

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
November 15, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

Present: Michele Amader, Karen Cepress, Jeff Odell, Pete Huller, Nan Johnston, Randy Karasek, Luann Moran, Sam Buttrey, Tom Heebink, David Book, Bob DiStefano, Greg Fife.

Excused absences: xxx

I: President's Report: Apparently we can get permission to hang banners as Craig Bell suggested. These seems a natural revenue source. There was some discussion of how best to do this. If we produce the banners we'll spend something in the \$50-\$150 range per banner. There seemed general agreement that banner transactions would be separate from sponsorships. The question of who is in charge of placing the banners has not yet been answered. David Book noted that it will be important to ensure that banners are removed, so volunteers will be required. Nan Johnston observed that we often have trouble rounding up volunteers for concessions, and it might be difficult to get yet more for banner duty, though others suggested that the players could easily be pressed into duty. Suggested costs (perhaps higher for the first year, so we can recoup the cost of the banner itself). Karen will look into the cost issue further and call one or more suppliers. David will confer with Craig.

Some minor corrections to the October minutes were noted. They should have stated that Karen and Nancy are dealing with the AT&T grant. With that correction a motion to approve the October minutes was made by Rob, seconded by David, and passed by unanimous voice vote. Since the October meeting lacked a quorum a motion to adopt September's minutes was made by Sam B. seconded by Karen, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Dates and locations for signups are now set. Michele will mail out a sign-up sheet. The dates are Saturday January 12th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday January 25th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Nancy and Michele will check birthdate information; Randy will manage signing up for tryouts (for Mustang, Bronco, Rookies, and Minors). He will also update the spreadsheet listing birth certificates already viewed.

Rob K. asked whether we could co-ordinate signups with YMCA basketball photos. The YMCA's organizational meetings was taking place next door. Apparently this will not be possible, as photo dates are not yet fixed.

Don M. will know by December 1 whether PG Rec will be able to take late signups for us, as they have in the past. Suggested alternatives included the Y and Cages. Cut-off dates and maximum numbers will be determined by the time of the February board meeting.

II. Vice-President's Report: Nancy Thompson compared the current photographer with one other. The differences seem small and have to do with the low-end package. There were general agreement that Nancy gets to decide. She'll go with the company from last year but ask them to improve in some specific ways.

III. Concessions Coordinator: Luann Moran can't get one of the locks at one of our locations to work. Greg Fife has keys and locksmithing expertise and will take care of it.

Luann got three estimates for termite extermination. This would be a significant expenditure, but Kazner Extermination will donate the service. Sam will draft a nice thank-you note and forward it to Michele and Marcia. Jeff and Karen suggested that they should get a free sponsorship and this met with general approval.

Some action remains on getting new coffee equipment. Nancy reported that the Farmer Bros. employee who services the coffee makers will service and clean coffee and cocoa equipment if we can transport it to one of the local restaurants on a particular day. It will take one to two months to get them back. We will have to aim at next month.

After a discussion with the high school AD it has been decided that PG PONY will no longer staff the Muni Field concession stand during high school softball games. We will make sure to remove our equipment from Muni before the season starts.

Pete suggested a cost-of-living-style increase in the cost of concessions. That idea has been put aside for the moment. Luann will verify the costs of acquisition of the goods we sell.

IV. Treasurer's Report : Karen distributed an updated budget which now calls for a loss of \$8,462. It's intentionally very conservative, so there is some belief that we will eventually come into balance. The big items, listed under field maintenance and field preparation show \$5000 each for the David Avenue work. We also anticipate receiving grant money which is not reflected in the budget. Rob made a motion to approve budget subject to the addition of a line-item covering the deficit with money from the organizations accounts as needed. Sam seconded and the carried by (what else?) unanimous voice vote.

It was noted that this budget called for no increase in sign-up fees.

Karen also provided a profit and loss statement through November 15. All bills are paid, and we have \$15,600 in checking plus \$29,800 in a CD.

V. Baseball director: David Book noted that this is a good time to find new coaches. One name was mentioned for Shetland. We have not yet identified the four required managers for Bronco.

David gave some details on the concession business at Muni that we have operated, for a few years, during high school softball games. (That amounts to 6-8 home games a year). The AD has moved that responsibility to the Breakers Club but the revenue loss will be small.

Forest Grove School is planning a running club. The club wants to use Forest Grove's field Thursdays. Since that's early dismissal day it appears that this will be no problem, but we will need to keep alert.

Tom H. asked where we stood regarding a Bronco merger with Monterey. Michele will try to make it to a Monterey PONY board meeting but support was, let us say, cool meeting.

David wanted to ensure we all know who has become Key Czar in Bryan Simmons's stead. It's Michele, who will now be known as "Czarina of Kzeys" or occasionally the "Ompress of Opening Stuff."

VI. Equipment Director: Jeff Odell reported that we have permission to move forward at David Avenue if we don't interrupt school functions. Our "phase one" is to skin the field, and to put the cinders and base pegs down. Jeff will co-ordinate and is already in discussions with at least one potential contractor. Karen noted that she has been describing this project in grant applications; if the field gets fixed up, what should she be asking for money for? Jeff's choice for next-highest-priority task is Arnett Park drainage; Karen will focus her work on that. Jeff will coordinate a "laundry list" describing needed work across all the fields we use.

Rob wondered if, in the face of these projects, we *should* raise our fees this year. The general sentiment seemed to be that that point was moot in the face of the budget having already been adopted.

Jeff has ordered 70 dozen baseballs for Pony, Bronco and Mustang. We have all the necessary catcher's gear. He still needs softballs and safety balls for Pinto and Shetland. He will get together with Greg Fife to get Greg up to speed on equipment issues.

VII. Webmaster: Randy will send three e-mails to the PONY community: one before Thanksgiving, one in mid-December, and then one in January. He has re-created board e-mails (in a form like karasek2008@pgpony.org) and made the contact list available to board members. He also distributed copies of the website's contents to David and Sam as a backup.

VIII. League Representatives: Pony: Tom H. asked how many teams we should expect in Pony. Although there are 38 players returning or moving up, we expect two teams. We may have to cap membership at 24 players. Scheduling is under the care of Kenn Morrison with the district.

Bronco: Nan J. had some thoughts on the Bronco draft, based on her positive experience with Mustang last year. She is still working on details of a Sportsmanship Award and seeks input.

IX. Other Business: Sam B. asked about requiring fingerprints for coaches. This discussion has been started some months ago. We continue to require NYSCA certification (or ASA for softball) of our coaches, and many coaches will have been fingerprinted for other reasons. There have been no incidents and the board feels its current scheme is satisfactory.

V. Other business: No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting in December. January's meeting will be held on the fifth Thursday – January 31, 2007, 6:30 p.m – so that it can follow both sign-up sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary