

MIDLAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

April 13, 2015

Present: RAPP, LANGLOIS, CHICHESTER, RAPANOS, SCHUNK, HANSON, WALLACE, MOE, WARNER, ENSZER, POST, STEWART, and BOULTON.

Guest: Bill Humphrey

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

Minutes: The minutes of March 9, 2015 were distributed and read. Hanson made a motion to accept the minutes. Warner seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was distributed. Schunk reported the insurance has been paid. Hanson made a motion to approve the report. Rapp seconded. The treasurer's report was approved.

Post announced that a letter from Noah Ponte requesting for reinstatement was received. As Ponte was not present to answer questions from the board, Rapp made a motion to table the request. Warner seconded. Motion approved.

New Business:

1. Post announced that a letter from Noah Ponte requesting reinstatement was received. As Ponte was not present to answer questions from the board, Rapp made a motion to table the request. Warner seconded. Motion approved.
2. Grand Master's rules were distributed and since the rules were amended, approval by the association is necessary. Hanson made a motion to accept the new rules. Warner seconded. Motion approved.
3. The list of the 2015 bat testing dates was passed out. Testing will occur throughout the season this year. Those dates can be found on the website.
4. The board agreed to keep the fall coed prices the same this season as were in 2014.

Old Business:

1. Proposed bylaw changes were discussed by the board for support before presenting and voting on them at the annual/managers' meeting to be held April 29, 2015.

- a. Change bylaw of batter assuming 0-0 count when stepping into the batter's box to a 1-1 count. Board does not recommend this change.
 - b. Change bylaw 2.4A –tied games from all slow-pitch games will continue without interruption until the completion of the next inning in which the tie is broken in accordance with Article 2 9.1c to all slow-pitch games will start the next inning and each half inning thereafter with the offensive team beginning its turn at bat with the player who scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base until the completion of the next inning in which the tie is broken in accordance with Article 2:9.1. If a team is playing shorthanded and the runner who is to be placed on second base is the absent player, do not declare an out. The player whose name preceded the absent player shall be placed on second base. The board recommends this change.
 - c. Remove playing rule 19.3—any fair ball hit over the fence for a home run or a four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and runner are required to run the bases. All runners must touch every base or they are out if properly appealed. Removing this rule will default back to ASA rules. Board recommends.
 - d. Change playing rule 19.2 –stealing in not permitted in the following leagues: Men's Church Slow Pitch. Changing this rule would allow Men's Church Slow Pitch to have stealing. Board does not recommend.
 - e. Change allowing stealing in Tuesday Night Woman's Slow Pitch to not allowing stealing. Board recommends.
2. Bylaw changes must be submitted by Wednesday, April 22, 2015.
 3. Advertising proposal was agreed to be tabled again as the proposal needs to be fine-tuned.
 4. More information from the city is needed before strategic planning can begin.
 5. A final decision on what can and can't be done at Currie Stadium is pending on more information needed from Karen Murphy. The stadium cannot be rebuilt as the area is in the flood plain. The estimated cost to fix it is \$1-1.5 million. The city is seeking input from the MSA but city has the ultimate decision.
 6. Post would like to do a documentary on the history of softball in Midland. She is looking into possible local foundation help. Post attended a conference in Salem, Virginia on preservation.
 7. Stewart announced that 155 teams have signed up to play softball for 2015. That is ten teams down from last season.

8. The field crew will stay later in the afternoon with the goal to get more fields ready instead of cancelling games on those fields after inclement weather.
9. The slate of officers for 2015 was proposed to be voted on at the annual/managers' meeting April 29, 2015 at 7 p.m. is as follows:

Vice President-----Steve Warner

Secretary-----Jody Chichester

Treasurer-----Kevin Schunk

Historian-----Jerry Hanson

10. The MSA board agreed to continue monthly meetings.

Public Comments: Bill Humphrey made a request not to have league games scheduled during the ASA/USA Border Battle scheduled for August 17-19, 2015 to promote softball. The 2015 league schedule will be released April 20, 2015. Stewart will have to see how the season goes and how many rainouts need to be rescheduled before a decision for the request can be made.

Adjournment: Warner made a motion to adjourn. Rapp seconded. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

Jody L. Chichester, Secretary 