BWSSA Board Minutes

August 15, 2022

Present: Sue Heilman, Brenda McNamara, Samantha Lachenmeier, Danielle Borseth, Beth Deeter

Absent: Joey McLeod, Jessica Dirk

Finalized state tournament financial – turned over to Brenda- the start money used for the tournament, the gate receipts, t-shirt sale money, and checks for the tournament from state and teams that were paid but not previously given to Brenda for deposit.

Softball order for 2023 – state sent an email stating all softball orders must be placed by August 15th. The price per dozen will be $37.15. We have 3 cases in storage, Sue placed an order for 120 dozen/20 cases. We will receive an invoice from the state once the softballs are received, hopefully we will not encounter the shipping issues we had this year.

Fall manager's meeting will be cancelled for August 25th due to conflicts in board schedules and rescheduled to possibly to early January as a pre-season meeting with election of officers. Danielle and Sue are up for re-election.

Danielle reported teams asking her about the new diamonds at Cottonwood poor conditions and that it did not appear that they were being maintained and if we were still paying for them could we withhold our payment. Sue said due to the fact that we signed a contract we would still be financially responsible for our commitment; however Brenda said due to large amount we are paying in umpire fees, she could ask if they would allow us to delay this year's payment.

Umpire pay- several teams have voiced their concerns about the amount of pay they are receiving and attitudes of the umpires. They feel as if some of the umpires this year were very confrontational or on edge. They would not speak with team managers, even when they were approached with simple questions. Also there were umpires that did not wear complete uniforms and teams were expected to wear uniforms. Managers were concerned that there is no accountability and we are not getting what we are paying for.

League issues – there seemed to be a large number of forfeits this year. Can we do something to help prevent them? We did not feel that pick up players or league only rosters was the answer to the problem at this time. Sue feels that teams who are just deciding to split rather than to play should be responsible for paying the umpire fees. We do allow teams 2 forfeits without 24 hour notice a year without being billed for umpire fees. Teams giving at least 24 hour notice are not billed because Mike does not bill us for those games. It was agreed that we would not allow a combined league with Mandan next year; we have done it for 2 years but they do not have enough teams for their own league next year, their teams will need to play in the Bismarck Association. Two of their teams this year could not compete in the league they played in and should have been in a Wednesday or Monday night league. The proposal for next year is that we collect one fee that combines the sponsor and players fees up to 20 players. The fee would be approximately $1500.00. Our fees this year were $300 sponsor fee and $60 player fee, so 60 x 20 players is $1200.00 + $300 sponsor fee was $1500.00 if teams had 20 players on their roster. Danielle proposed that we tried to run 8 team leagues for a 10 week season where each team would be played just once for the first 7 weeks and the last 3 weeks could be run with

the top four teams playing each other and the bottom 4 teams playing each other – and taking off the week of the 4th of July. The last 3 weeks could also be used to reschedule rainouts if necessary. This year we were fortunate to have only 1 night Thursday night rained out. The season for 2023 could start on Monday May 22 (due to Memorial day on May 29) with the rest of the leagues starting as of May 30; no games the week of the 4th of July; and ending the week of August 7 for all leagues. There was only 1 week this year that did not have any forfeits which was week 6 the week before McQuade with the next two weeks having the most forfeits 6 each week (the week following McQuade and the week of the 4th). The breakdown for forfeits is:

Week 1 – 1 (also had rainout on Thursday night or there would probably have been more)

Week 2 – 1

Week 3 – 3

Week 4 – 1

Week 5 – 2

Week 6 – 0

Week 7 – 6 – week following McQuade

Week 8 - 6 – week of the 4th

Week 9 – 2

Week 10 – 5

Week 11 – 2

Week 12 – 5

Week 13 – 3

Week 14 – 2

Sue also proposed to have Parks and Rec include in their winter brochure, our organizational meeting dates as well as to include that girls that turn 13 before December 31, 2023 are eligible to play in our association, in hopes of increasing our leagues. Danielle said she could also get that information out to the school's newsletters.

Sue also proposed that we use the McQuade donation this year to go toward the shack being built in Walt's honor, rather than returning to McQuades for the cancer game or patriots game.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Heilman, Secretary