**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**April 17, 2020**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2020, via conference call because of the COVID-19 lockdown. Present were Randy Rowe, Tim Burkindine, Donna McGuire, Clint Berger, Susan Scholler, Mark Splettstaszer, Dave Hendrikse, Bobby Gregg, Rocky Osborn, John Mondi, Ann Willkett, Jeff Harlan, Barry Gordon, Steve Krull, and Bob Zimmerman.

(Secretary’s note: The preseason tourney and managers’ meetings were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All league games have been postponed indefinitely.)

Rowe called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. He gave a summary of the virus lockdown situations in Kansas (until May 3), Kansas City (May 15) and Oklahoma (April 30; currently the first site of the nearest SSUSA tournament). That means the first date league games possibly could play would be May 15. However, the government is planning a three-step phase in for returning society to normal. The first step is opening parts of the economy. That will take two to three weeks. The next step would be to open smaller businesses, which will take another two to three weeks. Senior activity is last thing they want out in public, which includes us.

Rowe also noted that when he worked for Pfizer, which developed and manufactured drugs, all drug testing involved a long and hard process. He expects it will take at least 12 months before companies say whether they have found a vaccine.

Meanwhile, some parks departments are waiting to see what the government is going to do. Some governments are holding seniors out of activity until late June or early July. Rowe hasn’t heard an update yet from SSUSA as far as tournaments (currently on hold until mid-May).

Rowe asked for input from board members to his summary. Everyone had a chance to provide input, most of which mirrored what Rowe had said.

Rowe said that we, as organization, should not think of starting back up until the end of June or first of July, if we do it then. Then we have to find out how many teams want to play under these conditions. He again asked for everyone’s thoughts. Discussion included canceling the entire season, or waiting another month to decide with the possibility of having leagues play in July, August and early September. Most board members felt the decision would be out of our hands, as we have to depend on parks department rules and what happens in coming weeks with the virus. Several expressed hope that we could play at least a short summer session. Others noted that we don’t want anyone to die just because some want to play ball.

Hendrikse noted that, as a person whose family has an immune-suppressed individual, we need to think not only of the players but everyone associated with them. We know you can be asymptomatic and still spread the virus. He asked: What would happen if we became a hotspot because we played, and what does that do to the long term viability of this league?

Rowe suggested that he draft a letter to members summarizing where we stand, and that we have to look at the safety of our seniors. Willkett suggested adding a sentence that we need to get a feel for how many teams still want to play, if we can start in July.

Rowe said that he was hesitant to have the Wes Weddle tournament this year, with teams coming in from out of the area. Willkett suggested maybe we move it to later in the year. Rowe said maybe someone else might have to run it, because he didn’t feel comfortable running it because of his health. Berger suggested another telephone conference later to discuss it. Gregg suggested we cancel the picnic and all-star games. (The board concurred.) He also asked permission to give a memorial donation for the member who died this week. Scholler suggested donating to have a tree planted in her memory.

There was a brief discussion of whether the league should refund dues and draft conference fees. Rowe and others suggested we wait to see if the league is canceled for 2020.

**Minutes of previous board meeting:** Rowe moved to approve the February 22 minutes. Burkindine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

McGuire moved to adjourn. Harlan seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

**Board members and years terms expire:**

**2022** **2020** **2021**

Clint Berger Barry Gordon Tim Burkindine

Steve Krull Bobby Gregg Dave Hendrikse

Randy Rowe Rocky Osborn Donna McGuire

Ann Willkett Susan Scholler John Mondi

Bob Zimmerman Mark Splettstaszer Jeff Harlan