

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
September 25, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m., Nancy Thompson presiding.

Present: David Book, Craig Bell, Sam Buttrey, Stephanie Fife, Nan Johnston, Karen Cepress, Jeff Odell, Rob Kershner, Greg Fife, Bob DiStefano, Nancy Thompson.

Absent: Everyone else.

Opening: Megan Gregg from Shooting Stars Photography made a presentation to the board regarding her organization's photography service. She also showed samples and a product list. (She claims "99% accuracy in orders, fulfilled in 9-14 days.") In many leagues the entry fee include a "memory mate" and magnet for every player; in those cases the league would pay \$7.95 per person. However, our parents are accustomed to paying for photographs; in this case the league would receive some money back (somewhere in the "several hundreds of dollars" range.) Nancy has some details and will receive more. Shooting Stars will also do the scheduling, and they don't require any volunteers on Picture Day. They anticipate Picture Day lasting about four hours and are free March 28 and April 4th. There was some discussion of rain and makeup dates. Sponsor plaques will be included.

A motion to approve the August minutes as emended was made by Nan, seconded by Jeff, and was approved by proclamation

Treasurer: Karen reported that there will be some income from Fall Ball, but that it has not yet been deposited. A few sponsors have still not paid; Karen will bill them on receipt of the relevant information from Michele. There was substantial discussion of the process (or lack thereof) for moving money from place to place. There was general agreement that we haven't been good at establishing budgets for, for example, tournaments and that we need to tighten up our processes. Nancy, Karen, Michele, David and Craig will be meeting to go over the budget and will discuss processes for handling cash and purchase control at that time.

Job Descriptions: Nancy has written and distributed a draft of duties for each board position. The plan is to being unite the posts of Assistant Baseball Director and Sponsor Coordinator into a single post, perhaps named Public Relations Coordinator. This board member would deal with sponsors, assist the President, work on the dinner dance and auction donations, work with the directors on uniform, work on advertising events, help with the Pancake Breakfast and Good Old Days parade, order trophies and pins, and coordinate tournaments held locally. It was understood that this is a rich portfolio and the Board will seek input from Stephanie Fife on which of these duties may be impossible. Meanwhile a discussion of deadbeat sponsors has broken out. It's chaos. A nightmare. Disaster.

Nancy noted that we need to make the decision as to the uniform supplier. There was a high level of chaos and unhappiness last year. She also notes that we should produce any proposed rule and fee changes (and a proposed budget) by the next (October) meeting. Jeff noted that the last fee raise was intended to be part one of a two-part raise, but that the second part never occurred.

There was more discussion of budgeting – really, quite a lot more. Karen will try to break down expenses by league since that seems to be of interest. Guess what? Even more discussion of budgeting followed.

October is an important meeting since the new Board will be seated. Sam will e-mail the current Board to ascertain who would like to stay on and in what capacities..He will also (with Randy's help) send a blanket e-mail to the whole PONY mailing list to try and recruiting new board members and volunteers. Craig noted that we certainly need help raising money.

Baseball director: David Book brought up the Joel Woods tragedy. There has been discussion as to whether the Board may make a donation directly to the Woods family. An e-mail motion to do so passed, but Michele argued, also by e-mail, that the Board not legally permitted to do that. (Article 6 of the by-laws states in part that “[t]he Board of Directors shall not permit the contribution of funds to individuals.” In rebuttal David pointed to the following sentence, which notes that “[t]he above regulation is to discourage favoritism among teams...”) Michele also asserted that such a donation could put our 501(c)(3) tax status at risk. Craig noted that the Board can give money to Kiwanis and have that organization to pass it on since they have a different tax status. Kiwanis is a 501(3)(b) which, Craig tells us, allows that sort of disbursement. Karen has no professional opinion and will consult with the CPA who does our books. Nan moved that we contribute the pre-approved \$1,000 via Kiwanis; Jeff O. seconded. Karen noted that we will (or at least may) need to take the money out of the CD, because she's not prepared to guarantee that the operating budget has the money. Craig volunteered to provide the \$1,000 pending reimbursement reimbursed.

There was more discussion than you can believe. Lots and lots of discussion I am not just saying this..

A vote on Nan's motion passed by 9-2. Nancy acknowledged the presumption that this move constitutes a legal act. There was generally high confidence in this presumption.

David also announced that fall baseball is going well. It will be done in about four weeks.

Softball director: Craig Bell met the new MPC softball coach; she is prepared in principle to do one or more softball clinics. This would be patterned on the very successful Payan baseball clinic, with a fee per individual, some of which returns to the League. The level, and what she can offer, will need to be discussed. She would bring players and assistant coaches.

Tomorrow from 5-8 p.m. at First Awakenings, the PTAs of Forest Grove and Robert Down will have a fund-raiser, partly to benefit the Woods family. Nan noted that the Sons of Italy will have a fund-raiser in early October.

Craig observe that in the past the Board has often cancelled the November meeting and urged us not to do that.

Nancy asked Fall Ball parents at George Washington not to park at Melrose. Neighbors there continue to be unhappy. David B. will contact all fall ball participants.

Equipment guy: Jeff Odell continues to have some questions about Pinto equipment. Nancy will go to Rich's house to hunt down whatever needs to be hunted down.

Umpire Liaison: Rich Kershner noted that the liaison was "out of the loop" for fall ball. Ira the Umpire Guy will be billing David, but only for the small number of inter-city games.

There was some discussion about financial policy regarding scholarships. Bob noted that we might ask ask sponsors if they wanted to donate a scholarship as well.

Other business: Sam distributed a card for the Woods. It will go out tomorrow.

Sam is putting together a survey for the parents, seeking input into what we're doing well and badly, what sort of value we offer, and so on. The informal committee includes Nan, Nancy, LuAnn, and Jim Lowell.

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

Next Meeting: October 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary