**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**November 10, 2019**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 4 p.m., Sunday, November 10, 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 4:03 p.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Hightower moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Gregg seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**Treasurer’s report:** Rowe noted that Gary Pumphrey is asking about his second session Wednesday check, which has not been cashed. Scholler doesn’t show one being cashed but will check. In answer to previous questions, Rowe noted that our insurance was paid in April. McGuire moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Splettstaszer seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bylaws:** No report.

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

**Membership/dues:** Berger said he will flip LeagueSheets over to next year near the time of our December membership meeting so folks can pay 2020 dues. We are at 980 members for this year, he said.

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

**Sportsmanship/protests:** No report.

**Rules/regulations:** No report.

**Advertising/promotions:** No report.

**Awards:** Gordon said everything is ready to be ordered tomorrow: Wes Weddle, Rookie of the Year, Ambassadors and Presidential awards.

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

**Ratings:** No report.

**Facebook/website:** We have 386 members on FB at this point, and about 240-250 people visit on any given day, Mondi said. We will focus the rest of the year on membership stories, he said.

**New member/welcoming:** No report.

**Equipment/safety:** All the equipment is in storage, Osborn said. Rowe asked where the AEDs and lightening detectors are. Hightower said he turned his in. Reynolds said he has one of each. Rowe asked to be given them so that he has all of them in hand and he will re-issue at the beginning of the year next year. One lightning detector has been damaged, Rowe said.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Text needed for Presidential Award:** Gordon asked for wording on Presidential Award. Rowe said he plans to award four: Gordon, Splettstaszer, Berger, and McGuire. Rowe said he will get with Gordon to work out language for this year’s awards.

**Board election update:** Rowe said one nominee backed out. So we will be at seven going into the election. We are going to elect five. McGuire said she redacted the printed ballots that went in the mail.

**Women playing in men’s conferences:** Rowe suggested we re-examine whether it is OK for female members to play younger than a men’s conference’s minimum age. Berger made a motion that we eliminate the rule approved earlier this year allowing women to play in older men’s conferences and instead use the SSUSA rule that says women can play on a men’s team as long as they are age-eligible for that team. McGuire seconded. After lengthy discussion, Burkindine called the question. That “call the question” motion passed 13-0. Rowe then called for a vote on Berger’s motion, which passed 9-3-2. Rowe noted that Debbie Brown is trying to start a second night for women to play, this one north of the Missouri River. Rowe said it probably would be on Thursdays, or maybe Wednesdays, and that Brown has about 40 women committed. (Secretary’s note: This league would not be affiliated with KCMSSL.)

**Hall of Honor voting:** Gordon said the voting happened at Conroy’s. One person came close but no Hall of Honor recipients were selected this year. Candidates needed 23 of 31 voter’s votes, based on criteria set last year by the board. The closest candidate had 17 or 18 votes, he said. After a general discussion about the difficulty of getting all voters together, the board agreed that a meeting should be tried again next year, as opposed to a written vote only.

**Draft conference update:** Gordon reported that the coordinators and managers are getting together to re-rate players. Hightower already has conducted the meeting for Thursdays. Bill Nees has conducted one for the Monday hybrid draft. As for the new proposed 70+ draft on the Missouri side, Gordon got responses by email from108 of 228 members who will be eligible next year. Of those, 34 said they would play, 14 say maybe. Then Gordon asked 68- and 69-year-olds whether they were interested if we lowered the age. Nine said they would play, he said. This conference would be at Hartman on a weekday morning. Ray Harre is going to take over the Monday 70+ Conference for Nees next year. Harlan suggested that the competitive conferences also should meet and re-rate players while the season is fresh in their minds.

**Appreciation dinner:** Burkindine said the restaurant approved our meeting/dinner time and we are set for Jess and Jim’s in December.

**Ambassador jackets:** Gordon said we have 21 honorees this year.

**Manager survey:** The board had a general discussion about the responses received to the annual managers’ survey. (Note: Gregg left the meeting at 5:19 p.m.) The committee met over five hours, Burkindine said. There was discussion about putting the survey results on the website. Some of these items will be addressed in the rules committee.

**Bylaws questions:** Rowe said that, based on discussions with a non-profit bylaws expert, we need to have the membership vote Dec. 14 on the board’s decisions to enlarge our board and tweak how candidates are nominated. Rowe will get a book for members to sign-in at the meeting so we can have a count of how many are there. We need two-thirds of people voting to approve the changes, according to state law, McGuire said. We also need to post a notice of the vote, which we will do in an email blast, Rowe said.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Advertising/promotions:** Hightower mentioned that the indoor soccer Comets (where we had a game last year before one of their games, arranged by Debbie Brown) have suggested a senior softball night on Feb. 23, a Sunday. Last year, not many people saw the pre-game softball game involving our women’s conference because they weren’t in the stands yet. After discussion, Hightower said he would try to negotiate a date closer to our league start. Rowe said for him to go forward.

**Email blast asking for members who have served on committees, managed, etc.:** Gordon said in terms of being eligible to be nominated for a board position, he doesn’t know who has served. Rowe noted that if one of our goals is to get younger people in, it will be harder because they may not have served on a committee yet, but some will have been a manager. Rowe asked each committee chairperson to write up list of who has served on their committees and send that list to him.

**Outlining home plate:** Berger said that Jimmy Jones suggested this, to make the mat easier to see. After general discussion, the board didn’t recommend any changes to our mats, which currently are red on one side and black on the other.

**Teams that are short of players or do not show up at all:**  The board had a general discussion about what to do to try to curtail teams not showing up or forfeiting for being short players. Several ideas where discussed, including: fining the team; suspending the manager for a game; suspending the team for a session. Though all agree this is a problem, no consensus was reached. (Note: Osborn left the meeting at 6 p.m.)

**Charitable contributions:** Burkindine moved that the board give $500 apiece to Special Olympics, Operation Breakthrough, Ronald McDonald House, Dream Factory and Amethyst Place. Seconded by Splettstaszer. The motion was approved 12-0.

**Membership meeting:** Rowe said board members should be there about 8 a.m. to set up chairs and have a short meeting. Rowe also said we will give door prizes again this year. The drawing is for members only.

**Next board meeting:** Dec. 14 at 8 a.m. at The J KC, in the Social Hall before the membership meeting.

**Motion to adjourn:** Scholler moved to adjourn. Harlan seconded. Motion passed 12-0.

**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