

Tea Baseball Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2024 • 7:30 p.m. • Tea City Hall

MINUTES

Board Members:

Present: Rob Schramm, Rick Willemsen, Amy Smolik, Kevin McIntyre, Mark Jelen, Mitch Smith, Cory Olson, Chris Vasecka

Guests: Jeff Portner, Jake Kerr

1) CALL TO ORDER: 7:32 p.m.

2) APPROVE THE AGENDA: Motion by Amy to add discussion about umpires to the top of the agenda, seconded by Kevin. Unanimously approved.

3) APPROVE THE TEA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES: Motion by Chris, seconded by Rick. Unanimously approved.

4) PUBLIC SPEAKING (5 minute limit per speaker)

UMPIRE REPORT

Jeff Portner was at the meeting to talk about plan for umpires. Rob shared that all high school home games have umpires scheduled. The schedules for 13u, 14u and 16u are done but the home umpires have not yet been scheduled. The Legion schedule will be released on March 24. These games will all be played on Field A and have two umpires.

All 9u-13u competitive teams will play in Sioux Falls so the umpire fees are included with (and scheduled by) SEBA. No umpires are needed for second grade and younger (machine pitch and coach pitch). For Majors and Minors, Rob said he will contact Harrisburg about the umpires.

Jeff, Rob and Jake Kerr with the City of Tea will coordinate on scheduling and paying for umpires for the Tea recreation leagues playing games in Tea. Looking ahead, there may be opportunities to train others to serve as umpires (i.e. high school players and older).

5) REPORTS

- A. Chase the Ace
- B. Chislic Feed
- C. Registration
- D. Coaches meetings
- E. Batting cage proposal

- F. Field A Upgrades / Grants
- G. Bank ledgers
- H. SEBA
- I. Apparel
- J. Hats
- K. Sponsorships

- A. Chase the Ace: \$2200 is the current pot. At the time of the meeting, a three of the Aces have been found with only the Ace of Spades left. The consensus was to continue with Chase the Ace.
- B. Chislic Feed: Kevin shared a financial report. The TBA made \$10,429.32 from the event. There are items left over (i.e. paper goods) that can be used in the future. There was some discussion about the best time of year to hold a future event. Amy was going to create a Google doc so everyone could share feedback about what went well and considerations for future events.
- C. Registration is officially closed though Jake said some late registrations are still coming in.
 - a. 2024: 260ish
 - b. 2023: 254
 - c. 2022: 241
 - d. 2021: 235

Jake said teams are basically done except late registration. There may be a need for a few more coaches. Rob wants to ensure kids are in the right spot for their age group and they are where they can succeed and can grow at the pace they need to in order to enjoy the game.

- D. Coaches meetings: the goal is to schedule these at the end of March/early April. They will share expectations on the competitive and recreational side and hopefully share practice schedules.
- E. Batting cage proposal: Mitch put together a proposal for a dual batting tunnel to replace the existing batting tunnel near Field A. TBA is applying for two grants and need a project to use grant funds (if awarded), along with allocating part of the TBA budget/fundraising efforts.
- F. Field A Upgrades: Thad Konrad with the City of Tea reached out to Confluence (the City's landscape architect) and shared a proposal and numbers. A conversation between TBA, City Administrator Justin Weiland, City Council needs to be scheduled to talk about priorities and how all can partner to make improvements.
- G. Bank Ledgers: Kevin reported that the TBA balance is around \$16,750. There was discussion about insurance and more information will be needed to know what the City of Tea covers and what if any other coverage may be needed for other teams (i.e. Legion).
- H. SEBA: competitive teams are registered in SEBA's competitive league. The Middle School Rec teams in SEBA league. Will have to register teams with SEBA. Those games start mid-May. They will play two games a week through July 4 week and have an end of season mid-week tournament.

- I. Apparel: Amy talked to Octane but didn't have any updates on when an apparel store could open. It was suggested to add an upcharge option to put last name on the back of clothing as appropriate.
- J. Hats: Currently Tea uses different style hats for different age groups. There are a variety of sizes left and more need to be ordered. There was discussion about adding on a hat to the registration fee (if needed by the player).
- K. Sponsorships: Rob will talk to City Council about next steps.

6) OTHER BUSINESS/FUTURE OUTLOOK

- A. Rec teams
- B. Rec schedule
- C. Practice schedule — Rob said he hoped to be able to tackle this by the ext meeting.

7) NEXT MEETING DATE: March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Tea City Hall

8) ADJOURNMENT: 9:15 p.m., Motion by Kevin, seconded by Mitch. Unanimously approved.