

OSA Board Meeting
January 14, 2025

Attendees

Davida Suiter
Brandon Howe
Sara Clausen
Jason Pederson
Anne Hess
Nila Norman
Tom Paustenbach
Matt Katerhagen
Brette Esterbrooks
Erik Lillejord
Cale Johnston

Attended Virtually

Matt Palm
Jamie Bishop

Not in Attendance

Cami Dahlstrom

Pioneer Creek fields update:

Sarah Meier is going to help us with our fundraising.
Sean Campbell is our baseball liaison.

Sean gave a project update: OBA, OSA have been in discussion about this land for years.

- Historically, there has been some tension between baseball and softball within the community. Trust still remains an issue. The project is top heavy with two presidents championing the efforts. Justin Morneau has been critical in this project. Discussions began with the city. There were a lot of opinions that the city was going to hand us free land. They wanted to get as many sports in this project, without it being a sports complex.
- Soccer or multipurpose fields will be first. Other sports out there want to use community parks. Hockey is in last place with their discussions. Sean hands out a paper copy of where the project is now.
- The compromise came to be three softball and 1 baseball. We need everyone's help in softball and baseball. We need manpower from both organizations to fundraise this money.

Sarah Meier gave a fundraising update:

- Hockey created the World's Largest Safety Meeting. Hockey was able to raise \$100,000. This event would be a season opener event/Opening Day. It's easier to ask people for

money when they know where it's going. First, we ask money for everyone within the organization, then ask outside corporations. If we don't start asking ourselves for money, it's harder to ask others.

- First thoughts are that the event would be at Lafayette. You would get a drink ticket, there would be apps, and it has to be a sit-down presentation. Sit down for dinner to capture everyone's attention. We would use the fundraising software for the event and then everything you do at the fundraiser is digital.
- Thursday May 1st, we are just looking for baseball to confirm. We're not going to make money from the ticket. We need live auction items. We would do a random drawing for a prize such as jewelry. The swag sells well at the events. There are a lot of small details that need to be worked out.
- We need more stakeholders involved. Baseball has Lee Carlson and it would be a great thing for our community to have the new fields. How do we open this up to Alumni? We could tap high school students and try to leverage the whole community.
- In a municipal build like this, you need to bring the full amount to the table. The price tag for the project has come down. The price tag is \$2 million to break ground.
- We don't have an agreement on who is going to do what. There will be some things the city will do to maintain and some things we do. The plan is to do this in stages. The city will choose the contractors they want for the initial build.
- We're going to need a coordinated effort to go out and ask people for a lot of money. We're going to need to be transparent about when these fields will be built, and how it might not be in the immediate future.
- These softball fields will be convertible into baseball fields for three different ages. We need to be heavily marketing this event. You can buy a ticket at the door, but you need to get the word out early, but not too early. We need to figure out what the naming rights would be. We just need more people to figure out those details and then get out and ask for money. We could have a sponsor for the dugout, batting cages, fields, etc.

David motions to approve the November minutes, Sara seconds.

Nila and Davida: 8U/6U Update

- We had overwhelming feedback at 8U REC and 8U travel, that we had a disparity in age and skill in that age group due to players who were 6U eligible playing up. We decided that we needed to come up with a new strategy.
- We originally allowed players to play up because we needed more players to fill teams. There was also a change to the age rules. The perception amongst parents is that playing up is better.
- First issue is our marketing materials and the message they are sending. We also have flaws in our registration process that don't reflect the growth in our program.
- Davida gave a brief overview of our travel and REC bylaws. They are recommending that we be explicit in our language to parents. First order of business is changing the name to 6U.

- David presents a document that describes each level of play, its prerequisites, and commitment level. Her and Nila are recommending that first graders who have at least one year of softball and are ready, can play 8U REC or travel lite.
- We used to do t-shirts, and then the jersey became cheaper. You would be evaluated in REC just to balance the teams. We are going to do just one jersey, the cheapest option, for the REC teams.
- We are going to switch to PWYSA. There was a conversation about what tryouts would look like during REC tryouts. We would want to make sure it was a fun environment that wasn't intimidating.
- Erik motions to change coach pitch to 6U and to approve the new document detailing the new program information. Davida seconds.

Brandon Howe- Player Development Update

- First day of winter clinics 35+ kids showed up. The new facility is way better and Brandon was really impressed with TC fastpitch. Becky was communicative and showed up that morning to make sure everything was going well. Overall, the first day was a success. Feedback was that it was really well organized.

Matt Palm- Equipment Update

- Matt is going to start organizing the equipment and he has a list of last year's equipment needs. We can do a call out for used equipment for bats for REC teams.

Tom- Financial Update

- 184K between checking and savings. We're in good financial shape right now. Full year revenue for 2024 we had a 19k surplus. 141, 000 total income.
- Tom is working with Brandon for a breakeven number for winter clinics. The dome honored last year's rate, which helped.

Matt K. - Fields Update

- Kevin Larson parks director with the city of maple plain wants to do a partnership for improving veterans fields.

Cami- Coach Development

- Anne and Cami met with Kelly Rogers who is a treasurer for the high softball booster clubs.

Davida- Travel Update

- The north side is trying to form their own region. The state tournament date is still moving around.
- Davida gave a quick update on team formation including information on evaluation and the evaluative process.
- Travel Registration closes on 3/1, 6U will be kept open longer. Tryouts 3/2- we will need help setting up and tearing down.
- Subcommittee meetings start 3/8-3/10

- 3/11 Board meeting approval of teams
- 3/12 coaches communication goes out
- 3/14 Travel teams and 8U REC posted
- 3/31 Practices begin for 8-12U

Cale- Fields Coordinator

- We have to lock down into space and figure out Hitdawg for practices etc.
- We need to figure out Try Softball Night- we need to buy the list for pre-k families. We need to get some signs and put them outside of Discovery Center

Erik- Fundraising Update

- The majority of our donations come from business owners
- Bucks Pub is going to be a sponsor for us this year.

Brette- Registration

- We decided to have the February meeting on 2/4 so we can get the ball rolling on registration.

Davida motioned to adjourn the meeting, Sara seconds.