

MIDLAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

January 13, 2014

Present: HANSON, CURRIE, CHICHESTER, LANGLOIS, GEHOSKI, POST, RAPP, WARNER and STEWART.

Guest: Bob Moe and Fran Bedolla

Call to order: Vice President Steve Warner called the meeting of the MSA to order at 5:43 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of December 9, 2013 MSA meeting were read. Hanson made a motion to accept. Rowe seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report: Langlois submitted a report stating the MSA has \$59,557.00 in the checking account and \$44,070.88 in the savings account. The amount in the checking account reflects the \$50,000 in foundation grants we have received. The bills for the pavilion, picnic tables, benches, and receptacles have not been received. After those bills have been paid the amount in the checking account will be \$9,557.00. Hanson made a motion to accept the report. Rapp seconded. Report approved.

Umpire in chief report: Gehoski reported on several items:

1. The umpires association has reviewed preliminary survey results and will be addressing them. For the most part the results were constructive and good feedback.
2. FYI—the State of Michigan has passed a law for any youth recreation that officials and parents need to be aware of concussion training. All umpires will be participating in training. Nothing is different concerning adult ball. All junior Olympic play will have to abide by the ruling. Anyone under 18 years of age participating in the adult leagues must abide by the law and sign a form stating he/she has knowledge of the concussion law.
3. New rule—in ASA senior league play the base distance will now be 70'. The MSA senior league may or may not follow the new ASA rule.
4. Bats with the 2013 certification mark will be allowed for men's fast pitch.
5. ASA senior slow pitch—now have option of using 11-12 batters in line up or bat number of players on roster. ASA 65 and older—now have option of using 12-13 batters in line up or bat number of players on roster.

6. Classification B—have added time limit at state JO play.
7. Men's adult fast pitch and men's modified—can use either on-deck circle.
8. Announced Norm Davis and Don Mosher passed away recently.
9. Recommended start of play for men's fast pitch and modified be moved back another week due to umpires still doing high school and college games.
10. Umpire Association needs guidelines from board for a thunder/lightning policy. Currie made a motion to have umpires follow MASA code on thunder and lightning which is to stop play for 30 minutes each time lightning is seen or thunder is heard. Hanson seconded. Motion approved. Gehoski abstained. Rowe recommended the association be notified of the 30 minute MASA code.
11. Gehoski made a request for assistance for partial or if not all help in meeting some of the financial expenses for the treasurer of the umpires association. The treasurer has voluntarily taken on the umpire payroll from the Parks and Rec office. Gehoski would like to see an increase. Currently the salary is \$20 per week for 26 weeks. Calculating the 1099's is one of the responsibilities of the MSUA. Technically these are MSA's responsibilities. Hanson made a motion the MSA reimburse the treasurer of the MSUA at the rate of \$700 a year. Gehoski seconded. After much discussion, Hanson withdrew his motion and Gehoski withdrew his second of the motion. The board agreed to look at this in the near future.
12. Gehoski would like to see a two-tier pay system for the umpires. Tier 1 umpires would be required to attend at least two clinics per year with one a classroom type clinic and one an on-field clinic. The pay scale would be for Tier 1 umpires: \$30 per game for slow pitch, \$35 per game for modified, and \$35 per game for fast pitch. This would be \$5700 a year increase. For Tier 2 umpires the pay scale would be \$25 per game for slow pitch, \$30 per game for modified and \$35 per game for fast pitch. There would be more incentive for an umpire to improve if there was a pay increase and this possibly could retain good umpires. Free clinics are offered but umpires are not required to attend the training. Rowe made a motion to make Tier 1 and Tier 2 rates to come out of the MSA savings account for 2014. Currie seconded. After much discussion, Rowe rescinded motion and Currie rescinded second. The board would like to see this tier system implemented in the future.

Old Business:

1. The board reviewed the 2013 fee structure which had been in place for one year. After the board discussed the pros and cons of the fee structure and realizing that the MSA lost

money on additional players signing up after first fifteen players on roster due to the city of Midland charging \$27 for each player whether that player paid any money to play. Langlois made a motion to go back to the 2012 fee structure. Rapp seconded. Motion approved. The fees committee will meet to look at fee structures for leagues playing more than a 12 game schedule.

New Business:

1. The results of the survey will be e-mailed to the board for reference.
2. Pictures of the pavilion will be given to Rapanos so he can send thank you notes to the foundations.
3. Post announced that \$20,000 more has come into the MSA. Post will bring more information to next meeting.
4. Currie suggested that some of the money in the MSA savings account be put into CD's. Langlois will research and bring findings back to the board.
5. Stewart reported that the quotes for the picnic tables, benches and receptacles came in higher than the \$13,000 MSA approved. He will change the order to get price down to \$13,000.
6. Gehoski strongly suggested the MSA board have a vision for the future and come up with a plan to financially pay for it. The City of Midland should not be setting the agenda for the MSA. The MSA president should be setting the agenda for the MSA. The board wholeheartedly agreed.
7. Currie announced that Ollie Rowe passed away. Currie asked the board for permission to gift a bench in his memory to be placed at Emerson. Currie would like to add the bench to the order being submitted by Stewart for the MSA. Permission was granted.

Public Comments: Fran Bedolla inquired if there is an interest in playing on a women's over 50 Olympic team. Post will put the information about the team on the website.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Currie made a motion to adjourn. Rowe seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jody L. Chichester, Secretary 