

BRANDON VALLEY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

August Board Meeting Notes

Sunday, August 11, 2019 – Tailgators

Attendees: Stuart Peschel, Mike Hokenstad, Al Kirkeby, Brian Bertsch, Craig Riley, Missy Livingston, Levi Sanders, Jason Honey, Dan Wrightsman, Gary Walz, Chris Brown, Torrey Sundall, Brandon Lane.

Having a quorum present, meeting was called to order by Peschel at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – motion by Bertsch, seconded by Livingston to approve the June minutes (there was no July meeting). Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Peschel reported that we have \$3,410 in main checking account, \$30 in umpire account, \$2,929 in fundraising account, and \$63,022 in Field of Dreams account. The balance on our loan is \$251,667. Our next loan payment is due in September but we are paid ahead and only required to pay interest of \$7,614 at that time. We will decide at our September meeting once fall ball registrations are in if we want to make an additional principal payment at that time.

FOD Report – Brown provided an update on the Field of Dreams. When we took out the loan the bank estimated we would see 20-30% drop out of donors but this has not happened. So far last year we lost only 1 pledge and could lose 2 more this year so we are doing well. We currently have \$155K in pledges yet to collect through 2026. Most business pledges will be paid in full in 2020. Between our current cash balance and our pledges we are \$5,300 above the balance on the loan. We are looking for one more big sponsor for the top of the grandstand. Seeking \$50,000 for 10-year advertising/sponsorship of both patio areas. There were 204 games played on the field in 2019.

SUMMER TOURNAMENT GATES – all expenses are not yet in to calculate profit but our gate numbers for the 3 summer tournaments were as follows: Sunshine \$9,750 against a budget of \$7,500; Junior Legion \$1,645; and Marlins \$8,200 against a \$7,500 budget.

VALLEY SPRINGS IMPROVEMENTS – by the end of August concrete pads for new dugouts on the Little League field should be poured. Old dugouts need to be torn down but we want to save the tin for the roofs. Dugouts will be above ground on 6'x22' pads. Scoreboard on the Legion Field needs to be replaced. Two models from Daktronics were reviewed with estimated costs of \$8,500 and \$9,500. The Valley Springs Community Club is willing to donate \$4,500 towards the scoreboard. Will also talk to the Legion post about potentially helping out. We need to discuss with Coach VanHeel about the mix of Sr. Legion and Jr. Legion games played at Valley. Would like more Sr. Legion games in Valley and more Jr. Legion games at FNB Field but keep the total mix the same. This year the only scheduled double header for Jr. Legion at Aspen was rained out. City of Valley is going to paint all the buildings at the park, we need to find out what colors to determine color of new top rail for around the park. Estimated cost just under \$5,000 to do both diamonds dugout to dugout with new top rail tubing and windscreen, less if we just do outfield. Can also potentially use the red windscreen we already have on the Little League Field. Concrete work will be paid from our Legends Grant from last year. Materials for dugouts will be about \$5,000 if we have to buy, trying to get them donated. Motion by Brown, seconded by Sundall to order the \$9,500 scoreboard for the Legion Field in Valley.

GRANTS – applications have been completed for grants offered by the Community Foundation (\$5,000), Legends (\$3,000) and Alliance (\$5,000). We are working on an ask for half the cost of the scoreboard from DeSmet Farm Mutual Insurance. There are other organizations that have grant programs we would like to write applications for including Little League, Major League Baseball, and Sioux Valley Energy. We will try to fund all of the Valley Springs field improvements through grants.

FALL BALL – registration will close on 8/15. Currently have 37 players registered: 4 grade 7, 10 grade 8, 10 grade 9, 6 grade 10, 6 grade 11, and 1 grade 12. Last year our total was 64 players; we traditionally see a large portion of our registrations in the last few days. Suggestion was made and discussed about opening up fall ball next year for younger players as we did in the past, this will be discussed further at our next meeting.

SPRING TRYOUTS – late March tryouts are just too late from an administration point of view: ordering uniforms, scheduling tournaments, and getting in practices to build the team relationships. Fall tryouts do bring some benefits but also issues including coaches doing year-round practices potentially at the expense of other sports, exclusion of players that move in later in the year to our district, etc. We should consider moving to earlier, maybe a date in February or early March. We will talk to Coach VanHeel to see if he would be available either 2/16 or 2/23 to move these dates up for next year.

2020 LEGION STATE TOURNAMENT – we will need several committees to work on this, currently formulating ideas on all that we will need. Please let Chris know if you are interested in chairing a committee and what interests you have in helping, plus names of others in the community who would be willing to help. American Legion is close to setting the dates: pretty sure it will be Friday, July 24, 2020 to Tuesday, July 28, 2020. Still an outside chance it could be one week later, 7/31-8/4. For the 2019 tournament the total gate was \$22,265. The host Legion Post received \$2,800 of this and the host team \$15,301 (CHRIS PLEASE VERIFY THIS NUMBER). Remainder split among the other participating teams. Trophies cost approximately \$500 and umpire expense was about \$4,800.

COACH VANHEEL CONTRACT FOR 2019-2020 – Peschel will draft and send to the executive committee for review. He proposed making one incentive change as coach gets a \$500 bonus if team makes state tournament but as the host team in 2020 we get an automatic bid. For 2020 we will change this incentive to making the final 4 of the tournament, and then change back in 2021 to making state tournament.

2020 BVBA TOURNAMENTS – set dates as follows: Slugfest April 25-26, Pizza Ranch May 22-24, Sunshine June 19-21, and Marlins/Jr. Legion July 10-12.

ANNUAL MEETING/BOARD POSITIONS – the annual meeting will be at Tailgators on October 27, 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. All existing board members should let Stuart know as soon as possible if they intend to return and in what capacity.

DOB REPORTS

BIG FIELDS – the Wildcats (13/14 combined team) took 2nd in their state tournament and the Border Cats (16U team) took 3rd in theirs. Senior Legion team had a very successful year and finished in the final 4 at state for a 2nd year in a row.

SMALL FIELDS – in process of going through equipment bags now. Also looking at jerseys to determine which will need to be replaced for next year. All player evaluations with the exception of 4 of the Machine Pitch teams have been turned in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Brown, seconded by Bertsch, to enter executive session. Motion carried and the board entered executive session at 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Sundall, seconded by Hokenstad, to end executive session. Motion carried and the board resumed normal meeting at 9:01 p.m.

LEAGUE REP REPORTS –

Legion - still collecting uniforms, need to get 16U and Junior Legion yet.

14U – jersey sizes were somewhat of an issue this year, suggest we take hat size and shirt size off of the registration form for next year.

LL Intermediate – was a smooth transition into the new program this year.

Machine Pitch – 13 players per team this year, made for 7 outfielders. A little bigger than we really want.

Rookies – year went good, had a good group of coaches. Team sizes were large but it worked out.

SPONSORSHIPS – only two commitments left to collect for the year. Total of \$29,400 in sponsorships this year.

With no further business to discuss Sundall motioned the meeting be adjourned. Walz seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

The next board meeting will be September 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Tailgators.