

Baseball Board Meeting January 9, 2017

Attendees: Mike Aquillino, Eddie Pietri, Shaun Manning, John Barbagello
Executive Board Attendees: Chris Lieberman, Kevin Marcus, Greg Gates, Jessica Bernhard, Russ Girolamo

Baseball Board and Executive Board:

We will work to improve communications between the two boards in order to meet the mission of the SYSO organization, delivering the best program possible to the Town. We should maintain communication and meet more often. Quarterly meetings may be more than we need, but, if we schedule quarterly meetings, we could cancel the ones which are not necessary. Discuss scheduling meetings after Executive Board meets. We should meet again within a month to discuss capital improvements and the baseball questionnaires (Survey Monkey results) and acclimate the new Commissioner.

Baseball Board

Matt McCauley will be the succeeding Commissioner. The Executive board will meet with him and review the code of conduct and expectations.

The executive board would like to see the baseball board continue to establish policies which are well communicated. It is important to make sure that policies are adhered to.

The in-town program needs to continue to grow. We need to find more ways of “getting-the-word-out”. Registration has dipped. Find new ways of creating interest.

Scoreboard:

The new scoreboard is to be a shared expense between Mens Softball and Baseball. We need Parks & Rec Approval in order to move ahead. We need a written proposal to present to Parks & Rec. Rey was going to create proposal. We need to find out the status of proposal. This should include: Budget, installation and upkeep and the impact on town. School has offered to do the installation if this meets with the Parks & Rec approval.

Registration:

Spring registration is soon. Plan to initiate registration, acquire sponsors, order shirts. Pancake breakfast is first week of May. Former commissioner may be available transfer knowledge/information to incoming commissioner.

How many teams will we have? We need to get fields reserved early.

Maintenance:

We need to make sure we know who responsible parties are in various instances (Parks and Rec vs Baseball volunteers). Make appropriate requests. Can we have our own tractor on premises? Baseball cage nets need to be taken down. It snows on them, they rip. Investigate who is responsible and make appropriate requests.

Cooperstown Funds:

There have been insinuations that Cooperstown funds have been mishandled in the past. These allegations are have no foundation. Assure that all this year's Cooperstown participants have been registered and paid. We are well past the deadline of the first installment. SYSO will not support non-paid registrants. If the first installment payment is not received by all Cooperstown participants by the 1/15/17, they will be dejected from the program. All future deadlines must be adhered to.

Program fees:

If we are going to decrease fees for baseball registrants in the future, review budget carefully. We do not want to decrease fees this year and then find that we missed something or need to increase them next year.

Tryouts:

The Secretary handed out the minutes of the last meeting and pointed out that the Baseball Board has set policies regarding the travel tryout process. The procedures were not followed, eliminating the ability for checks and balances. Baseball travel directors did not allow other board members to meet with evaluators before tryouts and the evaluation sheets which we had discussed at the board meetings were never prepared in a transparent format. The evaluators for the U13 and above did submit their results to the baseball board. However, the evaluator's results for U12 and below have yet to be passed onto the board. The request for documents have been made for about four months. The board has only received spreadsheets prepared by the travel director.

More volunteers:

We need to locate more volunteers for the program. How do we do this? Travel directors need to answer to the board. It would be easier if travel directors were not on the board. When citizens complain about the travel program, it is a conflict-of-interest when they must complain to the board (on which the travel directors sit).

Communication and Cohesion:

The baseball board shall work on a system of communication amongst themselves as well as with the Executive board and especially with the Baseball community (also rectify domain names so that we are only dealing with one website). Working together as a team for the betterment of the program is the goal. The baseball board needs to work with trust, understanding and comradely in order to allow the program the best environment to take root.

Executive board took their leave

Registration for next year:

John Barbagello will work on attaining registrations. He will like Admin rights to SI Play. Mike already has these rights, as the Treasurer. Matt will also need Admin rights. Eddie would also like admin rights, and the Secretary should as well. This is the whole board. John will investigate who has made uniforms in past and price out new vendors.

Budget:

We will table discussions about lowering the registration fee until we have a chance to review the budget. Mike will prepare and distribute a draft budget.

Proposal for Scoreboard:

Shaun will reach out to Rey about the status of the proposal. Shaun will seek out more information to pass on to Matt. Eddie will look into the information about installers and upkeep.

Domain Names:

Chris will send Eddie the various domain names and Eddie will work on pulling them all into one web site.

Communication:

Russ had offered to give us information on a letter that the Lacrosse group sent out. When Matt starts as Commissioner, this will be something that we will re-work for the baseball community.

Town Hall - find a place, maybe middle school - have a town hall meeting in Mid March.

Cooperstown Payments:

John Barbagello will send out an email and call anyone who has not submitted their initial downpayment for Cooperstown.

Recruitment:

May need to create various recruitment efforts depending upon age group.

Younger kids may have contest in Somers Record - send in letters "Why I love baseball" (or something) and have the winner's essay displayed in the newspaper and the winner gets a free registration (some other incentives) - this could give us more names and addresses of interested participants. May spark interest in the baseball program.

Older Kids: Mentoring program - High School players mentor younger players. It could give HS students something for resume and may spark more interest for the younger players about what they can achieve.

Clinics:

HS students offering free clinics to younger ones

4D or other group offer winter clinic or something to boost interest

Sports Figures:

Bring in people of notoriety who will engage players interests. People who the kids are familiar with.

Future meetings:

We meet on 1-24-17 at 8:15pm with Matt McCauley to go over budget and registration.

Follow-up to Travel Tryouts:

Secretary asked again for the evaluator's scorecards that had been promised at the last meeting for U12 and below. The travel director had sent spreadsheets that he had prepared. He said that he had no other documents or scorecards.

Minutes to the 11-7-16 meeting were approved by all.