**Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League**

**Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**December 5, 2020**

**The Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League Board of Directors met at 8:30 am, Saturday – December 5, 2020 at Susan Scholler’s place of work -- 14425 College Blvd., Suite 120, Lenexa, KS 66215. Physically present at the meeting were Bobby Gregg, Susan Scholler, John Mondi, Ray Harre, Clint Berger, Tim Burkindine, Bob Zimmerman, Rocky Osborn & Chuck Tipton. Attending via a virtual GoToWebinar set-up were Barry Gordon, Brad Uecker, Jeff Harlan, Ann Willkett and Dave Hendrikse. Absent was Steve Krull.**

**Burkindine called the December Board meeting to order at 8:30 am.**

* **Future Board meetings, until further notice, will be held at the new Coach’s 6700 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66211. January meeting will be the 16th, or 17th, depending upon when the Chiefs play.**
* **Due to the organization operation “in the red”, financially, the past three years, we need to seriously consider operating under a zero-based budget going forward. Need to address the organization covering the cost of softballs, subsidizing our teams’ insurance cost, etc.**

**Gordon:**

* **Covered the status of all 2020 Awards, and inquired as to how we wish to handle the Rookie of the Year Award. Scholler reminded everyone of our previous decision relative to the Rookie of the Year, and the Board wished to still combine the 2020 rookie players in the 2021 rookie list for that award.**

**Burkindine inquired as to who requested we update our “3-ring binder”, and rename it something like “Operations Notebook”. Board agreed we address this being added as a new committee during our January meeting, since it sounds like something needing to be addressed on an ongoing basis. Suggested, also at the January meeting, we determine what committees are no longer needed, etc.**

**Scholler provided an email from Donna McGuire stating the umpires Call The Game provide us for league games are not covered by our current insurance policy. Per Harre, the umpires should have been covered by Call The Game, they do not carry any Workman’s Compensation insurance on them because they are all employed as independent contractors. Harre stated he would address league, and tournament game coverage with the new insurance company being considered as our new insurance coverage company. Hopefully more to come on this in January after discussion with John Dehan (Call The Game) and Harre’s proposed insurance company.**

**Osborn requested we need to educate our managers ASAP as to the fact we are planning changes relative to what age-division teams will be accepted at each of our venue locations. This will be done via an email blast. We will expand the age range for the teams. If there are enough teams to create a stand-alone division that is what will occur. If there is not the minimum 4 teams for a division, age groups will be combined and equalizers will be allotted. If teams are not acceptable to the idea, they will simply need to seek alternative options.**

**Burkindine confirmed Board agreement, prior to our annual meeting, that we will not be making charitable contributions in 2020.**

**Scholler requested we approved our minutes from our November meeting, and our November Treasurer’s statement. Burkindine entertained someone making such a motion. Mondi motioned our November minutes be approved, Tipton seconded, motion passed 14-0-1.**

**Tipton presented his to-date Treasurer’s statement for the year. Current balance is similar to where we were in 2012. We seemed to have regresses since, to the point where we have now incurred a loss the past three years. Tipton feels we are now well aware of our situation, and are addressing the need to reverse it – i.e., having teams cover the cost of the softballs, zero-based budget, better analyzation, etc., going forward. Scholler made motion to approve the Treasurer’s statement, Uecker seconded, motion passed 15-0.**

**Zimmerman motioned to adjourn the meeting, Harlan seconded. Motion passed 15-0.**

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**Burkindine:**

* **Called the annual membership meeting to order at 9:30 am, and announced all Board members in attendance.**
* **He announced all members can now pay their 2021 dues via our League Sheets database. Members will need to re-initial our 2021 Covid Waiver of Liability prior to making payment.**
* **Requested Gregg elaborate on the additional age divisions we’re making available to teams at our various conference locations.**
* **He then announced that the organization is making plans to work off a zero-based budget going forward. This has been suggested due to the organization functioning “in the red” the current year along with the past two years. Part of this budget entails all teams paying for their own conference softballs going forward. The organization has been footing-the-bill on the softballs, to date, and would have cost the organization over $9,000 for the 2021 season.**
* **Elaborated on the background as to why we’re conducting a GoToWebinar meeting. He discussed the issues we encountered with Covid this year, and thanked the entire Board as to their efforts in addressing the pandemic roadblocks. He extended his heartfelt sympathy towards anyone who contracted the virus, or to those whom any member may know who encountered the virus. He thanked all members who decided to participate this past season.**
* **He then read the list of members, or past members, who passed away during 2020 and asked for 30 seconds of silence in their remembrance: Earl Stephen, Alfred Yust, Kirk Miller, Joelle Fisher, Gary Johnston, and Sid Wilson.**

**Burkindine then asked each Board member to provide a brief recap as to their committee’s work this past season and what is planned for 2021.**

**Barry Gordon:**

* **Draft conferences….registration (fee payments) is available to anyone wishing to pay online. Listed the conferences going forward. Will not attempt to have the Wednesday 65+ conference at Hartman because we determined it would put too much of a strain on the other draft conferences we currently have. Once we get to the point where some of the current conferences need relief, we will, once again, entertain the Wednesday 65+ one. The Saturday morning conference at Roe will change slightly – the 7-inning game is being lengthened to a 9-inning game.**
* **Awards: No individual awards for 2020 (i.e., Wes Weddle, Rookie, etc.). We are going forward with the Ambassador jackets for those achieving their 20 year plateau with the KCMSSL in the year 2020. We, obviously, plan to come back with all awards again in 2021…..with everyone who was a rookie in 2020 being eligible for the Rookie of the Year award in 2021.**

