

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
March 20, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

Present: Michele Amader, Nancy Thompson, Sam Buttrey, Tom Heebink, Nick Hertel, Jeff Odell, Tony Payan, Heidi Payan, Craig Bell, Luann Moran, Greg Fife, Rob Kershner, David Book, Debie Pantorola.

Excused absences: Marcia Cody, Don Mothershead, Jim Lowell, Nan Johnston, Randy Karasek,

I A: President's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes from February's meetings with minor corrections was made by Jeff, seconded by Craig, and carried by unanimous voice vote

Michele reports that our league are officially registered with Pony on the web (pending payment). In short order web-based registration will be mandatory. Karen noted that the check is on its way.

Michele reminds reps to made sure that managers have NYSCA certification Tom has received that for Pony division; Crystal and Rich are still working on this.

The season is going well, except perhaps for snafus regarding uniforms (which David will address later in the meeting).

Greg Fife offered a word of thanks to Tony Payan for his organization of the recent clinic. Michele reported that 43 players signed up, producing a total of \$860 (\$516 to MPC and \$344 for us). There was some discussion of holding another at mid-season or all-star time. MPC will be playing Saturday of next week and, since our leagues will have no games that day, Michele recommended that our players go as spectators to support the team.

I B: Vice-President's Report: Nancy has the schedule for picture day (to be held April 19th). She'll pass it to league reps and baseball/softball directors. Members who spot a conflict should report to her quickly. Pictures will be at George Washington Park with a tentative alternate site being the Middle School gym in case of rain. No make-up day has been scheduled as yet.

I C: Treasurer: Karen Cepress reported. She has no statement today, because lots of money has been coming in, but she will send one in PDF format to anyone who wants following the end of the month. Based on the latest signup sheet, we think we should have just about \$34,000 in spring signups (not including two refunds and two bounced checks) which compares nicely to our budgeted amount of \$33,160.

I D: Secretary. Michele asked if there is a spreadsheet with all the board members' contact information. The answer is apparently yes. Sam will pass that on to Randy, hopefully with more alacrity than that with which he attends to the minutes.

I E: Baseball director: David Book led off by thanking the Payans once again for the clinic. It has been suggested to David that the Shetland teams have been using the wrong type of baseballs. Jeff noted that we're using the same ones as in the last couple of years; these are the same balls used by Pinto.

Third base at Robert Down is out of the ground. The base – with its concrete holder – is in the shed. Rich will attempt to replace it soundly.

Mustang, Pony and Bronco uniforms will carry player names since the Board has paid for that. Rich noted that many Pinto teams have collected \$5 per name to get that done for their league as well. Managers' uniform issues should continue to go through the league rep. There was some discussion of the difficulties faced by the suppliers.

I F: Softball Director: Craig Bell moved to close entries for all softball leagues. Jeff seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The board spoke last month about the pitching rubber for Forest Grove, but Craig notes that the need is greater at Arnett since the rubber there has been damaged. (FG only serves the youngest girls in any case.) Jim observed that we're short on the mushrooms used to make base pegs. Rob K. noted that we're using pink string to locate the bases at GW with some success, though we would still need mushrooms for the rubber. The bathroom key at Arnett is once again missing – or rather, Michele has them and is making copies. Craig also needs seven keys to the Muni Field equipment shed since our coaches don't have any.

Greg Fife asked about keys to the GW water supply. Rob has them.

Craig reported on a softball clinic this coming Monday at PGMS gym 7:30. This has been paid for by PG Pony.

PG Pony also needs to register the softball teams with ASA. Craig has passed the paperwork to Michele. The cost is something like \$15/team.

Craig asked about all-star tournaments: is three the usual number, two local and one requiring travel? There was some discussion. Since Bronco all-stars normally go to three tournaments, maybe Minors should, too, except that Bronco hosts one. Some additional discussion centered on fund-raising. Craig has discussed the idea of a pancake breakfast on April 19th (Picture Day) with the Kiwanis. This is now on. The Kiwanis will acquire the product and do the cooking; we'll sell tickets. Michele has the ability to print tickets and (after sending a mock-up to Craig) will make up 1,000. The tentative times are 8– 11 a.m.

Nancy asked whether this was something we needed to register with the city. General thinking was that we do not, since we've already reserved GW Park that day.

