

**Stittsville Minor Softball Association
Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011
Stittsville Sobeyes Community Room
7 – 9 p.m.**



Present: Wendy Hawthorne, Ed Joy, Craig Pavia, Dave Lee, Mike Kotuba, Laurie Chatigny (Administrator & Secretary)

1. Call to Order

L. Chatigny called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

L. Chatigny suggested the agenda items be cut down due to time constraints.

C. Pavia suggested that Item #4 be changed from "New Treasurer" to "Review of Board Responsibilities."

Item #7, Safe Star Program, was postponed to the November meeting. Item #11, Batting Cage booking, will be covered in the Action tracker review.

W. Hawthorne added cell phone for Administrator as an item under "Other Business."

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. Minutes of last executive meeting/Action items

C. Pavia advised that all action items from the last executive meeting minutes (before the AGM) were complete. All concurred.

The action tracker was reviewed by item number and any necessary changes/updates were made. Please refer to action tracker for complete review.

4. Review of Board Responsibilities

At the AGM, members approved an executive with six positions. Currently, five are filled.

C. Pavia indicated that J. Hernandez (Fun League Director) said he may have some Fun League people in mind who would be good representatives on the Executive. He has tried several times by phone and e-mail to contact J. Hernandez about this, but has not been able to get in touch.

W. Hawthorne said she has a friend who is new to SMSA, but participated as a coach in Fun League last season. She feels she would be a great candidate for the Executive and would ask her if she is willing to do it.

ACTION: C. Pavia to try contacting J. Hernandez again about his ideas for Fun League Executive members. If this doesn't work out, W. Hawthorne to ask her friend if she was willing to do it.

If unable to recruit a Fun League Executive member, all agreed that responsibilities would have to be re-distributed between the other five board members.

5. Winter Ball Registration

D. Lee indicated he now has all the names for Winter ball registration. He has booked space for M. Driver to begin clinics at the end of October. Other clinics will start in the New Year. Due to an administrative error, he was unable to book St. Stephen's School. In future, he suggested that all school gyms be booked by June 1, 2012.

School availability is as follows:

Westwind (behind Guardian Angels) at \$5.30/hr
Monday 6-10 p.m.; Wednesday 8 -10 p.m.; Friday 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Huntley Centennial (in Carp) - Available now
Gym # 1 (wood floor)
Monday 6-10 p.m.; Thursday 6-10 p.m.; Friday 6-10 p.m.
Gym #2 (new cushion floor)
Tuesday 7:30 - 10 p.m.; Thursday 7:30 - 10 p.m.

C. Pavia indicated he could use the gym time in the new year on Tuesday in Carp from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

D. Lee said he would like to hold the CAN Pitch clinics by end of November or first two weeks in December. There will be two clinics: fundamental and advanced.

He is now waiting to hear back from coaches as to what they want. Winter clinics should be finalized by end of this week (Friday, Oct. 14).

ACTION: M. Kotuba to send e-mail to all players regarding winter ball registration by next week (week of Oct. 17), based on information provided by D. Lee.

6. Parade of Lights

D. Lee booked a 16 foot trailer from Stittsville Trailer free of charge. Two 20 foot banners will cost \$500.

ACTION: D. Lee to look into cost for two 16 foot banners instead, which will fit on the trailer. We also need new registration signs and this order could be combined.

Discussion ensued as to how many kids could safely fit on a 16' trailer. D. Lee estimated approximately 20 would be a good number. It was decided that we could do a lottery to choose the kids.

ACTION: M. Kotuba to send e-mail to all members about the parade of lights and do a draw from the names of those interested.

7. Softball Ontario Safe Star Program

Item deferred to November meeting

8. Spring softball booking at Bell Sensplex

L. Chatigny received an e-mail from Tim Baigent, e2e Sports, who does the fieldhouse bookings for the Bell Sensplex. Tim provided information on last year's booking, four Saturdays from March 31 to April 28, from 4-7 p.m., which was shared with the executive.

The executive decided it would be best to book only two Saturdays this spring, instead of four, as follows:

Saturday, April 14 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. and

Saturday, April 21 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The pitching clinics and select tryouts could be held either in available gym time or outside (weather permitting), which would save the association considerable money. Bell Sensplex fieldhouse time is extremely expensive.

ACTION: L. Chatigny to book two Saturdays (as listed above) at Bell Sensplex fieldhouse.

9. City Ball Diamond Bookings & Length of Season

C. Pavia indicated the deadline for ball diamond allocation permits is early November. Discussion ensued about the current length of our season. E. Joy suggested we apply for diamonds beyond the end of June and see what we can get. We cannot lengthen the season if we do not have the diamonds to play on.

ACTION: C. Pavia to apply for one extra week of diamond times and see what we are able to get.

L. Chatigny mentioned the deadline to provide the City with comments on ball diamond improvements, such as the GRC field and the fence at Fringewood, has already passed. It was on Sept. 1, 2011, before she was hired as administrator. C. Pavia said we will keep this in mind for next season, but will still ask about GRC.

ACTION: L. Chatigny to ask City about any plans to improve the ball diamond and field at GRC and what can be done.

10. Fun League

C. Pavia indicated it seemed coaching was the problem last season. All Fun League coaches need better training and mentoring such as coaches clinics. SMSA should provide indoor training in gyms, as well as outdoors.

D. Lee suggested that we get into elementary schools for recruiting. L. Chatigny said she could provide a full list of Catholic Elementary schools in the area.

Registration ads to be placed in Stittsville News and Kanata Courier Standard, with flyers at all arenas and grocery stores. W. Hawthorne stressed the importance of including Kanata in any advertising as they no longer offer a house league softball program.

E. Joy suggested having a regular column in the Stittsville News like a "Softball Corner," featuring the team of the week and maybe scores (but coaches will have to report regularly for this to happen.)

D. Lee said signs should be put up in visible locations, but we need new signs in order to do this.

11. Batting Cage Bookings (see comments in action tracker)

12. Other Business

(i) Blackberry or cell phone for administrator

W. Hawthorne suggested that it would be a good idea for the administrator to have her own cell phone and/or Blackberry to use for SMSA business. This will become particularly important as the season approaches. She felt it is not fair for the administrator to use her own phone or to be bothered at home all the time with business calls.

ACTION: L. Chatigny to investigate the types of phones and plans available and price them out with different options.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 7 p.m.