

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
February 28, 2008**

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

**Present:** Michele Amader, Nan Johnston, Randy Karasek, Sam Buttrey, Tom Heebink, David Book, Greg Fife, Jim Lowell, Nancy Thompson, Don Mothershead, Nick Hertel, Jeff Odell, Debie Pontarolo, Crystal Hawes, Rich DeSaulles.

Excused absences: Marcia Cody, Craig Bell, Luann Moran

**I: President's Report:** The board having neglected to address the December minutes at its last meeting, Nancy moved to accept the minutes from both December and January minutes. (Her motion also included October's minutes, but those were passed at the November meeting.) David Book seconded and the motion passed by uniform voice vote.

**Nominations and elections.** Three board members had been approved by e-mail: Rich DeSaulles (Pinto Rep) Vicki Courtney (Pre-Rookie Rep and Softball Web site) + Martin Sublett (Minors Rep). A motion to approve all three passed by unanimous voice vote.

Michele asked that managers make sure that nobody in the dugout or the stands is drinking or inebriated. She noted that issues with ump's should be brought to Robert Kershner. It is also important that all managers get NYSCA certs to the league rep.

Photo Day will be April 19<sup>th</sup>. Craig Bell is looking at the feasibility of holding a fund-raising pancake breakfast that day through the Kiwanis. That group met Tuesday (but Craig is out of town and can't report.) There was some discussion of past practices (Jeff O. recalled the Opening Day Jamboree, for example; Don Mothershead recalled an annual barbecue, and that the players sold boxes of candy to raise money. Those were the days.) Although Opening Day is not an option this year, this was some thought that that would be a good day for some event last year. (Rob Kershner also suggested the last day of the Pinto season when Pinto and Shetland players receive their awards at Municipal Field.) Michele noted that Craig will get us more information on that.

Michele notes that Board meetings are normally the fourth Thursday of the month. She would like to consider amending the by-laws to make it the Third Thursday every February. Nancy suggested that we make it the third Thursday every month, noting that next month we'll want to hold the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> because of Spring Break. Sam noted that the by-laws permit us to hold meetings at any time if procedures are followed. A motion to move March's meeting to the 20<sup>th</sup> was made by Nancy, seconded by Pete, and passed unanimously.

The keys are here! Michele asked that we hold our collective horses and collect them after the meeting.

Michele asked that board members keep tracks of the dates on which they do things, so that that information can be passed on to successors.

The electrical box at George Washington continues to be an issue. Greg can get the new tap put on, but asked what he should do about the lock. He will acquire a lock and send the bill to Karen. There was some discussion about keying this lock, but Jeff noted that the key could be hung the inside the shed. Greg will get to that this weekend.

Bob DiStefano reported that we can use Caledonia Park for practice until Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> when youth soccer begins. Since only one team is scheduled that day, we should be able to make an accommodation for them. Don noted that the soccer organization has, in the past, dropped the Thursday program for lack of signups, so it's possible that after the March session the park will be free on Thursdays – or not. There was some discussion of alternatives for all levels of play. Apparently Calvary Chapel will have a baseball team after all; fields at the Presidio will probably not available this year. There was lots of discussion leading to the decision that some members (Nancy, Jeff, David B.) will stay after the meeting to try to work practice scheduling out.

Michele asked that reps get all the e-mail and contact info for coaches to Randy.

**Dinner Dance:** The Dinner Dance will be May 17<sup>th</sup>, here at the PGCC. Those interested in helping on the committee should talk to Michele. In response to a question from Bob S., Michele observed that we raise about \$3,000 from that event. Bob suggested a raffle for a large item, say, a big TV. He noted that each player might be given, say, three tickets to sell. Rich Russo suggested a 50/50 drawing. Debie P. noted that Monterey Pony uses exactly this approach to raise money. Bob DiStefano will organize.

All but one team is now sponsored, and Michele may have a nibble on the last.

Michele thanked the reps and other people who brought in new sponsors (of which we have around a dozen). Craig Bell is still looking into banners.

**II. Vice-President's Report:** Nancy Thompson reported that porta-potties will be in place before 8 a.m. tomorrow. She will give the locks' combinations to the league reps. Jeff O. noted that reps need to tell managers to take the locks with them when they unlock the facility, or they (the locks) (also the managers) will get lost.

