generally happy with the photographers' professionalism and short turn-around time. Bryan requests feedback from reps.

Michele Amader reported on the Dinner Dance. The net income was just over \$1,500, down from last year for a couple of reasons (among them a newly-imposed city "host liability insurance" fee, increased staff fees, and reduced auction income). She distributed an interim report detailing costs and receipts which will be updated next month.

Michele has also found some more sponsors for the coming year, as well as a potential sponsor for this year's all-stars. (Rich Russo suggested that it would be helpful to find a sponsor to cover the cost of the green screens in the outfield.) A few more sponsors still need to be collected from. Photos taken at all-stars will be sent to Randy for the web site.

Michele's suggested that next year we might have every team could make an item for the dance – a gift basket, perhaps. These would be sure to be popular auction items. Marcia Cody noted that we need more volunteers to help clean up. As an additional income source the idea of drink tickets was suggested. At a rough guess banquet-goers might have consumed a total of 500 drinks, and one dollar a ticket might be a reasonable starting price.

Bernadette V. arrived and wrested control of the meeting from Bryan. The co-chairs for the Bronco sectional will be Marcia Cody and Nick Hertel. Michele will be volunteer coordinator. The Mustang Invitational will be run by Pete, Nick, Nan, and anyone else who can help.

Bernadette wants to thank all the board members for the great season. She would also like to step down. Bryan will step down, too, and Randy is preparing to turn concessions over to someone. David will drop his role as concessions co-ordinator but will stay on the board. Nick H. and Marcia C. plan to swap positions.

Jeff Odell had reported by e-mail on his difficulties forming a Pony division all-star team. Pony all-stars were selected in the usual way, but the five top players declined. The team doesn't have enough pitchers to go into tournaments, in Jeff's judgment. In order to field a team we would need to move past alternates to any children in the league who are prepared to stay in town. Jeff doesn't believe we can field a competitive team. Equally important, Jeff is prepared to be the manager but he has no assistant. His question to the board was, in what direction should he be going? There was some discussion regarding why children would decline to play. The immediate question – what to do now – remains. On the motion of whether to field a team, twelve members voted no, and six abstained.

II. City Rep: Don Mothershead had some concerns on dates for field preparation for Pony and Municipal Field. These have been cleared up.

III. Treasurer: Karen Cephress passed out a profit-and-loss statement trying to reconcile the books through May 22, though a few transactions remain. Net Income for the year is around \$22,000, though this includes a huge and very generous one-time donation from Dave Stamm of over \$18,000.

IV. Concessions: Randy will wait for a complete report until after the Mustang Invitational and Bronco Sectional, income from both of which (especially the second) will be significant. He has someone lined up to take his slot; Bernadette suggested that that person shadow Randy during the tournaments in order to give him or her needed experience.

David Book noted that Michele will be volunteer coordinator during the Bronco sectional. He also noted that he will manage the Mustang A team. In the past they've typically played four tournaments, three of which were paid. (The fourth is the Pacific Grove one.) He asked whether, if the team plays in only three tournaments, that entry fee could be used for, say, professional instruction? The board noted that this hasn't been done in the past and that the money in question is set aside for tournament fees..

David also observed that the City held its pitch, hit, run competition a few weeks ago. There were only about a dozen children present. He felt that, as a baseball organization, PG PONY should support and encourage this competition. Rich Russo suggested holding the competition on Picture Day, an idea that met with enthusiasm.

Pete Huller will get together with Nick and Nan and pick up the Mustang medallions May 31st.

Bernadette has once again cleaned up the Arnett Park bathrooms. There was some discussion of the procedure by which the City provides paper goods to the Arnett bathrooms.

V. Equipment Director: Jeff would like the League Reps to receive equipment bags from managers, make a preliminary check to be sure that the bags are close to complete, and then he'd like to get it all back, except for the bags belonging to the all-star managers.

Jeff would like to replace catcher's gear at the end of this year. Dave Stamm will work with Jeff to get new stuff. Replacing all the gear, a clean sweep, might cost on the order of \$800. The old stuff will go via Nan J. to Mexico.

Fields: There will be some improvements at Muni field for the tournaments. Some of the plumbing has already been done; a bill for \$853 is en route to Karen. We spent \$2,500 for 50 tons of cinders; we've also rented a tractor for a week and can use it for other things. The field will be ripped and then cindered tomorrow. Don: base pegs marked? Jeff: They're exposed.

III. Softball Director: No report.

Rookies: Jim Lowell reported that two teams have finished the season, and the other two have one game to go. Two teams (so it seems) will be in the playoffs. All-star selections were made yesterday. Bernadette will manage all-stars and is working the tournaments.

It was noted that the team from the Majors will be in playoffs, too.

IV. Baseball Director: Rich Russo noted that the baseball season went well despite scheduling snafus and a few late umpires. All in all, everyone seemed to be happy. He thanked the league reps and the board, with particular thanks to Rob Kershner. One big issue was carrying 13 players on some teams. This is unwieldy at the Bronco level and even worse at Pony because of the stricter substitution rules.

Pinto: Crystal reported on a good season. There will be no Pinto all-stars this year, as it was felt that last year's experience with kid-pitch was not uniformly positive. She asked that Randy send out a flyer inviting people to the June 2 Shetland/Pinto end-of-season Jamboree at Muni Field? Crystal felt that coach-pitch was much better than the machine pitch we had been using, because there's more action. The new rule permitting sliding seemed to work. Rich Russo observed that taking bases on overthrows is slightly comical because overthrows are so common. Crystal will volunteer to be Mustang Rep next year if Nan declines to return to that post. Some details on the schedule for June 2 were repeated.

Rich Russo raised a Mustang rules problem. With a full count and two outs, can the runner go? The answer, based on our rules, is clearly “no.” Rich noted that the inter-city rule that requires runners on third to score on hits (or bases-loaded walks or HBPs) is a good choice. The rules committee will discuss this before the next season. Rich also proposed a Sportsmanship award, maybe to be named after a member of the community. Details – should be it be one pre team, one per league, or what? – will need to be worked out. Rich observed that we also need to define and impose consequences for poor sportsmanship.

Bronco Marcia Cody observed that Bronco had another great season. She asked about the gate fee for Sectionals. It was generally thought that \$3 or \$4 is about the right level. Bernadette suggested seeing what Monterey and Marina do. Randy noted that we need a committee to organize Sectionals and that it should meet soon. The committee might consider concessions menus, volunteers, what we serve, and how much we order and of what sorts. Marcia pointed out that the indefatigable Rob K. will not be in town for the whole thing. Michele will coordinate volunteers. Marcia has already met with Dave Stamm and chosen logos for sweatshirts to sell, as well as color choices (chocolate and blue). She will chair the committee and send out a massive e-mail, including especially Bronco parents, in search of volunteers.

Bernadette will call the relevant people to withdraw PG from Pony Sectionals.

X. Other business: No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 28, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary