

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

Present: Michele Amader, David Book, Craig Bell, Crystal Hawes, Sam Buttrey, Greg Fife, Nan Johnston, Steve Thompson, Don Mothershead, Nancy Thompson, Jeff Odell.

Two corrections were noted to the July minutes that Sam distributed electronically. Craig noted that we had discussed holding the Pancake breakfast with a Jamboree Day (in addition to, as last year, on Photo Day). This will be discussed later. Sam also noted that Jim Lowell's name was misspelled at one point. A motion to adopt the July minutes as amended was made by Rob, seconded by Craig, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

IA: President's Report:

Michele noted that Pete Huller has resigned from the Assistant Baseball Director post since he and his family will be moving to Italy. She has already received an application from Stephanie Fife to fill that post and proposed Stephanie to the board. The appointment was passed by enthusiastic proclamation.

The Rules Committee met last night but its report will come later.

B. Vice-President's Report

Nancy will arrange for a visit from a photographer next meeting. There are still some mixed feelings about the current photographer and we will continue to seek alternatives.

C. Treasurer: Karen passed out a profit & loss statement as of August 27 (which did not include concession income or income from Fall Ball). She announced that we will in fact show a small profit this year. In addition, we had planned to take money out of the CD for field repairs and didn't have to. So, financially, this has been a good year.

D. Secretary: Sam reported on behalf of the Rules Committee. The following rule modifications (or clarifications) were considered (they are listed by item number on the committee's agenda):

1.) Bronco regular-season tie-breakers. The proposal was to follow the scheme that we believe PONY uses in tournaments, breaking ties by overall won-loss percentage (with ties counting as half a win), then by head-to-head record among all tied teams; then by fewest runs allowed among all teams still tied; then by most runs scored among all teams still tied; then by a coin toss or tosses among all teams still tied. The Committee was unable to locate this language in the rule book but believe it to be there and hope to refer to it rather than print the rule in its entirety. A motion to adopt this rule was made by Rob, seconded by Sam and passed by unanimous voice vote.

- 2.) Bronco curve balls. The committee revisited the idea of Bronco curve balls and proposed that we continue to ban curve balls during the regular season. Since no rule change was proposed no vote was taken.
- 3.) The committee proposed that Mustang adopt one of the 2007 inter-city rules under which baserunners could not score from third base on a wild pitch or passed ball. The intent is to allow Mustang managers to develop more catchers (and perhaps pitchers) without the costs associated with PBs and WPS. This proposal was coupled with #4, which proposed that Mustang players be allowed to steal. There was substantial discussion and eventually these two proposals were referred back to the committee.
- 5.) Number 5 was a hilarious gag that need not be repeated here.
- 6.) The committee proposed that we limit the number of uniformed coaches on the field and/or in the dugout at any time to three. This is not intended to limit participation by adults at practice; it was just felt that some teams have too many adults involved during games. A motion to implement this rule was made by Nancy, seconded by Jeff, and passed by unanimous voice vote.
- 7.) Playing with fewer than nine players. There was some discussion about how many – or how few – players a team can field and still have the game count. This will presumably continue to be an issue over the next few years since we anticipate continued sparse Bronco signups. The committee’s thinking was that a team with eight player should be allowed to play an official game, either by fielding only eight players (with no penalty) or by “borrowing” a player from the other team (who would need to be the last player in the lineup, for the top half of the first inning, or the player who made the most recent out, at other times). A team with seven players cannot win an official game, although if a team had only seven players of course a game (which would not count in the standings) would still be played under those circumstances if possible. A motion to implement this rule was made by Nancy, seconded by Michele, and passed with one “nay.”
- 8.) All-star requirements. The committee was interested in establishing a formal scheme to determine the number of all-star teams we field. The financial impact of dropping a second all-star team is currently unknown. It was decided to return this to the committee for further consideration after sign-up numbers are known.
- 9.) Mustang draft procedure. The committee considered whether the Mustang draft procedure should be modified to help ensure that teams are equal. No action has been proposed.
- 10.) Mustang game/practice balance. In 2008 Mustang teams had 15 games and 9 practices. Some suggestions have been made, but the committee is not yet ready to make a recommendation.
- 11.) Season starting date. The committee is interested in considering the season’s starting date. This could affect the dates of signups, tryouts and the draft. The committee is not yet ready to make a recommendation,

(Secretary’s note: there are rule changes associated with 1, 6 and 7 above.)

E. Baseball director: David Book reported that Fall Ball will start September 6th for both Bronco (Book and Fife coaching) and Mustang (Thompson, Cuellar and Klarsfeld coaching). He hopes to schedule at least a few inter-city games. Normally Bronco will be

at Muni, Mustang at George Washington, although Opening Day won't be possible at GW. On that day Mustang will move to Arnett and Bronco will take GW.

Michele was reminded that about \$3,000 in sponsor fees is still owed. There was some discussion. Karen noted that she can generate bills electronically.

F. Softball director: Craig Bell would like this year's Pancake Breakfast to raise \$1,000. He also thinks that selling drink tickets at the Dinner Dance is a sure-fire money maker. He noted that we need to follow through on grant applications and other fund-raising opportunities. A number of local events –like the Big Sur Marathon, PG triathlon, and Dog Show –allow us to pick up money by helping out. He suggested we have a fundraising director / volunteer coordinator to focus on these ideas. As another suggestion, maybe each league rep could be responsible for one event.

Nancy suggested that the “Sponsor coordinator” duties might be assigned to the Assistant Baseball Director. Since her plea for members to write up a list of their duties has not been widely heeded, she has agreed to write up lists of duties for each position and pass them on to the members for editing.

Craig also noted that the sponsor logo on the Shetland uniforms is really big. He'd like to see a shirt more like Mustang's. David noted that using MLB trademarks will increase the cost.

III. Equipment guy: Jeff Odell acknowledged that he needs to follow up on some of the equipment bags. Greg Fife will be taking on the equipment responsibilities for the coming year. There was some discussion of who gets whose bag, and of equipment – particularly balls – for Fall Ball.

Craig asked who was responsible for assembling gear and getting it to Jeff. The answer is that the reps should do that.

Other business: No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary