

MYBA Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2015

Directors Present: Bryan Barnes; Justin Barnes; Mike Blumenfeld; Elise Fine; David Poindexter; Alicia Skow; Cheryl Sullivan; Scott Zosel

Directors Absent: Guy Cierzan; Bill Garrison; Christine Jackson; Erick Nelson

Non-Board Members Present: Peter Boss; Lisa Elliott

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM. August meeting minutes were approved

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer Report: No report

Travel Director Report (Alicia Skow): Discussed scheduling of Travel Director's meeting.

Registrar (Elise Fine): Elise Fine provided numbers for Fall Registration. Registrations are coming in as expected.

Asset Management (David Poindexter): Equipment returns have been scheduled. David and Christine are beginning to look at uniform options given loss of manufacturer. Board discussion about whether to stay with St. Mane or look for other supplier options.

Board discussed logo wear and how to make it easier to purchase. David is looking at options. Goal is to have new offerings available before holiday shopping season and winter tryouts.

Risk Management: No report

Coach Coordinator (Mike Blumenfeld): Post-Season Parent Survey is finished. In key satisfaction metrics, we performed similar to last year. Two Head Coaches had feedback that was less than desirable, one coach is not coming back, will discuss with other coach at Coach Reviews. Coach Reviews scheduled for 9/13. Blumenfeld, Zosel, and Poindexter will conduct. Expecting coach shortage at 12U and possibly 14/15A.

Fundraising (Cheryl Sullivan): Cheryl is beginning to get serious about concessions and has talked to Bill Garrison about purchasing a concessions facility. Bill will not approve a food truck (Cheryl's preference) but will approve a shed. Cheryl distributed concept of what shed might look like. Next step is to discuss getting permission from MPRB to place the "shed" at Neiman. Board discussion about regulations at Neiman. Bryan Barnes questioned the return on concessions and viability. Cheryl responded that operating a shed would depend on volunteer requirements. Mike Blumenfeld moved to vote on Cheryl approaching MPRB about permission. Vote passed 7-1.

Mini-Millers (Justin Benjamin): Justin and Elise Fine have begun planning for 2016, as there was a lot of work to set up the 2015 and not enough people. Key idea is pushing each team to provide more help for scheduling and coordination.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Requirements: Continuation of prior discussions. Cheryl feels the organization has grown to a point where volunteer hour requirements are necessary. Discussion of “carrot vs stick” – whether to ask for help or demand it with consequences for not meeting obligations. Cheryl distributed draft of communication of plan to families. Scott Zosel is interested in revising and refining it. Goal is to get this document communicated by November. Mike Blumenfeld pointed out that volunteer requirements depend on having enough hours to spread around, and without ability to do field work at Neiman and/or tournament and sell concessions, there will not be sufficient hours to implement a requirement.

Cheryl added that selling a plan will be difficult and we need to articulate why we are requiring help. Many families feel they pay too much already, don’t understand where their money goes, and are over-burdened by MYBA. Mike pointed out that we do discuss where money goes in new parent meetings, but perhaps we need to be more explicit.

Fall Tryouts: Alicia reviewed schedule for tryouts: 9/13 Tryout 1, 9/19 Tryout 1 Makeup, 9/26 and 9/27 Tryout 2. Getting evaluators has been slow, Washburn, DLS, and South have pledged help, but nothing from SW yet. Beginning to work on youth volunteers and tryout 2 pitchers. Reminded all members that we count on them to work tryouts.

NEW BUSINESS

Winter Tryouts: Alicia provided rundown of dates. These are not preferred dates, but we are squeezed by Super Bowl, winter break. Facilities are a problem – YWCA Fieldhouse has limited availability, not to mention, major scheduling problems last year. The Board is open to considering weeknight tryouts. Board approved reserving Fieldhouse but continuing to look at other options. David Poindexter asked if there was a requirement to keep tryouts within City Limits. Mike replied there is not but we need to look at distance. Cheryl will explore options at Star Dome at others. These will be more expensive options which must be incorporated into budget.

Website: Bryan Barnes asked for elaboration on passing comment that parents don’t like NGIN website. Consensus is that the pages are static and don’t contain much useful information for families. Teams are likely to buy TeamSnap and use that extensively. Bryan reported NGIN is planning to add TeamSnap-type functionality which would make the site more useful. He will gather more information and get back to us.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Uniforms: Lisa Elliott brought up proposed uniform designs from Craig Olson (husband). Board agreed that it intends to stay with classic Millers design, but did like some of Craig's ideas. Several board members suggested using them as a one-off, for example, 20th anniversary uniforms. David Poindexter stated this would have cost impacts. While not voted on, Board agreed to continue discussing the concept of special uniforms.

Meeting was adjourned 8:26 PM