

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 26, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

Present: Michele Amader, Stephanie Fife, David Book, Crystal Hawes, Craig Bell, Greg Fife, Neil MacLaren, Lenora MacLaren, Nan Johnson, Sam Buttrey, Tony Payan, Vicki Courtney, Carlos Cuellar, Nancy Thompson, Rob Kershner, Dan Hopkins, Ken Olsen, Nate Trosky.

1. Executive Board

A. President's Report:

Michele noted that the scorekeeper's clinic is now set for March 11th.

Tony Payan announced his resignation from the Board. He will continue to help Jim Lowell with one of the Pony division teams. Certain aspects of his relationship with MPC have shifted with an effect on the clinics he'd been planning.

1B. Treasurer's Report Karen reported \$33,673 in signup income (with perhaps \$1,500 more expected). This is very much in line with our budgeted amount of \$35,000. Right now our organization is \$26,000 in the black.

IIA. PR/Fundraiser: Stephanie: Stephanie's report came ahead of its position in the agenda because Dan Hopkins was present to address uniform issues. Majestic, the supplier of uniforms with Major League Baseball logos, is having supply troubles. One of our choices will be to have "Pacific Grove" on every shirt, in the proper coloring, rather than the MLB team name. Ken O. noted that in the 70's the sponsor names were on the jerseys. Dan noted that often the sponsors don't come in until very close to Opening Day.

Dan offered several options: (i) wait for Majestic, with no guarantee that the situation will be resolved any time soon; (ii) make up "Pacific Grove" jerseys; (iii) put sponsor names on jerseys, to the extent possible. He noted that his impression is that youth-style MLB jerseys may not be available in future roles. Hats are unaffected and continue to be available.

Bob D., in his role as a sponsor, suggested that sponsors already lined up be offered an upper-level team. There was substantial discussion. Nan's motion to let Stephanie and Dan work it out was seconded by proclamation and passed unanimously.

Visitor's Presentation: Nate Trosky of Trosky Baseball School gave a brief presentation. His organization offers clinics for both coaches and players, and he's prepared to put together a similar event for us, at low or no cost. His usual practice is to offer a Friday night coaches' clinic, for 2 or 3 hours, at no charge. Some of his cost

would be recouped in the sale of books and DVDs. This would be followed by a Saturday clinic, broken down by age brackets, with cost to be determined. He declared himself excited about promulgating the values of character and attitude, and influencing our players' "personal makeup." He suggested that our leagues might find it helpful for coaches to learn a common system to help the kids progress. He's willing to do smaller things, like, for example, a catchers' clinic. In answer to a question about fees, Nate detailed a sample clinic he put together for a larger organization. In this case the coaches' clinic drew 50-60 participants, each of whom received a book. The players' clinic was both Saturday and Sunday with coaches including former major leaguers; this all cost about \$2500 to the league. Nate emphasized that he's willing to work with our organization. Nan commented that her child participated in a Trosky clinic and that the emphasis on character-building was well-received.

Tentative plans are for a free coaches' clinic the evening of Friday, March 13th, followed by a players' clinic, Sunday March 15 for \$20 each split 50-50. Bob D. will communicate with Nate.

1C. Vice President: Nancy Thompson announced that Porta-potties will arrive next week. They will be placed at David Ave., Forest Grove, and Robert Down.

Photo Day will be March 28th. Nancy will need a game schedule, including Inter-City games, as soon as it is available. Photo packets should be available this week. Craig will work with Kiwanis on the Pancake Breakfast, to be held the same day. Michele will produce those and get these to Nancy for distribution.

1D. Secretary/Webmaster Sam described the updated version of the rules that had been circulated by e-mail. A motion to accept and post them was made by Rob K., seconded by Nan, and passed unanimously.

Sam received a few recommendations about web-site updates: one manager switch, a few dates left over from 2008, and a front page that says "teams have been chosen."

