**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**May 4, 2020**

The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 4 p.m. Monday, May 4, 2020, via conference call because of the coronavirus lockdown. Present from the start were Randy Rowe, Susan Scholler, Donna McGuire, Tim Burkindine, Clint Berger, Mark Splettstaszer, Bobby Gregg, Dave Hendrikse, Barry Gordon, Rocky Osborn, John Mondi, Jeff Harlan and Ann Willkett. Bob Zimmerman joined at 4:27 p.m. Absent: Steve Krull.

Rowe called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. He discussed the input received so far from teams still wanting to play and noted that the board received correspondence from a player wanting to know why the season was on hold. Players have been expressing opinions on the league Facebook page, too, Mondi noted.

Rowe asked what board members were learning from various parks departments. Scholler reported that Lee’s Summit is waiting for Jackson County to develop its gatherings policy. Lee’s Summit hopes to begin play in early July. Gordon said he has heard nothing new from Olathe (Black Bob); news is expected there after May 15. Splettstaszer reported that Johnson County Parks and Rec (Heritage) is meeting Friday to discuss the issue. (Secretary’s note: Independence already has requested a letter from the league about how KCMSSL plans to proceed with softball safely. Rowe is working with that parks department.)

Rowe noted that Senior Softball USA put out safety rules for tournament play that include regular rules on the field but for everyone to avoid close contact. Social distancing is required in the dugout area. Dugouts are to be kept clean. Catchers will wear cloth masks and umpires will wear face shields.

Rowe polled the board on recommendations for moving forward. Discussion included:

1. Some board members want to play, others are hesitant or concerned about the risks; two or three said we should take the most conservative route, even if that means canceling the season.
2. Most (if not all) board members want a waiver to be signed by all players/managers saying they realize the possibility of contracting COVID-19 and won’t hold KCMSSL responsible. People need to know they will be playing at their own risk.
3. July might be the earliest time to start games, and fall could be problematic. But if we wait until July, players may not be prepared to start in the heat, and we could see other health issues arise.
4. Because many players play several days or nights a week, it would be easy for one person to spread the virus through multiple conferences.
5. If we adopt SSUSA’s safety rules, we should expand them. Suggestions include having batters wear cloth masks, too.
6. Some board members noted that most of our players want to play, so we should work out a safe way to have a season.

Rowe announced that he will not be helping direct SSUSA’s tournament in Rogers, Arkansas, this July because of COVID-19.

He suggested we try to meet in person after May 14 to brainstorm safety recommendations, draft safety rules and discuss plans. He doesn’t see parks departments opening fields for us until late June.

Hendrikse said his brother-in-law can look at waiver language for us. Rowe said that would be fine. Berger and McGuire noted we should look at what language SSUSA drafts, too.

Rowe said he will plan a meeting for a Monday or Tuesday evening, from 6 to 10 p.m., after May 14.

Scholler moved to approve the minutes of the April conference call meeting. Gregg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Burkindine moved to adjourn the meeting. Willkett seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 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