The Good Ol' Days parade will be April 12<sup>th</sup>. Our youngsters (Shetland, Pinto, maybe Pre-Rookies) will be in, as usual. More information is available from Nancy. Don M. reported that, unofficially, John Miller will be the Grand Marshal.

**III. Treasurer:** Karen Cepass reported. She has completed the year-end financials but is still reconciling sign-up fees. She will update the board by e-mail. The tax return is nearly done; she will pass it to Michele when it is completed.

We apparently never received a bill from our insurance company; this is one of those things we need to put onto lists. Don encouraged the board to get bids for insurance.

Karen would also like to re-start the process for generating a proposal for grant money for AT&T. There was some discussion on where that stood. Nancy volunteered her husband Steve to write a grant proposal as long as the project is well-defined. Karen will come up with some ideas for projects; board members with ideas in the 3000-5000 dollar range will send them to her or Nancy. Nick noted that we have not yet received a response from Hayward on that proposal.

**IV: Secretary.** Sam prepared thank-you letters for Casner Exterminating and Richard Petty and passed them on the Michele.

**V. Baseball director:** David Book reported. We have eight Shetland teams (97 players) and could have had more. We also have four Pinto, five Mustang, four Bronco, and two Pony.

David raised a policy question. We have an official “first day of [baseball] practice.” This year it’s Saturday 3/1. (Softball generally starts somewhat later.) However, some teams get together, more or less unofficially, before that date. David asked whether we should have a strict starting day. There was some discussion of the history of the starting date (which was at least partially to avoid conflict with rec basketball.) There was even more discussion. David noted that it was more important that we decide this before next season.

Michele has finalized the order for uniforms and Cages seems to be on track. All sponsors will be represented. We are aiming to have uniforms ready a week before the first game.

There was some more discussion about field usage, this time in the context of reserving GW on Fridays as a makeup day for Mustang and Bronco rainouts.

Randy recommended submitting a letter requesting access to the Presidio fields. Pete has some inside information and will submit it.

Jeff Odell noted that some coaches are hoping to approach Cages with name and number requests. He asked what the policy is. There was some discussion on this. David will talk to Cages and e-mail the board to let us know.

**VI Softball Director:** Jim Lowell reported for Craig Bell. There will be a Fourth of July Tournament (presumably for all-stars) in Carmel for Majors, Minors, and Rookies. He will give us more information as it becomes available. He will also get more information from Craig about the pancake breakfast.

Jim reported that we need a pitching rubber at thirty-five feet at Forest Grove. There is one at forty. Rich noted that if we install one it will need to be removed for JV softball.

There was some discussion as to where there's a extra rubber with spikes in it. Bob will look.

Jim asked about holding Friday night makeup games at Arnett. Can he do that? Are there days being saved for baseball? The answer seemed to be yes. Will there be concessions on those days? Michele asked that reps make sure that LuAnn and Debie have the relevant schedules.

**VII. City Liaison:** Don Mothershead noted that the first High School softball game is Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. GW has a rental July 13<sup>th</sup>. If PG PONY holds district or sectionals this could get in the way.

Don asked if he can get schedules from the web site? The answer is not yet; David B. will send them by e-mail. Michele asked if Don can get us copies of the City field permits? He can and will.

Just to rehash, Don noted that Michael will do prep Monday-Friday and not Saturday. Pitch, Hit, and Run hasn't been very successful and we might not do it this year.

**VIII. Concessions Coordinator:** Debie Pontarolo reported. The extermination at GW has gone well, but there are mice at Arnett. Everything that mice can damage has been moved over to GW, and is still there, but we can't put food there. So we need an exterminator again. Someone suggested the Critter Getter and Debie will call.

Debie also needs a schedule for times and games. She'll get those from David and Craig.

**IX. Field Improvements:** Nick H. reported that all the fields are ready except for tooth-dragging & screening at GW at Arnett. Arnett drainage is still an issue. The second-base peg at GW is mostly rusted and Jeff will forward a peg to David to be buried.

**X. Equipment Guy:** Jeff O. has distributed all the equipment bags, except for Pinto, for which we now have a league rep.