The website discussion led to another discussion about children "playing up" into the next division. There was general agreement that safety is the primary reason we would permit this, and this is a card we should play only rarely. Although we respect the coaches in question, there was unease with the practice and plenty of discussion. Lots and lots and lots of discussion. Seriously. I'm not kidding you.

Although one child was recently approved for playing up by e-mail, Nan's motion to decline to move any more children until there has been more evaluation by the Board, seconded by Greg, was passed unanimously. The children brought up at this meeting will not be moved up.

1E: Baseball Director: David B. noted that we were able to get Michael from the city to do field prep for weekday games. He was grateful to Greg for the latter's hard work on

equipment and noted that this year we expect to use up the equipment budget, since we have more Shetland teams than usual.

David announced that Kenn Morrison has stopped putting together the inter-city schedules for Mustang and Bronco, so there isn't a single person filling this role. Local communities have been cooperating, however; Marina, Salinas, and NPS have formed their own Bronco and Mustang leagues. The Bronco inter-city scheduling is done; there are ten inter-city games for four teams (and a chance of two more). For Mustang, only the first week-and-a-half's games are set; commitments have been hard to come by. Rob asked to be kept in the loop to ensure that games have umpires.

David will finish out the year and then resign from the board.

1F: Softball Director: Craig Bell announced that we are still getting late signups for Pre-Rookie and Rookie. He moved to close admittance to Minors (currently 3 teams of 13 each) and Majors (15 players); this motion, seconded by Sam, passed unanimously. A clinic last week donated by John Franklin saw 51 girls show up. It was very positive. There will also be a pitching clinic March 8, from noon to 2, at \$10 per player. Craig will send Sam the CCS rules for the website.

Craig proposed as new League Reps Bill Merchak for Minors, and Staci Consiglio for Rookies. Tom H. seconded and the appointments passed unanimously. We have two Rookie and two Pre-Rookie teams.

Umpire Liaison: Rob K. has forwarded contract to Michele. There has been no change in price this year. Rob still needs schedules need to be forwarded to Ira.

Equipment Manager: Greg reported that all equipment has been handed out. There is a lot let over, so at some point he'll go through it (maybe with David) and assemble donations. He'll stock sheds with chalk (particularly Arnett) and distribute balls.

Baseball reps:

Pony: Tom H. noted that the teams set, practices are underway, and equipment distributed. His division is awaiting schedules. Kenn M., who will continue to schedule Pony games, needs a list of available dates. Tom clarified that we need to get permission to use the PGHS JV field, but that the agreement has been we will generally be permitted to, any day that PGHS doesn't need it.

Tom would like to close signups (he has two teams of 15 each). His motion, seconded Sam, passed unanimously.

Bronco: Nan noted that her inter-city schedule seems to be complete. She has a few NYCSA certifications left to gather.

Mustang: Crystal reports that things are going well. A new manager is playing the opening game that first Saturday and she sought, and received, volunteers to help him with that first field prep.

Pinto: Neil noted a conflict between Pinto and Rookie teams at Robert Down. This appears resolvable. Neil would like to paint the shed and bleachers and will seek the principal's permission. He has received an anonymous donation for the paint. Backstop wood will be replaced as well, thanks to a generous donation from Hayward Lumber. (Sam will put together a thank-you letter for Neil.) At managers meetings it was clear that Shetland and Pinto kids want names on the back of their uniforms. Neil wondered if we might raise our fee \$5 next year, and acquire names for those players. This will be discussed next year.

Neil noted that he has 6 teams and 65 players. He'd like to close the division. His motion to do was seconded by Craig and passed unanimously.

Shetland: Bob noted that two of his players appear to have moved. Presumably the parents will want refunds. Bob looked to Greg for first-aid kits and baseballs.

Bob noted that the baseball application form shouldn't be copied on both sides because it's a pain to photocopy.

Other Business: Sam noted that this is the meeting at which we are to decide whether to offer two all-star teams. David Book had pointed out earlier that in the Bronco division about half of the players become all-stars. On the other hand there was no strong push to have only one Bronco all-star team and no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Next meeting: March 26th 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Buttrey
Secretary