December 10, 2012 MYBA Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting is called to order by the President, Blumenfeld, at 6:38 P.M. at McRae Park and Recreation Center.

Present at the meeting are Mike Blumenfeld, Bill Garrison, Bryan Barnes, Alicia Skow, Scott Beazley, Elise Fine, Guy Cierzan, Lori Mittag and Kristi Woelfel. Not present are Brent Gregerson, Art Harlow, Christine Jackson and Scott Zosel.

Board recognized Mark Anderson, former treasurer, and Dave Master, former fundraising and at large member, for their past work on the board.

Motion made by Blumenfeld to accept the minutes from the annual meeting held on November 5, 2012 and the November monthly meeting minutes. Beazley seconded. Passed.

Election of Officers on the Board

Mike is the current president. He is traveling quite a bit for work. This could make it difficult to carry out the duties. He is also concerned that he may not be able to do "coach oversight." Perhaps he can delegate more tasks.

Posed the question that someone else may be interested in serving as president. He is also willing to serve again.

Beazley suggested in light of Blumenfeld's work, perhaps we should have a vice-president. Blumenfeld indicated that Skow really served that role already.

Skow moved to have Blumenfeld re-elected as president. Bill Garrison seconded. Passed unanimously.

Election of Registrar

Duties include:

--Getting the website up and running

--Registration for tryouts

--Collects tryout data

--Administers financial aid

Fine has served as Registrar in the past and is interested in the position again. But, needs to have more time between tryouts and team selection.

Blumenfeld nominated Elise Fine to be re-elected as Registrar. Skow seconded. Passed unanimously.

Election of Secretary

Blumenfeld nominated Mittag who has served in this capacity in the past. Woelfel seconded. Passed unanimously.

Remaining officer positions to discuss:
Travel director, treasurer, asset manager and risk manager

Unofficial positions:
Webmaster, uniform czar, head of fundraising and marketing

Travel Director Discussion:

--Last two years Skow and Beazley shared this position. Beazley focused on tournaments, Skow has focused on umpires and field coordination.

--Skow and Beazley are interested in being considered for travel director again.

Blumenfeld moved to have Skow and Beazley re-elected as co-travel directors. Seconded by Fine. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer discussion:

--Spoke with Mark Anderson. Would not recommend running the Cooperstown money through the MYBA account. Anderson will serve as a transition person.

--Bill Garrison offered to be the next secretary.

Beazley moved to have Garrison elected as our new treasurer. Woelfel seconded. Passed unanimously.

Asset Manager Discussion:

--Brent Gregerson is the asset manager and the board has been doing this task largely by committee.

--Best way to accomplish this task is by committee.

Blumenfeld moved to elect Gregerson and Jackson as co-asset managers. Fine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Risk Manager Discussion:

Cierzan has been performing the risk manager duties. Blumenfeld would like to fold the risk manager position in with the Travel Director duties.

Beazley believes it is too much for the Travel Director. Cierzan indicated that the duties are primarily background checks on coaches and concussion awareness training.

Cierzan will perform the risk manager duties again for another year and transition to a person with a younger player in the program. Cierzan thinks the position would work well with the travel director duties.

Blumenfeld moved that Guy be the guy. Skow seconded. Passed unanimously.

Webmaster Discussion:

Christine Jackson performed the duties of webmaster last year. Bryan Barnes would like to handle this position. Barnes is the point person for this position this year.

Uniform Czar Discussion:

Christine Jackson will help with this position and be the point person.

Fundraising and Marketing Discussion:

The board needs a point person for marketing. Masters was the point person for fundraising in the past year. We need to move forward with our fundraising efforts.

Bryan Barnes is interested in helping with fundraising and marketing. Zosel is interested in marketing.

Cierzan indicated that fundraising and marketing should be separate duties.

In the past, marketing involved flyer distribution, ads in the SW journal, etc. Ultimately, would like to have a chair for each position, but the board could do the work by committee. Chairs would set strategy and organization.

Blumenfeld suggested that the board form a committee and meet every three weeks and move forward from there.

Also need to explore the MYBA boosters suggestion. Fine suggested that you ask parents about their interest in fundraising on the bottom of the registration form. Barnes, Beazley, Blumenfeld, Fine and Mittag are interested in this committee.

Barnes and Zosel will meet regarding marketing. Fine will email Barnes and Zosel the ads for the local newspapers from last year.

Discussion had about Skow being named as Blumenfeld's vice-president. It is decided that Skow has been performing these duties and will remain as a defacto vice-president with Woelfel as her assistant.

Treasury Report discussed:

See treasury report introduced at the meeting by Blumenfeld.

Blumenfeld discussed 2012 actual expenses and income.

Blumenfeld discussed 2013 projected expenses and income.

Budget is based on 14 projected teams.