Michele asked whether, since softball registration was closed, we should close baseball as well. Pony has already closed. Rob moves to close Shetland, Pinto and Mustang, leaving Bronco open. Sam seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

II A: Concessions Coordinator: LuAnn needs to be on the payment list for Costco. Right now she uses her own card and gets reimbursed. Although it looks odd, nobody minds. There were some questions about how the accounting is done. LuAnn will get the spreadsheet that Randy used.

The vermin issue at Arnett has been corrected. Sam will need to write a thank-you letter to [the elder] Marco Pennisi, who removed a rat from the shed there. Greg will acquire and install a door sweep since the creatures are apparently entering under the door. Greg will need to arrange access with LuAnn or Debie since he doesn't have a key to the concession stand.

II B: Field Improvements: No report.

II C: City Liaison: Absent

II D: Sponsor Coordinator: Michele reported that all teams are now sponsored and that we've collected about \$4,000.

II E. Equipment Guy: The final numbers are in for the replacement screen at the JV batting bages. Our portion was \$504. Sam will write a donation letter and pass it back to Jeff with a copy to Michele. There was more discussion about baseballs. We use "level 5" balls for both Shetland and Pinto but there is an even softer one.

Ice packs are still on order. We have run out at the GW concession stand, too. Jeff asked that reps let managers know this. The managers might buy a few and get reimbursed by the league. Last year we spent \$400 on ice packs, and lots of these seem to end up wasted. There was some discussion about getting reusable ones through one of the board members with medical connections.

III A: Baseball Members:

A. Umpire Liaison: Rob reported that no (umpired) games were lost, and that no umpires have missed games yet. The bill came by e-mail and Rob has forwarded it to Karen for payment. Robs reminds reps from Mustang and Bronco that if games need to be postponed, he needs to know as soon as that decision is made.

Rob is working on a good relationship with Ira the umpire guy. Ira has encouraged us to report problems with umpires. Tom asked who has the responsibility for umpires when we play an away game. The answer is the home team. Rob reminded managers that when

an umpire hasn't arrived, the best policy is to delay the start of the game 10 or 15 minutes before finding a volunteer.

B. Website: Absent

C. Pony: Tom reported that the Pony schedule is set. Games start March 29. Uniforms are out but have not been delivered pending having the names put on this week.

D. Bronco: Absent

E. Mustang: Crystal reported that the schedule is fine but uniforms still an issue. A couple of shirts are missing. She needs the key to the Arnett snack bar and one more Arnett shed key. Crystal checked on the status of a refund delivered to a family that is about the move. She also noted that some of the new coaches feel that there are "unwritten rules" that haven't been made clear. She urged all concerned to be supportive.

F. Pinto: Rich needs to re-schedule the first week's games which had been postponed because of rain. He asked how to do this and was referred to David B. He also noted that some game times will need to be modified to allow the players to participate in the Good Ol' Days parade. He will have to continue to nag Cages.

G. Shetland: Bob reported that Shetland sign-ups had closed earlier and had no other concerns.

IV. Softball League Representatives:

A. Majors: Tom reported that the Majors' season starts March 31 for Majors. Their uniforms are at Cages and will go out shortly. He needs a key for FG power box.

B. Rookies: Absent

C. Pre-Rookies: Absent

D. Softball Website: Vicky reported (through Michele) that the website will be current Monday.

VA. Medical Guy: Tony Payan reported on the clinic. There was lots of enthusiasm and we even made a little money. He suggested that, if there's another clinic, it might be wise to have MPC Pitching Coach Vincent Herring talk about the breaking ball, maybe at mid-season. Then we might modify the "no breaking ball" rule to allow, say, three breaking balls per kid per inning, or maybe to allow breaking balls to one batter per inning. Tony feels that the pitch can be thrown safely – or at least the risks can be minimized. There was some discussion of how to prepare pitchers (and batters) for curveballs, which appear in all-star play starting at the Mustang level. Craig asked about a similar clinic for softball (excluding, presumably, pitching).

VI. Other business: Michele: one of our sound systems which had been at Arnett is apparently missing. LuAnn and Debie moved the food and appliances out of Arnett and didn't see it there. When last seen it was at Muni, so, presuming it hasn't been stolen, someone at the City may have moved it. David will look into it.

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

Next Meeting: April 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary