

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 29, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

Present: Michele Amader, Stephanie Fife, LuAnn Moran, David Book, Crystal Hawes, Craig Bell, Greg Fife, Rob Kershner, Neil MacLaren, Nan Johnson, Sam Buttrey, Kevin Nobusada, Tony Payan, Steve Thompson, Rob DeStefano, Vicki Courtney, Carlos Cuellar, Nancy Thompson.

1. Executive Board

A. President's Report:

A1. Kevin Nobusada from Salinas asked that we address his proposal (previously distributed by e-mail) to add one team to our Pony division. Under the proposal, this team (currently called "The Rippers") would join as a single group. The team consists of players from several local cities, including two PG players. Kevin was prepared to declare all the games against his team to be exhibitions and he understood that players on his team would not be eligible for post-season play in Pony tournaments. They would prefer to practice here in PG and have plans to keep the costs to our league to a minimum (for example, sponsors might cover equipment costs). He described his plan and addressed some of the potential objections. One of the children on this team (maybe two) would need to "play up" from Bronco into Pony. The coach is the freshman baseball coach at Monterey HS.

There was substantial discussion on this issue, some with Kevin absent. In response to a question about equipment, Kevin replied that he felt that, if necessary, his team could supply its own. We would, of course, provide insurance. There was general agreement that finding fields could be an issue, but it was also noted that Seaside will apparently not field a Pony team this year, possibly allowing Kevin's team to practice there.

Rob D. was concerned that while Kevin undoubtedly has good intentions, other parent/coaches in future years might be less kind and Bob was concerned about setting a precedent. It was generally believed that PG Pony would make a profit on this arrangement, since we would receive the sign-up fees, as well as furthering our philosophy of allowing more children to play baseball. Since the teams in the Pony division are set by arrangement rather than by draft, no protocol would be violated by this agreement, though there was some concern of negative impact if the Rippers were very much better than all the other teams. Nan suggested that, at least out of politeness, we might see what the other (currently unofficial) Pony managers think. Rob D. also reported that a Monterey coach has asserted to him that if PG were to accept this team into their league, Monterey wouldn't play games against any of our teams. There has been no "official" word to this effect from Monterey's Board, however. Rob moved to accept the "Rippers" into our league, under the conditions described and for this season

only. The motion was amended to provide that our approval be contingent on approval from the PONY organization via Kenn Morrison. The amended motion, seconded by Nan, received one abstention, the rest of those present voting for approval. David will send Ken's document to Kenn M.

A2. A motion to approve the minutes from December's meeting, with a couple of typographical corrections, was made by Nancy, seconded by Luann, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A3. Signups: So far we have about \$31,000 in revenue. There may be ten more or so late ones on the way. We had been hoping for about \$35,000. We currently have 335 players signed up, compared to 370 last year.

A4: February's board meeting will be rescheduled to 7:30 p.m. on the 26th, from 6:30 p.m., since practices will have started by that date.

A5. Michele noted a communication from Don Mothershead stating that Caledonia Park will not be available for Shetland practice on Mondays.

A6. Michele reminded reps and managers to supply documentation of NYSCA Certification.

A7. Manager selection: No manager selection committee has met. We have fewer managers than teams. Shetland is aiming at 8 teams with 10 players each; there are five confirmed managers. Sam's motion to defer approval of Shetland managers until all eight are in place carried unanimously. Approval will be by e-mail.

Mustang has 48 players and plans four teams, with managers Carlos Cuellar (possibly assisted by Jerry Klarsfeld), Steve Thompson, Corinne Wright (whose application is apparently en route) assisted by Dan Quitno, and Josh Buskirk, with the assistance of Chris Cryns. A motion to approve all four was made by Crystal, seconded by Sam, and passed unanimously.

Bronco currently has 38 players for four teams. Three of the managers are Joe Moses, David Book, and Bret Boatman (whose application is en route). There was some discussion about the names submitted for the fourth spot. A motion to approve those three was passed by proclamation with the vote on a fourth reserved.

Neil reported that Pinto currently has only one manager spot spoken for, though Nancy has a few more applications in the pipeline.

A8. "And under" requests: six parents have asked that their children be moved up from Shetland to Pinto. In every case it appears that these are highly skilled children who would be bored (and maybe even a source of danger) in Shetland. Greg noted that "team balance" is a much less important goal than skill and mental maturity when deciding on which children move up. There was general agreement that a child who moves up needs

to be prepared to spend three years in the next level (that is, that moving up once doesn't imply another early move later). A motion by Nancy to allow these six children, and also Kevin Nobusada's son (see A1 above), to move up one division, passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report: None.

C. Vice-President's Report: Nancy noted that the Good Old Days parade will be at 10 a.m. on April 4th. She will work with Neil on arrangements. For Photo Days she will need schedules as soon as possible. Packets will be available for parents the week of March 2nd. We have a certain number of vouchers available for parents for whom the photos are a financial hardship. Nancy noted that plans to hold the Pancake Breakfast on Photo Day are proceeding; she will work with Craig, who will represent Kiwanis, on details.

Nancy was informed by AT&T that our grant application will be reviewed in April.

The set of board-member duties having been collected, Nancy will send them to Sam for posting on the web site.

Finally, Nancy was contacted by Don M. He will be unable to organize Pitch, Hit & Run this year and asked if PG Pony wanted to. There was general agreement that we do not.

D. Secretary's Report: Sam distributed a piece of the 2009 calendar. He claims he will give out the rest when tournament dates are set, but you know how that goes. He has abandoned his idea of a web survey until after the coming season.

Before the meeting Sam distributed by e-mail an updated version of the rules from the web site. This new version reflects some of the changes over the last couple of years (particularly the change to coach-pitch in Pinto and the new Mustang rules on passed balls and wild pitches). He asked the board to read these carefully for next time. The rules on the Bronco draft were self-contradictory and Sam proposed a scheme for this year's draft. Under this scheme, teams with fewer players would draft until they caught up to the teams with more; then all teams would draft in the usual way. The former requirement that all second-year draftable players be drafted before any first-year players was removed. There was some discussion about the merits of the partial draft system (under which most second-year players return to their previous team). Given the current makeup of the teams it was decided that Bronco would be best served by a complete re-draft next year. A motion by Sam, to adopt the plan as laid out, together with a re-draft next year, was seconded by Michele and passed unanimously.

E. Baseball Director's Report: David noted that baseball tryouts will be this weekend. He will be assisted by Stephanie, Michele, Nancy and others. He hopes to have a group meeting with Pinto and Mustang managers (possibly Feb. 11th at 6:00 p.m.) at which he would go over some things and distribute equipment bags. A similar meeting for Bronco and Pony managers will take place; its tentative date is Feb. 10th. David will be meeting with Craig shortly regarding availability of practice fields. Muni Field will still be an

issue. On the one hand, PGHS would like to move its softball to Forest Grove, freeing up Muni for baseball; on the other hand, the city's master plan limits Muni access.

F. Softball Director's Report: Craig asked whether we needed to set a cut-off date for softball signups. He anticipates that, as in most years, some girls cut by the high school teams will want to sign up with us. Right now the managers include Jim Courtney and Stacey Consiglio (Pre-Rookie), Sal Lucido (Rookie), Steve Watkins, Bobby Russell, Carl Cooper (Minors), and Rick Rodewald (Majors). Dave Armonsens will coach a second Majors team if enough players sign up. Sam's motion to approve these managers was seconded by Nancy and passed unanimously.

Craig noted that Carmel calls its tryouts "evaluations," and suggested that we might do the same. Every year there are some players who fear, from the word "tryouts," that they might not be placed on any team.

The current numbers are 21 Pre-Rookies, 14 Rookies, 38 Minors, and 14 Majors. Craig proposed that we start a waiting list now for Rookies and Majors, capping those enrollments at 14 unless enough additional players to create a second team present themselves. A motion to that effect, proposed by Sam and seconded by Craig, passed unanimously.

Craig had a productive meeting with PGHS Athletic Director Rob Friedrich. The latter is interested in cooperating on batting cages at Forest Grove and electric power on the third-base side of the diamond there. He has plans for other improvements as well. Discussion on these items will continue. Rob also asked that our players not "lurk" during the time that the school's teams are finishing practice.

Maria Lucido has agreed to be Rookie Rep, with the understanding that she won't be able to appear in person at board meetings. There was general agreement with this plan.

II General Members:

A. PR/Fundraising Coordinator: Stephanie received three bids for uniforms, from Central Coast Silkscreen, Cages, and Cypress Sporting Goods. She presented a sheet detailing the prices and feature of the three bids. One vendor asserted that the full button-down jersey used in the Pony league is on back-order and felt this would affect all three bids equally, though the other two vendors didn't mention this. Rob suggested that the winning vendor be given a dollar incentive for on-time delivery. A motion to award the contract to Cages, without further negotiation, passed unanimously. Sam will write thank-you letters to the other two bidders and deliver them to Stephanie.

B. Concessions: LuAnn asked about the status of Muni. Apparently the high school's softball program will continue to try to operate concessions there for the time being, at least until the move to Forest Grove. LuAnn will contact the Breaker Boosters volunteers.

Michele noted that she may have located a donation of a refrigerator.

D. Equipment manager: Greg is the strong silent type.

Nancy noted that the Field Improvements post is vacant. She observed that we need cinders at both George Washington and Arnett Parks. Greg will get hold of Jeff O. and seek his counsel.

E. Umpire Liaison: Rob has contacted Ira and reports that this year's rates will be the same as last year's. The next step is for us to send Ira our schedule when it becomes available.

League Reps: (Mustang) Crystal asked if we should close Mustang with 48 players. The general thought was that it is not yet time.

New business: Nancy noted that one or more locks have been changed. She anticipates getting a number of new ones and will coordinate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. (not 6:30 p.m.).

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey
Secretary