

MIDLAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

January 12, 2015

Present: SCHUNK, TANNER, RAPP, HANSON, CURRIE, MOE, LANGLOIS, ROWE, ENSZSER, RAPANOS, POST, BOULTON, GEHOSKI, CHICHESTER, WARNER, and STEWART,

Call to order: President Mike Rapanos called the meeting of the MSA to order at 5:33 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of December 8, 2014 were distributed and read. Warner made a motion to accept the minutes. Currie seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was distributed. Schunk reported a couple of minor corrections have been made and everything equals. Some questions were asked and Schunk will look into and double check the 2013 expenses. Warner made a motion to table the acceptance of the report until next month so Schunk can look at the records. Tanner seconded. Motion approved.

Umpire in chief update:

1. Gehoski announced the first meeting for umpires is February 4, 2015.
2. MSA has incorporated background checks for all umpires and these will be conducted. The fee has been added into the registration fee. A one-time meeting is required for meeting the concussion law for youth.
3. In 2016 the compression of the balls will change.
4. No balls will be purchased this year as MSA has lots of balls.
5. Senior league—don't have to run out homeruns over the fence.
6. Mercy rule will now be 20 runs after 4 innings and 15 runs after 5 innings.
7. Men's modified does not have to keep one foot in batter's box in between pitches.

Old Business:

1. League surveys have been distributed and e-mailed. Still open for input. MSA needs to develop a 5-year plan and then proceed looking closely at survey results.

2. Rapanos and Stewart will get together to discuss pricing of advertising banners. Once we have the information, the MSA can set pricing.
3. Todd Rivard couldn't attend tonight's meeting but will come in February to help the MSA begin the process of developing a 5-year plan.
4. Moe inquired how forfeits were handled and what channels the office uses to notify teams of forfeits. Stewart reported he first calls the manager, then the assistant manager and as a last option leaves a message. The office requires notification in writing or by e-mail by 5 pm of the day. This process needs to be an updated bylaw and approved at the annual managers' meeting. Rapanos will address this at the meeting in April.

New Business:

1. Karen Murphy, Director of Parks and Recreation, attended the meeting to give insight and understanding to what the city's objectives are and what the city's expectation of the MSA is.

Highlights of the meeting:

a. Murphy shared that the city is keeping the fees the same for softball but an increase is expected for 2016. Murphy explained the reason for the fee increase is due to the minimum wage hike and labor and material costs are up. This is the third season that fees will remain the same. City needs to have 100% cost recovery. City is open to looking at other fee structure options. Murphy will return to a future meeting to discuss the fee structure decision.

b. The money collected from advertising proposal once implemented will be designated for softball projects in the accounting system and can roll over to the next year. The contract for the use advertising banners will be through the city.

c. Field improvements are city's responsibility. A \$15,000 maintenance fund has been set up for improvements. Two-thirds of lighting replacement will be done by October. The goal is to re-bulb every three years. If there is a project the MSA wants but isn't on the city's agenda then MSA will have to fund it. Murphy would like to see the results of the survey.

d. Safety is the number one guidance for field improvements. Two individuals are on the softball field crew and they let city know field conditions and what improvements may be needed.

e. MSA would like to hold more state tournaments but city doesn't want to lose money and the history for holding tournaments has been a loss –about \$5000. The city needs to come close

to breaking even. One way MSA could help offset the expenses would be to have volunteers help with the tournament duties. Tournaments are more expensive to host for the city when held on a holiday weekend.

f. During the next month a focus group will be put together to discuss what the future should look like.

g. City would like to see a master plan from the MSA giving insight to MSA vision and project ideas.

2. The MSA will be developing a strategic plan and looking at designing a vision and deciding where we are taking softball in the next 10 years. Need to make a list: a. What NEEDS to be done. b. What we would LIKE to be done. E-mail Rapanos a list using no more than a page a week before the next meeting.

3. It has been recommended that a representative from girls' softball be on the MSA board.

4. Gehoski made a motion that in order to start ball rolling the MSA cover expenses up to \$3000 that would satisfy city to hold the B and C fast pitch state tournament. Currie seconded. Rowe offered to volunteer to help offset expenses. Motion approved. Other volunteers will be needed for selling t-shirts, returning phone calls, answering e-mails, getting pricing for trophies, etc.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

Jody L. Chichester, Secretary 