He reported that all the expense at Pacific Oaks, plus the purchase of cinders at FG and Robert Down came in \$1,000 under budget. What we want to do regarding storage: do we want by a job-type box we can lock to the backstop and put good bases in there? Bury base pegs and get bases? Bury a home plate? It would be nice to think about amenities, the ability to rake and so on. Jeff observed that the "saved" 1k would be a natural starting point. In response to a question he observed that we do not actually have permits for the new field.

Ordered all balls, picked 'em up, still waiting for some softballs.

Jeff, together with Craig B, have been working up plans for skinning one of the fields at the Lighthouse School (now the P.G. Adult School). Can we play there? He has begun discussions with Robin Blakely at the PGUSD. The field might be best suited for

Shetland. Jeff reports that the individual who skinned the fields at David Ave. might be persuaded to do the one at the Adult School either cheaply or for free; Craig also has a plan to facilitate funds.

Nan noted that the school district is pretty receptive to parent input, so parents might want to send e-mails or letters to Robin or to the superintendent.

Jeff is still waiting on the expenditure of around \$500 for repair of one of the HS batting cages.

#### **XI. Softball League Representatives:**

**Majors:** Tom Heebink reported that we have two teams complete with players, managers, and equipment. Practice starts Saturday at FG. Jim was unable to give a date for when the schedule would be complete.

**Rookies:** Jim Lowell asked if Rookies were the only ones using the pitching machine. Assured that he was he asked if he could move it to Arnett. There was no objection. Rookies start practice this week.

**Pre-Rookies:** Vicky Courtney reported. She visited Cages and Dan said that he doesn't know what the shirts should look like. He would like a shirt for every team from last year. Jim and Vicky – and a few others – will round up the relevant shirts. There was some discussion. Jim noted that Craig needs to be kept informed.

**XII. Softball Website:** Vicky will get the website up-to-date this weekend.

**XIII. Umpire Liaison:** Rob has been in touch with Ira, who has distributed a flier with this year's fees. Rob has a few issues, although Ira is kind of the only game in town. First, umpires are paid if they show within an hour of a non-cancelled game. Rob will forward the bill to Karen. There is a scheduling fee of \$300/division. Michele will get a copy of Ira's document from Rob.

Officially the managers are in charge of cancellation, but as a practical matter Rob will often be in a position to judge the field's quality. It's important that managers inform Rob well in advance – more than an hour, say – if they elect to postpone or cancel a game.

The rules meeting is Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am at GW. It is required that at least one representative from each Mustang, Bronco and Pony team attend.

**XIV. Baseball Website:** Randy Karasek reported that the baseball pages have been updated. A few changes remain to be made. There are no pictures from tryouts or field day – reps or interested parents should send them on.

Pete asked that coaches use the “coaches' dugout” feature.

#### **XV. Baseball League Representatives:**

**Pony:** Tom Heebink observed that we now have two teams, with 13 and 12 players. Teams have been practicing on JV field seemingly without incident or bad feelings.

**Bronco:** Nan Johnston asked Don if we were permitted to paint the concessions stand at GW. He'll check.

**Mustang:** Crystal Hawes reported that all is well.

**Pinto:** Rich DeSaulles noted that Pinto's game schedule and three practice schedules are now set. RHD field will free up one day a week for Shetland, maybe.

**Shetland:** Bob DiStefano has reported. He noted that his managers have been taking care of field prep for morning games at FG.

**XVI. Medical Guy:** Tony Payan announced that the throwing clinic is set for Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>. The time will likely be 10-1 and the clinic will probably be held at Muni. The cost will be \$20 per child. \$20/pop and it will be limited to Mustang and Bronco. (He was unsure whether it made sense to offer the clinic to softball players.) The clinic will be limited to 50 kids. Sign-up details remain to be set. Pete suggested that the HS Varsity or JV fields might make more sense since they're larger. In any case, Tony will pass details to Randy who will then e-mail. The money will be split 60% to MPC baseball, 40% to P.G. Pony. There was some discussion about details.

**XVII. Other business:** No other business.

Jim L. asked about the softball umpire clinic this Saturday? Few details were available.

Don asked if signups are still going. The answers is that Majors and Pony are now closed. Others will stay open until games begin.

Don announced that an NYSCA clinic run by Gil Ruiz will be held this week at PGCC.

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

**Next Meeting:** March 20, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey  
Secretary