**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 21, 2019, in Overland Park. Present were Randy Rowe, Tim Burkindine, Clint Berger, Susan Scholler, Donna McGuire, Barry Gordon, John Mondi, Bobby Gregg, Rocky Osborn, Bob Reynolds, Larry Hightower, Dave Hendrikse, Jeff Harlan. Absent: Mark Splettstaszer.

President Rowe called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

**Minutes:** Burkindine moved to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2019, meeting. Hendrikse seconded. Motion passed 13-0.

**Treasurer**: No report.

**By-laws:** Burkindine said he and McGuire researched some by-laws information. In at least three states -- Florida, Vermont and California -- you don’t have to have open board of director nominations from the membership. Missouri doesn’t require it in its state statues, either. Burkindine suggested a wording change to our by-laws that would allow nominations from the membership if the nominating committee failed to provide a full slate of candidates for the ballot. McGuire said the board could set guidelines on what a “full slate” would mean. Also, we may need to tweak our current by-laws to match Missouri legal requirements, she said. Wording will be brought back to the board later.

**Long-range planning:** For the benefit of new board members, Burkindine reported that this committee has been focused in the past few years on a field of dreams (our own ballpark). Now that has become a very distant dream. Also, the long-range committee has done the surveys of managers the last couple years and brought findings back to board.

**Membership:** Berger said we are at 940 members as of this morning. Scholler said that could grow, as she had a couple more to add to the database. (Note: Our final total for 2018 was 929 members, so we have set a record.)

**Competition/player ratings:** Berger said he talked to Scott Flodin, the programmer for LeagueSheets, about our plans to have lifetime memberships showing in the database for 2020. Flodin said it will not be a problem making that work. Berger also went over the proposed change for player and team ratings with him. A new system will have to be tested, Berger said, to make sure it works. Rowe noted this was first year of implementing skill ratings and now we know what tweaks to make. Berger explained his plans to get rid of color designations (gold, silver, bronze) for players and go strictly with whole numbers (1 to 10). At the same time, we would set new parameters for what makes up a bronze, silver, gold or platinum team. It would involve adding all of a team’s individual player rating numbers and dividing that total by the number of players to get an average skill rating for a team. Teams still would have a limit of three upper level players per team, but each team’s average would determine the team’s rating level.

**Sportsmanship:** No report.

**Rules:** McGuire said there has been a request to allow draft teams to borrow a 12th player on days with excessive heat warnings. (See new business.)

**Advertisement and promotions:** Hightower said the AARP has been non-responsive to our suggestions for an article. Hightower sent out a press release about the All-Star games. The only response came from a publication that said we missed their deadline.

**Awards**: Gordon said two T-shirts are being done for the Wes Weddle tournament; one will be for sale and the other for winners. Trophies have been upgraded this year to a larger metal award with the same color ball on top. (He showed an example.) Second place will be like last year with a yellow ball on top. For conferences that are ending, Gordon is ordering a purple shirt. He is waiting on a couple of conferences to finish before placing one combined order.

**All-Star games and picnic:** Gregg thanked everyone who helped with the event Saturday. Rowe and Gregg said it went well. Gregg said he had probably eight players show up who wanted to play but weren’t scheduled. Scholler said that in the future, Co-Ed needs to make sure each team has a pitcher.

**Facebook:** No report.

**New members:** Rowe welcomed Jeff Harlan to the board. Other directors applauded. Reynolds said we still get people calling in every once in a while wanting to join the league. Berger noted that six to eight people younger than 48 want to play but the Sunday night teams don’t have roster space. McGuire said that BVRC’s umpire-in-chief is checking to see if we can get field space there in the future. Rowe said Debbie Brown approached him about a 35+ division she wants to start separate from the Sunday league. She was talking about bringing in more men in who don’t have a place now to play. Berger noted he told Flodin to cut the dues now to $10 for the second half. Berger said we have 155 new people this year. You would have thought we would have hit 1,000 by now, he said.

**Equipment and safety:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Dave Barragan issue**: Rowe has gotten a phone call from Detective Cole with the Lee’s Summit Police Department. Cole said he will get in touch with Barragan and get back with Rowe. Berger said Barragan called him and said Barragan’s girlfriend has set up checking account for him to build/save the money he owes the league. Whenever it accumulates enough, he will pay the league the roughly $2,300 he owes.

