**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 3 p.m.., Saturday, May 25, 2019, in Overland Park. Present were Randy Rowe, Tim Burkindine, Clint Berger, Susan Scholler, Donna McGuire, John Mondi, Bobby Gregg, Barry Gordon, Rocky Osborn and Bob Reynolds (late arriver). Absent were Mark Splettstaszer, Larry Hightower, Dave Hendrikse and Dave Barragan.

President Rowe called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and asked if there were any questions about the minutes of the previous regular meeting. There were none. McGuire made a motion that the minutes be approved. Gregg seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of special meeting from May 18, 2019. Gregg seconded. Motion passed 9-0. (Note: Reynolds arrived at 3:05 p.m.)

There was no treasurer’s report, Berger said, as the end of the month hasn’t arrived. He said he has the two checks from Barragan that he will deposit Tuesday, when the banks reopen after the holiday. (Note: The checks are for Barragan’s overdue Monday and Wednesday team fees.)

**Long range planning committee report**: Burkindine said that Steve Krull has made contact with someone who may want to build a softball complex in the KC area. Burkindine will look into it.

**Rules committee report:** McGuire noted that some umpires have misunderstood our new 7-run flip-flop rule. She contacted one umpire who had gotten it wrong and explained the correct procedure. She sent a summary to umpire assigner John Dehan and asked him to notify his umpires. McGuire also has been notifying umpires as she sees them.

**Ratings committee report:** Berger described that the number of players rated in each division resembles a bell curve overall, which is good. But since we mostly are a recreational league, we probably should be more bottom heavy, he said. (That would mean having more silver and bronze players than platinum and gold.) That will be considered moving forward, he said. As far as appeals, in 2018, we had two appeals from players wanting to decrease their rating and 10 appeals from players wanting to increase their rating. This year to date, we have 24 appeals seeking a lower rating and seven that wanted a higher rating. Unlike last year, the increase requests are not coming from players but from managers; some involve their players and some involve opposing players. Berger explained that when the rating review reports are done, the name of who requested the review is blacked out to prevent a back-and-forth that could escalate to: “You appealed one of my players so I am going to appeal your whole team.” So far, no one has abused the appeal system, Berger said.

**Dave Barragan board removal, part 1:** Rowe said Barragan received Rowe’s letter via email about the board’s actions from the special meeting and Barragan’s opportunity to be heard at this meeting. Barragan responded and said he would not attend today’s meeting because he was embarrassed enough and didn’t want to be dragged further through the mud. He told Rowe he plans to make restitution by the end of June. Burkindine noted that if the Board hadn’t voted to remove Barragan for cause, Barragan would have been removed automatically after today’s meeting anyway for missing four meetings in a row (per the bylaws). Rowe said that as of now, Barragan has been removed as a manager, player and conference coordinator. Rowe said Barragan agrees he should be suspended as a player until he repays the money, and then he wants the opportunity to return as player. Rowe said that until we see all the money, the board should wait to decide whether he can play again. Senior Softball-USA has backed us on our moves. Whatever we decided today, they will implement, too, as far as him no longer being a manager or playing in tournaments, Rowe said. He said that Terry Hennessy (SSUSA CEO) called the accusations “flagrant.”

Rowe said we are investigating getting with a prosecutor and seeing what we need to do as far as pressing charges involving the bounced check(s) and the personal players’ checks that had been written to the league and ended up with Barragan’s name and endorsement on them. According to the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, the first step is to have police start an investigation.

Rowe read part of a letter Barragan sent him. Its conclusion says, “I love playing, but if you keep me from that, especially after I make things right, does that make you better than me? .... I am sorry for what has happened and I will make it right.” (Rowe noted: That comment about “better than me” was a bad comment. Right now, Barragan has no SSUSA tournament team to play on, as his 55+ team disbanded and his 50+ team said it doesn’t want him playing. SSUSA already has said that any player wanting to leave either of Barragan’s teams can be released automatically without penalty and without requiring Barragan to sign a release. Some players already have changed teams, Rowe said. As far as league teams, Barragan’s old Monday and Wednesday teams now are named the Ballers, and the Thursday team has become Muckdawgs. (Secretary’s note: After the board meeting, it was learned that the Thursday team decided to go with the name Longhorns instead of Muckdawgs for this session.)

