**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**Oct. 20, 2019**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 1 p.m., Sunday, October 20, 2019, in Overland Park. Present were Randy Rowe, Susan Scholler, Donna McGuire, Tim Burkindine, Clint Berger, Dave Hendrikse, Barry Gordon, Bob Reynolds, Bobby Gregg, Rocky Osborn, Jeff Harlan, John Mondi, Larry Hightower and Mark Splettstaszer.

President Rowe called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Burkindine moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting. Hendrikse seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**Treasurer’s report:** After some discussion, Splettstaszer moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Hightower seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bylaws:** Burkindine said he will send out a typed version of the section in the bylaws that sets out the new procedure for nominations and election of board members.

**Long-range planning:** No report.

**Membership/dues:** We are at 980 members, Berger said. Some people paid but never got on a team, as far as online rosters show, he said. A general discussion ensued about the importance of managers putting all players on their online rosters, so that we know where people are playing, and to make sure everyone is covered by insurance, etc.

**Competition/player ratings:** No report.

**Sportsmanship/protests:** No report.

**Rules/regulations:** McGuire said she has received one request from a conference coordinator to change the equalizer rule. She asked for others with rules suggestions to let her know.

**Advertising/promotions:** No report.

**Awards:** No report. See old and new business.

**All-Star games:** No report.

**Ratings:** Berger said that Scott Flodin has come up with a way to handle the new ratings system, to get away from teams being categorized by the number of gold, bronze, etc., players on their roster and going instead to a team average of individual player ratings. Teams still will need a limit on next upper level players, otherwise teams will load up with gold and balance with bronze, Berger said. Flodin is working on a standard deviation formula to use. To keep managers from bottom-loading with players all below 4 (old bronze players) to pull their average down, the team average would be based on only players rated from 3 and above. Anybody rated below 4 wouldn’t get included. McGuire asked if we will be able to track 75+ lifetime members who are on rosters. Rowe asked for a way we can tell if they are still active. Berger said he will work with Flodin on that.

**Facebook/website:** Mondi noted that he sent a report via email.

**New member/welcoming:** Gordon said he’s had two people recently express interest for joining the league in 2020.

**Equipment/safety:** Osborn deferred to new business.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Wes Weddle tournament:** Rowe reported that the tournament is set for July 23-26 in 2020. The Monarchs tournament is set for Aug. 6-9.

**Board election update:** We have seven candidates, Rowe said. We are waiting to hear back on one tomorrow. Confirmed candidates are Berger, Rowe, George Kramer, Steve Krull, Brad Uecker, Ann Willkett and Bob Zimmerman. Members will elect five board members to 3-year terms.

**Hall of Honor voting and candidates:** Gordon said a meeting is set for Monday at Conroy’s. We have 31 voting members: all board members, all conference coordinators will vote. Twenty-three will be at the meeting, and eight cannot attend. Of those 8, Gordon sent out an email invitation to vote. Each person can vote for two names on this list. To be elected, a candidate needs 75 percent of the vote, which is 23 votes. Splettstaszer suggested that Gordon and his small group of counters keep the winner(s) confidential and tell the winners. Board members agreed.

**30th anniversary gift:** Gordon asked for board members to vote on the size of the 30th anniversary logo to go on the white shirts that will be given to all members next year. He plans to distribute the shirts at the March managers’ meeting. After some discussion, the board voted for the small logo, with 11 preferring that size.

**Ambassador jackets:** Gordon provided an update that he is at 19 confirmed jackets to be awarded in December. He plans to order by mid-November to have them by our Dec. 14 membership meeting.

**Appreciation dinner date:** Board members, conference coordinators and our website manager attend this event as a thank you for their volunteer work. Rowe set the dinner for 6:30 p.m. (6 p.m. social gathering) on Dec. 15 at Jess and Jim’s.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ballot Mailer:** McGuire gave an update about the mailer and confirmed with the board the postmark date for members who mail in their ballot. Gregg agreed to have them mailed to him again this year. The board agreed to send the email blast and the mailers by mail on Nov. 11.

**Publishing of voting results:** Rowe said the votes will be closed. Berger said no one will know what votes have gone online until have midnight on Dec. 13.

**Burying pitching plates in Independence, fixing Roe infields:** McGuire said noted that pitchers have complained about the pitching plates being too high in Independence. Reynolds said he would talk to Independence about that. The Roe Park infields also need to be leveled, McGuire said. Screens have been put away at most complexes but not at Black Bob, Rowe said.

**Thursday Heritage update:** Splettstaszer said that the Heritage conference is an example of how the rating system didn’t work the way managers would have liked. Splettstaszer said that as we move forward, he is OK with grouping teams. In the upper division, the platinum and gold, Splettstaszer noted he was tired of trying to reschedule teams because players are not around. He is going to suggest to those managers that we play a 15-week session and cut it off by the World Masters tournament. If teams want to play later than that, and weather is permitting, we can do something, he said.

**Facebook, website:** Mondi said that we got a lot of reader interest because of the tournaments late in the season. Members seemed to like the updates being posted. Also, we received mostly overwhelming support online for the new rule allowing women to play underage in men’s conferences. Rowe suggested that once a year we try to send something to SSUSA about the Wes Weddle or something else to put in their newsletter.

**Payment of team league fees by credit card:** Berger sought input on whether to move forward with letting teams pay conference fees via credit card. Board members said yes. Players/teams will pay the 3% convenience fee. Hendrikse asked if there would be a way to know which draft players have paid. Berger said that for 2020, we are not going to do the competitive conference fees but we are going to try to do the draft fees only so that they can select which conferences they are joining.

**Thomas Foote request:** Berger said Foote contacted him about managerial issues. Hendrikse gave a summary of what happened this year. Foote was offered the chance to come talk to the board but didn’t accept.

**Reinstatement request:** Berger forwarded an email letter from Bill Douglas, a personal friend of Barragan who wants him reinstated.

**Draft league report/70+ Draft league in Missouri:** Gordon talked about the draft league coordinators having meetings to re-evaluate player ratings while the games are fresh in everyone’s minds. That is underway. Also, we’ve had some interest from members wanting to know if we can get a draft together on the Missouri side (such as Hartman on Wednesday morning) for older players, he said. They currently are coming to Kansas side to play. Gordon sent an email to 229 players age 70 or older. As of noon today, he had received 45 responses, 22 of whom are interested, 19 who aren’t, and four who are maybes. Only a few said they would give up their current morning draft participation.

**Swap meet:** Gordon thanked everyone who helped. We had 30-40 people total, maybe 50.

**Awards:** The board went through all the nominations for Wes Weddle and Rookie of the Year awards and voted on them by conference.

**Presidential Award:** Rowe named Mark Splettstaszer as a recipient.

**Other information:** Hightower said that a manager recently had a draft manager whose car was broken into, and two sets of draft shirts stolen. Board members asked Hightower to find out if the manager has insurance that will cover cost of the new shirts. If not, the board will pay for new shirts.

**Dave Barragan suspension:** Rowe asked what steps we want to take next. Barragan wants to return to playing, Rowe said. He is willing to wait a year but doesn’t feel he should have to wait a year, Rowe said Splettstaszer moved that, until the legal matter has been settled, Barragan’s suspension will remain in place, and that the board would readdress the suspension after the legal matter has been resolved. Gregg seconded. After discussion, the motion passed 14-0.

Rowe set the next board meeting set for 4 p.m. Nov. 10 with the executive meeting at 3:30.

**Motion to adjourn:** Scholler moved to adjourn. Hightower seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

Board members and years 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 Jeff Harlan