**By-laws:** Burkindine said he and McGuire spent researching this. We have to stay within statutes of Missouri. The issue comes down to the at-large nominations, or open nominations. Missouri doesn’t require at-large be offered. Burkindine talked about tweaking the wording on at-large nominations to allow them if the nominating committee doesn’t come up with a full slate. Full wording will be presented at another meeting.

**Sponsorship banner:** Scholler said the 4-by-8-foot banner we thought we were getting for the women’s tournament ended up being 3-by-6 because of a miscommunication on how the larger banner involved multiple sponsors being listed.

**Wes Weddle tournament:** Rowe said that on Thursday and Friday, games will start at 8 a.m. and finish about 5 p.m. We are using three fields on Thursday. On Friday, we have four fields and hopefully finish by 2 p.m. but the “if” championship games are slated for 2 p.m. Rowe asked for volunteers to help. Scholler said she would help Friday. Burkindine will help Thursday morning. Burkindine will come out in morning on Friday as well. Rowe said Saturday and Sunday we will be using all eight fields with games starting at 8 a.m. Games will end at 8 that night on fields 1-2. On Sunday, we will start at 8 a.m. again in the morning and “if” games start at 3:30 p.m. Most games will be over by 3:30. Rowe says he needs volunteers to work both four-plexes. Rowe said we have 40 teams registered. Harlan and Hendrikse are not available this weekend. Rowe said we have to make sure water coolers filled and cups put out.

**Shirt update**: About 85 percent of the money the league spent on the shirts for the umpire travel fund has been paid back, McGuire said. That leaves $186 to pay, McGuire said. The shirts will be sold at the Wes Weddle tournament.

**Second session update:** Osborn said the only two teams coming back on Tuesday 55+ conference are the Bombers and Osborn’s team. He doesn’t have an answer from Splettstaszer yet on whether Storm is coming back. Only three teams coming back in 60s. Two teams are undecided. One needs to make a decision before the other one will. Osborn said he’d like to set a date to have teams commit.

**KSHB and press release:** Hightower said there were numerous air times (at least four) on Friday for the KSHB story on our league that featured the Thursday morning conference. Reynolds and Osborn also saw it Saturday evening at 6:30. Hightower said he wants to see if Karen Riffle sees any spike from website views. Our website address didn’t make it on the air, however. Hightower said he sent the board a draft press release on the Wes Weddle tournament.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rowe welcomed Jeff Harlan again to the board. Harlan said that, sitting in his first meeting, he is really impressed with how everything is going in the league from being a player and a coordinator. “I want to say thanks,” he said.

**Clarify/eliminate two standing committees**: Berger noted that ratings committee was listed twice in committee reports section of the agenda.

**Proposed rule changes:** Gregg said teams intentionally walk players in the draft league, which some think is wrong. McGuire noted that we don’t normally make rule changes after the season has started unless it involves a safety-related issue. The second rule request does (playing on excessively hot days). Hightower moved that the draft league rules be amended to allow teams to borrow a 12th player from a bye team when excessive heat conditions have been forecasted. Gordon seconded. Gregg asked about limiting that to borrowing of non-gold players only, but McGuire noted that draft rules already say teams cannot borrow gold players. Motion passed 13-0.

**Facebook:** Mondi noted that a former board member is concerned about a person advertising on our Facebook page seeking players for non-league events. Berger said he doesn’t have a problem with it. Rowe said he didn’t have a problem. Burkindine noted we are here to promote senior softball.

**Lightning detectors:** Rowe noted some locations where we play do not have parks and rec employees at the site during games. Independence is one, and Roe Park another. Normally, when bad weather comes in and games need to be called, the parks and rec employees make that decision. One of the biggest issues is lightning. Rowe asked whether, along with our defibrillators, we should have lightning indicators at those parks. McGuire moved that we purchase three Strike Alert lightning detectors and a lock box. Scholler seconded. After some discussion about how to secure the lock box at Roe, the motion passed 13-0. Burkindine and Rowe said we should check with the parks and rec departments to see what their lightning policies are and then follow those.

Rowe set the next board meeting for Aug. 18 at 2 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn:** Hightower moved to adjourn the meeting. Gregg seconded. Motion passed 13-0.

**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