**Ann Willkett:**

* **Rules Committee: Requested anyone with a desired rule change, etc., to either submit their ideas to her, or Bob Zimmerman, for their scheduled Rules Committee meeting in January.**

**Dave Hendrikse:**

* **Marketing: Talked about his committee working on “brand recognition” with our logo. Developed a brochure, which he plans to make available to anyone wishing to hand out (locally, or even at out of town tournaments) in an effort to promote the KCMSSL.**
* **Long Range Planning: Committee continues to keep their eyes / ears open to any opportunities which could lend itself to us partnering with anyone for a home activities location for our conference, as well as tournament, play.**

**Brad Uecker:**

* **Health committee is attempting to stay in tune with the very latest on Covid regulations / requirements. Looking forward to vaccine hopefully coming soon so we can play ball in the spring.**

**Jeff Harlan:**

* **Looking to expand the Wednesday night Hartman Gold / Silver conference to include more age groups.**

**Bob Zimmerman:**

* **On Rules Committee with Ann Willkett. Bob stated he has made note of several comments he’s received relative to topics to be discussed at their January Rules Committee meeting.**

**Bobby Gregg:**

* **All Star Games / Picnic: If we play in 2021, Gregg stated we would have the All-Star Games / Picnic. It may not be the same as everyone remembers it in the past, but it will happen – probably July 24th.**
* **Tournaments…..currently shooting for April 17-18 for our annual per-season tournament. It will be under-$300, 3-game guarantee. We are working on holding our Wes Weddle tournament sometime in May (instead of July, as was scheduled in 2020). Working with SSUSA, and local Parks & Recreations on coordinative this one.**
* **Question was asked why we don’t move our Saturday - Roe Park conference play to Black Bob Park instead. Saturday play at Black Bob would be sporadic – due to intermittent tournament play there. Need to stay at Roe…..but we are always open to ideas to play elsewhere, just share your thoughts.**

**Susan Scholler:**

* **Umpires…….currently nothing happening in this arena at this time.**

**Ray Harre:**

* **Legal / Risk Management…..nothing to report at this time.**

**Rocky Osbon:**

* **Safety / Equipment……all of our pitching screens and defibrillators have been stored (winterized) for the off-season.**

**Clint Berger:**

* **Membership…..obviously due to Covid our membership for 2020 dropped from the 956 we had in 2019, to 847 in 2020.**
* **Player Ratings / Equalizers…..feels the player skill-rating system is working as desired, and equalizers are functioning as they should.**
* **Managers’ Survey……conducted the survey again at the end of the season. 18 pages of items. This document will be returned to the managers and posted on our website (for all to review). Several items from the survey have been passed along to the Rules Committee for them to review / discuss.**

**Tim Burkindine:**

* **Sportsmanship…..couple of issues have come to the committee over the past couple of years, but as the process goes – whereby the committee preliminarily sends each issue back to the submitting members to work out before it gets escalated to the Board – not a single issue made it to the Board for consideration.**
* **By-Laws…..no changes during 2020, but a review of them will be conducted in 2021.**

**John Mondi:**

* **Communications -- Facebook…..had goal to reach 500 Facebook members, reached 609 as of this meeting. Facebook members are not apples-to-apples with our membership members. Mondi’s presentation showed our members’ participation on Facebook. It was also broken down between men and women, age, city location, etc.**
* **Website…….thanks to the work of Karen Riffle our KCMSSL website has encountered a facelift.**

**Chuck Tipton:**

* **Treasurer’s Report……(jokingly) Tipton stated he only took over the Treasurer’s position around the middle of 2020 so the fact that we lost money this year “is not his fault”. We are still on solid ground, and Tipton invited all former members who did not participate this season, to come back in 2021.**

**Charitable Contributions: Burkindine elaborated on the fact that we were NOT, as a result of our financial situation this year, going to be making our normal $2,500 charitable contribution this year (which has been split between about 5 different charities over the past few years.**

**2021 Manager’s Meeting is currently figured for March…..until further notice. More to come in Extra Innings publication in the spring of 2021.**

**Bob Riggs was invited to the January board meeting to discuss a fundraiser for the league. He will present a brochure for teams that travel and explain how booking with this company could be a fundraiser for the league.**

**Gordon announced the Homefield facility is open for workouts. It is located at 2115 E Kansas City Rd, Olathe, KS 66061. $35.00/month for workouts Monday – Friday.**

**Burkindine thanked Phil Brown for setting up our virtual annual membership meeting.**

**Newly elected Board members starting their new 3-year term in January of 2021 are John A. Dehan, Barry Gordon, Bobby Gregg, Ray Harre, and Susan Scholler. Farewell to Rocky Osborn who is leaving the Board at the end of 2020.**

**Questions submitted prior to the start of this meeting, and from the audience during the meeting, were then addressed.**

**As this was Rocky Osborn’s last meeting as a Board member, he made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gregg seconded. Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 10:35.**

**Board members and years terms expire:**

**2020                             2021                            2022**

**Barry Gordon                Tim Burkindine Clint Berger**

**Bobby Gregg                 Dave Hendrikse          Steve Krull**

**Rocky Osborn               Chuck Tipton               Brad Uecker**

**Susan Scholler              John Mondi                  Ann Willkett**

**Ray Harre        Jeff Harlan                   Bob Zimmerman**