

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
October 23, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

Present: Michele Amader, David Book, Sam Buttrey, Greg Fife, Rob Kershner, Tony Payan, Nancy Thompson, Bob DiStefano, Craig Bell, Tom Heebink, Nan Johnson, Carlos Cuellar.

Absent: Everyone else.

President's Report: Craig Bell has reported to Michele that our check to Joel Woods's family has passed through the Kiwanis. He delivered the check for Greg Fife to give to Stephanie Fife. Greg threw in a quick thanks to Steve Thompson and David Book for running a successful Fall Ball season. No word has been received from our accountant on the legality of this move. Sam reported an informal consultation with an out-of-state lawyer (his brother) who opined that this move did not violate the IRS code. Nancy asked that, at another meeting, the Board establish a policy to handle the case when other parents or volunteers pass away.

Nancy moved to postpone approval of the September minutes in light of their late appearance; Crystal seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Signups and Tryouts: Michele observed that signups have traditionally been held third and fourth weeks in January. She wondered if they might be made earlier; we have been discussing an earlier start to the season in any case, and we have lost any advantage we used to derive from staging one sign-up simultaneously with Red Department basketball photographs, now that basketball is being operated by the YMCA.

The suggestion of holding signups on Saturday, January 10th and Friday, January 23rd (skipping the intervening weekend which includes the Martin Luther King holiday) was well-received and adopted. Nancy will send fliers to the local schools, with help from Crystal. David B. volunteered to run baseball tryouts, to be held January 31st with the drafts held the following Monday, February 2nd. Craig will run the softball tryouts on Saturday, Feb. 7th, with the draft Monday Feb. 9th.

There was some discussion of the website and its use as a marketing tool, particularly to help prospective new players find us. Apparently the PONY org. site is now linking back to our website in a way not currently clear. One or other of us will need to find out the details.

Michele asked Tom H. whether we be able to field two teams in the Majors. He believes we will.

Fees: Last meeting it was noted that we had planned to raise fees by \$15 last year, as part of a two-year plan; it's now time to decide whether we will do that. The Budget Committee will meet within the next two weeks and decide what sort of raise is called for. We will anticipate a vote on the fee schedule at the November meeting. There was some discussion of other fund-raising approaches. Tony P. mentioned that, in light of the two successful clinics last year, we might consider a third clinic – and maybe offer it to a wider audience, like to other cities. Craig is aiming at two clinics for softball as well this year. Tom H. suggested making that information available at signups. Tony will work with the MPC coaches to nail down dates and other details.

Vice-President: Nancy Thompson has selected Shooting Stars to do the photographs this year. At \$3 back per value package we stand to receive \$500 or so. Photo Day will be determined, but currently it looks like March 28. (Good Old Days moved up to April 4 this year.)

Nancy thanked Rob K. and David for sending in job descriptions. She still has a few Board members who haven't done that and she distributed her drafts of those duties.

Secretary: Sam is "90% complete" in putting together a survey for parents. He will send the link to the Board and ask them to run through it with an eye towards getting it to parents in November. The Rules Committee will meet this month as well; it did not meet in October.

Baseball director: David Book announced that Fall Ball ends Saturday and that the relevant checks have been deposited.

Softball director: Craig Bell asked whether the jamboree or Pancake Breakfast or both will be on Photo Day. Craig recommended implementing Bob DiStefano's fundraising idea. Under this plan, the organization would receive a big-ticket item like a TV as a donation. (Bob thinks he might be able to arrange this.) Each child would be given three raffle tickets to sell at \$20 each. Michele notes that we have renewed our raffle permit. Bob thinks he can get tickets made. The Seeboks, who coached a Mustang team, do graphic design. Nancy noted that we already ask the children to sell dinner dance tickets (with vaying levels of success) and have discussed asking them to sell Pancake Breakfast tickets this year as well. She is concerned about the burden on them. There was discussion of how we can raise money.

Tom H.: wondered if we might want to give incentives to the kids (for example, a child who sells a certain number of raffle tickets might get a free jacket or something)? Rob Kershner preferred an approach that rewards teams as a whole. Craig asked the Board to keep those ideas coming.

Reps: Nan J. reported that she has only one manager returning.

Crystal: thanked Steve Thompson, Carlos Cuellar and Jerry Klarsfeld for running Mustang Fall Ball.

Tom H. noted that there's fall ball and clinics for the Bronco-level kids, but not much for 14-15 year olds. We should think about that. Tom H. would like a team, rather than workshops or clinics, but he'll take what he can get.

Nancy noted that two older brothers, Nick Moran and Julian Thompson, helped with Mustang Fall Ball. In general we might recruit the older kids to help out. It's good for them and good for the kids. We can give community service credit as well

Medical Rep: Tony Payan asked that when the Rules committee meets, it talk about implementing the curveball during the season. He's concerned that it's bad for the players to start all at once at All-Star time. Maybe pitchers could get "certified" from the MPC coaching staff and then be limited to, say, three curveballs a game. Bob agrees that kids need to be developed slowly, but is concerned about curve balls during a game. Tony will be invited to Rules Committee meetings.

Equipment guy: Jeff O. has met up with Bob DiStephano and all the Shetland equipment has been accounted for. One Pinto bag is still missing. Michele suggested that maybe Don M. hid it away in his secret spot where we found the PA system some time back. We'll check with Don.

New business: This is the meeting at which we elect new officers. Sam sent an e-mail several days ago, to all the parents, asking for volunteers. Carlos Cuellar was the only non-board member to show up, though, and respectfully declined a post.

Marcia Cody, Rich DeSaulles, and Jim Lowell will not be continuing on the Board. LuAnn Moran will continue to run Concessions but needs a Committee to do things like opening and closing. Tom H. will continue to serve as both Pony and Majors rep if necessary, but would be delighted to hand one off to someone else. Everyone else is prepared to keep his or her job except that Vicki Courtney has asked to be relieved of the Softball Website. Sam has volunteered to take that. Randy will continue to run the baseball site, but doesn't want to come to meetings. Because of his long service it was felt that he should be retained as a full Board member but excused from the meetings. Thus the final slate is

- Michele Amader, President;
- Nancy Thompson, Vice-President;
- Karen Cepress, Treasurer;
- Sam Buttrey, Secretary and Softball website;
- David Book, Baseball Director;
- Craig Bell, Softball Director;
- Stephanie Fife, Public Relations/Fundraising Coordinator;
- Jeff Odell, Equipment Manager;
- Greg Fife, Assistant Equipment Manager;
- LuAnn Moran, Concessions Coordinator;
- Rob Kershner, Umpire Liaison;
- Randy Karasek, Baseball Website;

Tom Heebink, Pony and Majors Rep;
Nan Johnston, Bronco Rep;
Crystal Hawes, Mustang Rep;
Bob DiStefano, Shetland Rep;
Vicki Courtney, Rookie Rep.

Currently vacant: Minors Rep, Pre-Rookies Rep.

Sam moved to accept this slate, Tony seconded and the motion carried, which in retrospect wasn't very surprising.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary