

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
April 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

**Present:** Michele Amader, Nancy Thompson, Sam Buttrey, Nick Hertel, Craig Bell, Greg Fife, Rob Kershner, Debie Pantorola, Dan Hopkins, Crystal Hawes, Nan Johnston, Jim Lowell, Tom Heebink, Luann Moran.

Excused absences: Karen Cepress, David Book, Randy Karasek, Jim Lowell, Jeff Odell, Tony Payan.

**IA: President's Report:**

A1. Dan Hopkins from Cages addressed the Board. He has some suggestions for next year. First, he has acquired a second machine for labeling, and a transfer machine that makes names on-site. The speed and efficiency of his operation should be significantly improved. Next year, he would prefer to communicate with only one person (or two, one for baseball and softball) for the order, and then perhaps with league reps at the time that names are to be added. He would like to ensure that we can communicate by e-mail as well.

Sizing was also a concern: people are wrong about their children's sizes surprisingly often, says Dan. Another of Dan's customers has a system for this that has worked well and Dan will pass that on to the board. Having specific uniform numbers turned out to be a big time expense. In the future Dan would like to buy shirts pre-numbered for those teams that require special orders. Dan says that in general he can do special orders as long as he has sufficient preparation. There was general agreement that the procedure should be spelled out and that the Request for Proposal needs to be specific.

There was some discussion about deadlines. If we started practice earlier, we could presumably get the order into the vendor earlier. Craig asked about encouraging teams to hold their team meetings at Cages to help parents decide on sizes. Dan also wondered about the right way to shut off registration. There was some discussion of what to do in the future. There was some suggestion that we specify the same set of teams every year. That discussion will be postponed.

Dan is preparing a bill. Since he exceeded the specifications in the bid he wants to make sure that we're prepared for an increase in the amount billed.

We have always had uniform samples at sign-ups; there is agreement that, next year, the exact, specific uniforms, brands and all, should be available.

Michele noted that all-stars is coming up. Dan seems ready.

A2. A motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting was made by Pete, seconded by Greg, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

A3A. The PG Mustang Invitational will be held June 12-15. Stephanie Fife has volunteered to co-ordinate the tournament. A motion to approve her as coordinator was made by Rob, second by Jim, and approved by unanimous voice vote. Stephanie already has a committee of about ten people in place. We have both Municipal Field, for the A team games, and George Washington, for B. There will be a gate for at Muni, but not at GW. Randy will work on Muni fencing and will help Michele construct brackets.

We will once again be in control of concessions at Muni after May 5<sup>th</sup>. Luann has spoken to Barbara Chang (from the Breakers Club, and also varsity softball coach). Her group will continue to stock Muni; we will man the booth, the proceeds will be split 50/50. After May 5<sup>th</sup> we'll buy their inventory and take over everything. Next year we may do all the Muni concessions again, even for girls' softball, but this remains to be seen.

Pete raised the question of tournament fees. Michele noted that last year's fee was \$350. Umpire fees have gone up, but other tournament fees seem to be \$350 and we don't want ours to be unusually high. We will make very little extra, beyond covering umpire fees, but this tournament is not a big money-maker in any case. There was agreement that we should keep the tournament fee at \$350. There was also some discussion about raising concession prices. The gate fee was \$3 last year for general admission, \$2 for students, and \$1 for kids and seniors. There was some thought about raising the general admission fee to \$4. Michele will e-mail the board some details about what other communities are doing, and the board will decide this issue by e-mail. We will also look for other fund-raising opportunities.

The Invitational is permitted to use either the "Blue Book" or "White Book" rules (as well as to stipulate its own rules). Sam will make a list of the differences and send it out to the Board for their consideration.

A3B: The following dates are set for other tournaments:

Seaside (Pinto, Bronco, Mustang): Memorial Day Weekend (we will decline this one)

Art Clark (Bronco), Marina: June 12-18 (during the PG Mustang Invitational)

Don Garl (Mustang), Marina: June 19-25

Don Piper (Bronco), Monterey: June 25-July 3 (or later)

The Bronco World Series starts Aug 5.

A4: The last day by which the Board will accept letters of intent to manage All-Star teams will be May 14<sup>th</sup>. The all-star manager selection committee (Michele, Pete, Greg, Crystal, Nan, Nancy, Tom) will meet shortly thereafter. The all-star draft will take place May 22<sup>nd</sup>, immediately after the Board meeting, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. that day.

Pete raised the issue of Pony division players who had not participated from the beginning of the season because they were playing on a high-school team. At the beginning of the year we anticipated adding a few of these players to Pony rosters; the

Pony division signups were never closed. We anticipate that there may be three such players interested in signing up. Pete asked whether those players were to be considered for all-star teams. It was recalled that last year we didn't have enough players to field a Pony all-star team. Since under PONY organization rules players will need to play in one-third of their team's games – which will mean 6 for our Pony teams – to be eligible, and we believe these players will not be able to reach that number, the point appears moot. David Book, as baseball director, will need to be involved.

A6: Michele has e-mailed the league reps about getting numbers to order medallions, trophies, etc. Pete has received one reps' input and anticipates more. He will need dates for when these things need to be awarded.

A7: Michele thanked Craig Bell for putting together the pancake breakfast. We sold 138 breakfasts for \$414, and also received some donations!) The Kiwanis know that this was the first time and look forward to doing it next year. Michele will get the contact name and pass it to Sam, who will write the thank-you note.