**Unpaid teams:** Osborn suggested we set a formal policy that teams cannot play if their fees are not paid before play begins. After some discussion, no motions were made but Rowe said the league will not allow it to happen again this year.

**Committee action reminder**: Burkindine reminded committees that they can’t take action or spend money without approval.

**Facebook:** Mondi handed a written report to McGuire for the minutes. It’s a positive report, Mondi said. He said that to sustain this Facebook page, he needs help from board members.

**All-Star Games:** Gregg went over the game schedule for the July 20 event at Hartman Park in Lee’s Summit: At 8 a.m., Field 1 will have the Monday draft all-stars vs. Tuesday draft all-stars; Field 2 will be Monday hybrid draft vs. the Tuesday 70 conference; Field 3 will have the women’s game. At 9:30 a.m., Field 1 will have Thursday draft vs. Saturday draft; Field 2 will have the Tuesday 65 vs. Saturday 60, Field 3 will have the Co-Ed game. At 11 a.m., Field 1 will have half of the Heritage players vs. the Tuesday 55+ conference; Field 2 will have the rest of the Heritage players vs. the Wednesday 50+ conference; Field 3 will have the Monday 60+ vs. the Tuesday 60+ conference.

**Wednesday league at Hartman update:** Rowe said he had been working with Brian Beck to see about getting enough teams to start that conference. Right now, we are sitting at three teams (two 40s and one 50), which isn’t enough, Rowe said.

**Pitching screen 6-foot marker:** Gregg said that Bill Nees suggested we put a tape or other mark on the screen 6 feet from the ground to help umpires rule pitches as illegal that don’t reach 6 feet in height. McGuire noted that different height umpire will see the ball and 6-foot mark differently. After some discussion, no motion occurred.

**Bylaws:** McGuire suggested the league consider having a rule or policy that would allow the board to vet nominees from the membership. Currently, our bylaws say only that the person doing the nominating must be a member in good standing, and the member being nominated must be willing to serve. Burkindine suggested creating criteria that would affect all candidates, including those brought forward by the nominating committee. After discussion, Rowe appointed Burkindine to head a committee to come up with a solution.

**Printing game cards:** McGuire said that Bill Nees suggested we print game cards for conferences where we hire the umpires. Rowe gave Scholler a copy of the game cards used at some parks. Susan will print them on card stock for other venues that need them.

**T-Bones event:** Mondi said his committee is working on ticket pricing for the June 22 event. Fans can get a good seat at $14, which is pretty close to what we paid for Comets event, he said. When the idea was posted on Facebook, our page “lit up like pinball machine,” Mondi said. Mondi said he estimated that 100 people would attend.

The board’s next meeting was set for 2 p.m. June 29.

(Note: Osborn left at 4:46 p.m.)

**Barragan removal, part 2:** Scholler moved to make Barragan’s “removal for cause” from the board official today, after he declined to appear in his defense. Reynolds seconded. Motion passed 12-0 including proxies from Hightower, Splettstaszer and Osborn.

**Miken proposal**: Gordon explained the proposal he drafted to seek Miken’s sponsorship to pay some of our shirt costs. After the meeting, a group photo of board members holding Miken bats with some board members wearing Miken clothing was taken to be included with the proposal. Gordon asked all board members to read the proposal, which he sent out via email, and recommend changes, etc. He said he’d like to send it out this coming week.

Burkindine made a motion to adjourn about 5 p.m. Gordon seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Board members and when terms expire:

**2019** **2020** **2021**

Clint Berger Barry Gordon Tim Burkindine

Larry Hightower Bobby Gregg Dave Hendrikse

Bob Reynolds Rocky Osborn Donna McGuire

Randy Rowe Susan Scholler John Mondi

       Mark Splettstaszer