Coach stipends were next discussed, that is, giving a small salary for non-parent coaches. Blumenfeld would like to have a contingency in the budget in case a non-parent coach wanted compensation. Beazley said hockey now pays non-parent and parent coaches a small fee. Younger ages, not necessary to have non-parent coaches but older kids it is a good idea. The concern is how parent coaches would view this policy. Discussion had about using college players to help coach, possible service hours, etc.

Discussion was had about whether the board should budget for this in the future. Beazley thinks it is fine to put it in the budget. The question is how do we refer to it in the budget.

Garrison also thinks it is something that the board should transition to in the future and allocate money for this in MYBA's budget. Rationale for the budget item is that the non-parent coach does not have a child in the program and it is really reimbursing the coach for his/her expenses. Cierzan favors non-parent coaches for all levels. We have accumulated surplus so the board has funds to try something like this--paying non-parent coaches. Blumenfeld allocated $4000 for coach stipends in the budget.

Discussion about MYBA Fees:

Anderson does not see a need to raise fees. Blumenfeld proposed for 2013 to drop fees for 10U and 11U by $100.00 and see where the board's fundraising efforts accomplish. See proposed 2013 Budget distributed at the meeting. We had a lack of interest in MYBA at the younger ages and it is speculated that the lack of participation is because MYBA costs too much.

Discussion had about participation fees for all ages. Elise suggested that we make the 10U $250.00 and 11U $330.00 so lowering fees too low does not cheapen the program. Also, people will commit because the fees are higher.

Cierzan suggests that the board keep the fees slightly higher and offer more financial aid.

Fine suggests that the fees should be $250 for 10U and $330 for 11U and leave the remaining fees the same.

Blumenfeld feels strongly that we still need to raise money even if the board raises the fees.

Blumenfeld moves to accept the new few structure: $250 for 10U, $330 for 11U, $405.00 for 12U, $430.00 for 13U and $455.00 for 14U. Elise seconded.

Vote tabled for further discussion. In terms of cash flow, in February the board collects tryout fees. In early March, the board has to pay for uniforms, which is quite a bit of much money. The board begins to pay for tournaments in January. So, the board use the surplus in the budget to float these expenses. Anderson thought the commitment fee should remain. It helps with the infusion of cash. And, payment plans were less because people had paid so much upfront, they were willing to pay the rest when it came due.

Board discussion is that we are in favor of using a commitment fee. Discussion that the commitment fee should be $50 for the 10 and 11s -- the board does not want to scare younger families away and it represents a smaller percentage in relation to their lessor fees.

Blumenfeld moved to retain the commitment fee for 2013 but drop it to $50.00 for 10U and 11U. Barnes seconded. Vote 7 - 2. Motion passed.

After discussion, the vote was has on the new fee structure as stated above. Passed unanimously.

Grant Update:

Beazley took this over for Judy McQuade. Grant from Hennepin County. Blumenfeld needs to sign forms. The grant will provide for new pitching machines and L screens for teams 11U and older.

Clinics:

Beazley booked Washburn at the same price as last year. Clinics at Washburn are every Sunday (January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th) from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. for ages 10, 11

and 12. The cost is still $141.00 a night to pay for the engineers. The board needs to figure out how to register people and what to charge.

DeLaSalle clinics are arranged as well for January 6th, 13th and the 27th from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. for ages 13 and 14. $20.00 per player per day, or all three clinics for $55.00. We need to decide how to register, etc. We keep $5 per player when the player pays for individual clinic. We keep $10 if they pay for all three clinics. Need to get this information on the website. Can invite players on facebook, too.

Beazley will send an email to the board with details. The bigger question is, who is going to run the younger players' clinics? Suggested that Zosel run the clinics for the younger kids. At the younger ages we have for coaches Olive, Anderson and Masters.

Team Formation Committee:

Town Hall Tap December 16th meeting scheduled to discuss team formation.

Jakob Kouneski waiver discussion:

History -- Kouneski started with MYBA in 2010. 3rd grade played AA. 4th grade played AAA. Big kid. His family feels that he should skip 12U and play 13U because playing at a higher level better suits his abilities. Jakob is 12 by age and grade. Family may leave the organization if he is not allowed to play up. Jakob batted .190 at 11. Played on the Blizzard team in the fall. Good pitcher and fielder.
Discussion--so many kids at age 13 already.

Motion by Mittag that Kouneski be allowed to tryout with the 13 year olds. Barnes seconded. Motion failed by a 5 - 3 - 1 vote.

New Business:

Beazley spoke with Judy McQuade and she informed him that the Park Board and the Minneapolis public schools are trying to put together competitive sports teams, including baseball. This is all Beazley knows and says it may affect our numbers.

Skow spoke with Tim Grate about pitching mounds.

Dave Masters secured $1,000.00 from Dick's.

Next meeting--Monday, Jan. 7th. 6:30 McRae.

Motion by Blumenfeld to adjourn. Mittag seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 P.M.