**I B: Vice-President's Report:** Nancy Thompson reported. No feedback has yet been received on Picture Day. Jim Lowell felt the photographers did a good job, and noted that they were on time. Greg Fife observed two teams had mistaken info on the letter board underneath the pictures. Apparently this will be corrected. Tom H. asked about reshoot schedules. Nancy reported that the photos will come back in about ten days, and the reshoot will be scheduled shortly after the photos come back.

Nancy also asked about the last day we need the porta-potties, since we rent them by the month. The answer seems to be that we can get rid of the ones at David Ave. and Forest Grove at the end of May. Of the others the board seems less sure.

**I C: Treasurer:** Karen communicated by e-mail that signups were just about where the budget suggested they would be. Rob noted that Ira the Umpire Guy needs to be paid but presumes they have been. Michele asked him to check with Ira for both baseball and softball.

**I D: Secretary.** No report

**1 E: Baseball director:** David Book was absent but sent a note to Michele covering these topics.

- 1.) Trophies: Pete is all over that noise.
- 2.) Shetland closing ceremonies will be held at Muni, June 7<sup>th</sup>
- 3.) David will work with the Mustang rep to try to get all five teams into the playoffs. The current schedule calls for only four.
- 4.) David reminded the Bronco rep that, because of Science Camp week, the game of Tuesday, May 6, is a practice game. Home Run Derby will be held Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Managers will need to select 3 players plus additional players for the other skills competitions..

5.) David asked the Pony rep about rescheduling some rainouts with Toro Park. There was some discussion.

6.) David asked about Rich D.'s actions at Robert Down. Was a new third-base sunk? This cannot be confirmed. It was noted that we have been playing Pinto baseball with sixty-foot basepaths (PONY allows fifty or sixty here), seemingly without complaint, and that this matches the needs of softball. In Rich's absence nobody really knows the story.

**I F: Softball Director:** Craig Bell asked about all-star tournaments softball. There are usually two, one each in Marina and Carmel – but this year they're both in Carmel. Can we call and confirm that we're in for the second one, which is \$375? There was agreement that he should do so. Craig should get the fliers for the tournaments to Karen, so she can write the checks.

**II A: Concessions Coordinator:** LuAnn got the Costco card and is now on the list. Martin Sublett was also on there – we took him off to save \$40. Karen will reimburse LuAnn for the renewal.

Jeff Lindenthal from Waste Management has donated three recycling bins and bags. (That's a \$150 value or more.) One is at GW, one at Arnett, and the third is at GW awaiting transport to Muni. All he wants is a picture and for us to keep a log of our proceeds. He needs a thank you note; Sam will construct one.

The numbers aren't quite where we'd like them, because we've had to spend money on things like coffee pots. There was general agreement that the new menu items are an excellent addition.

LuAnn observed that we have a certain amount of waste from, say, too many hot dogs, but some of that she called "giveaway waste." It's not clear how to stop that. Nan suggested that we ask the managers to stay after the parent volunteers.

**II B: Field Improvements:** Absent

**II C: Rec Department Rep:** Absent

**II D: Sponsor Coordinator:** Michele reported that sponsor money continues to come in. She is just about to pass out ten Dinner Dance tickets to each coach. There are also fliers. The coaches should keep the tickets to hand (or have the team mom do it). Instructions are available. Unused tickets should, as always, be returned.

**II E. Equipment Guy:** Absent

**III A: Baseball Members:**

**A. Umpire Liaison:** Rob K. had already mentioned Ira's bill which needs to be paid. He detailed some inconsistencies (mostly in our favor) between the number of games for which we've been charged and the number which actually had umpires. These may be resolved on the next bill; Rob will communicate with Ira about this. Generally Rob feels

that umpires have done a good job of showing up; he has heard a few standard complaints about umpires.

**B. Website:** Absent

**C. Pony:** Tom H. noted that the May 13 Phillies – Tigers game needs to be rescheduled because it's Honors Night. Earlier games that were rained up will not be made up by the Phillies, but will be by the Tigers. Tom wondered why a conflict like Honors Night wasn't spotted at the time the calendar was made. The answer is that the Baseball Director makes the schedule referring to the PGUSD website, which is not always current.

Tom also is seeking a softball rules book. Happily, Craig B. has them.

**D. Bronco:** No report

**E. Mustang:** Crystal is working with David to re-schedule the playoffs so that all five teams can be involved. There was one "situation" in the past week involving complaints about one of the teams and a very negative parent. The coach in question wrote a nice letter, invoking the Parents' Code of Ethics and things currently seem okay there. There was some discussion about the Mustang league and the desire for balanced teams.

Crystal found herself playing some "inappropriate" music while announcing. Parents did complain about certain songs. She asked that we all be careful to avoid suggestive language. Nancy started humming "Brick House" – I heard her.

Debie asked if we allow children to run the scoreboard. The answer is that we do, if they're responsible. There should be no more than two children in the booth at a time.

Debie also observed that the locks are gone from the GW scoreboard, and that some of the bulbs are out. Greg will try to take care of that. Debie and others have observed a problem in the board itself that looks like a short-circuit.

**F. Pinto:** Absent

**G. Shetland:** Absent

#### **IV. Softball League Representatives:**

**A. Majors:** Tom Heebink.

**B. Rookies:** Jim Lowell reported that the Rookies have one new player.

**C. Pre-Rookies:** Absent

**D. Softball Website:** Absent

Craig asked that next year we have a "master practice schedule" so we can baseball and softball participants always know who's at what field. There was general agreement that this was a fine idea.

**VA. Medical Guy:** Absent

**VI. Other business:** No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 22, 2008 at 6:30 p.m (not 7:30, to accommodate the all-star draft).

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey  
Secretary