

BRANDON VALLEY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

May Board Meeting Notes

Sunday, May 12, 2019 – Tailgators

Attendees: Stuart Peschel, Mike Hokenstad, Al Kirkeby, Brian Bertsch, Craig Riley, Missy Livingston (arrived 8:53), Levi Sanders, Jason Honey, Dan Wrightsman, Gary Walz, Chris Brown, Torry Sundall, Brandon Lane, Jeremy VanHeel (arrived 8:20), Ken Longman.

Having a quorum present, meeting was called to order by Peschel at 8:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – motion by Brown, seconded by Sundall to approve the April minutes. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO USE LEGION FIELD IN VALLEY SPRINGS – Ken Longman who coaches in our organization and also plays/manages for the Lennox Reds amateur team requested the Reds team play on Legion Field as the City of Lennox may not allow them to play in Lennox this year. They have 7 home games scheduled, all on Sundays in an adult league of 6 teams (Sioux Area Baseball League) not affiliated with state amateur baseball. Reds will prep field before games and care for it afterwards, pay for any chalk used, and do field work to cover price of any gas used in the golf cart. If they play here they will change their name to the Valley Springs Reds. Reds will need to schedule their games around games played on Legion Field by the BVBA and by the Valley Rats. Ken will reach out both to Josh Mulder for the Rats and Coach VanHeel for BVBA games (most likely just tournament weekends). Motion made by Bertsch, second by Hokenstad to allow the Reds to use Legion Field under the above circumstances. Ken to advise Stuart when he knows for sure they will use the field and dates of the games.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Brown presented latest figures on Field of Dreams: pledges owed \$183,618, pledges paid \$175,544 for total of \$359,162. Balance on loan is \$308,542. Still have only the one pledge that dropped out. We currently have an ask out to Cambria for \$50,000 to try to put in countertops prior to State Legion tournament. Needs for immediate future are landscaping around the flag pole, electrical outlets on the patios prior to State Legion Tournament for press, and fencing to keep people off the grass between the sidewalk and Diamond D. Suggestion was made to run chain link rails with a bar at the top and one in the middle but without the fabric. This should control traffic and allow grass trimming to easily be done. We may have enough materials out at Valley Springs to complete this. Ace Hardware will be upping their donation to \$2500 per year and in exchange we will wrap the Gator with their logo. Our current balance in the main checking account is \$108,661. Significant expenses this month included \$11,696 to Daubys for jerseys and equipment, and to Outlaw Graphics for \$2100 for outfield signs.

SLUGFEST TOURNAMENT – thanks to all board members for spending time out at the fields on Sunday to get them ready for play and save the 2nd day of the tournament. The gate for Sunday was \$2955 so down significantly from projections losing the first day. We lost 4 teams but gained 4 from the Sioux Falls tournament that rained out and did not have to refund any entry fees.

PIZZA RANCH TOURNAMENT – we have 58 teams registered now with registration closing on 5/14, roughly double the size of Slugfest. There will be games on Friday at Aspen, and will use both Aspen and Valley Springs on Saturday and Sunday. Need to have all board members help as they can that weekend. This is also the weekend of State High School tournament that Saturday if our varsity team qualifies.

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT – varsity team currently seeded #1 in the state and top 4 teams each host a regional. Default game times are 12:00, 2:30, and 5:00 but schedule is set by the 4 teams playing in a region. On Wednesday morning the final seedings will come out. Decision was made to set a daily admission for this tournament of \$7 for adults, students free. All adults will need to pay, not just visitors. BVBA will propose to the Booster Club that either the BVBA keep the gate or we split it with Boosters to offset some of the losses for high school baseball. SDHSBA will assign and pay for umpires, our only expense will be baseballs.

JUNIOR LEGION TOURNAMENT – currently we have only 3 teams registered for this July tournament; we need to register one more to make the tournament go.

DAKOTA CLASSIC LEGION TOURNAMENT – Jeremy has the schedule and there will be a consolation game scheduled for FNB Field on Sunday. Since this is the same weekend as Sunshine Tournament we need to schedule around this for our Sunshine games on the field.

SUMMER ROSTERS – there are 51 players signed up for Legion and 16U. This will make for very large teams and potentially lead to playing time issues and complaints. Discussion lasted more than an hour on the options we have regarding team placement and potentially a cut policy. Proposal was made for the 2019 summer season to initially keep all 51 players with teams sizes of 19 on the Sr. Legion, 15 on the Jr. Legion, and 17 on the 16U team. Legion rosters must be finalized by June 25 and maximum size is 18 players so at that date there potentially could be cuts to reduce the Sr. Legion roster to 18 players. This is a practiced followed by RC Post 22, they traditionally carry larger rosters early in the season and cut down to 18 players at the June 25 deadline. Larger roster sizes do impact playing time as well, and some players will have significantly lower playing time than others, based on ability and team needs, determined by the coach. Also, players who are 17 as of January 1 must play Sr. Legion based on national rules which means some players who have not played previously at the varsity level will have to in the summer. Coach VanHeel and his staff have evaluated players over the course of the high school season and determined roster placements. The coaches have identified players that could seem limited playing time based on the above reasons and he has spoken to these players. He will now have a follow up conversation with the parents of those players to make sure they understand. It will be the players and parents choice on whether they wish to play the summer season or not, knowing the financial and time commitment, the costs associated with tournaments, and the fact that playing time is not guaranteed. These discussions will occur at both the oldest and youngest levels of these age groups. If a player chooses to withdraw from the summer program, a full refund of registration fee will be given. If at June 25 cuts need to be made, 50% of the registration fee will be refunded. Motion by Bertch, second by Sundall to adopt this policy for the 2019 season only. Motion carried. After the season we will consider a policy for future seasons as in 2020 we potentially have 25 players that would only be able to play Sr. Legion without considering younger players that could also make that roster.

PARENT PASSES – each player age 13 and up will get 6 season passes for their parents, grandparents, or other relatives to get in free to all home league games (no tournaments). Passes are non-transferable.

TEAM MEETINGS – 13/14 meetings were today, went fine. Thursday the Legion and 16U teams will meet. League Reps need to get signups for gate.

UMPIRES – Zalme will do schedule for tournament umpires for age 13 and up. Agreed to \$50 per ump per game except for Jr. Legion tournament which will be \$65 per game. Umpire checks will be available

after games in the press box at Aspen and the crow's nest in Valley. Youth ump checks wil also be in the lock box in the press box.

SMALL FIELDS – only 4 players have not yet paid their travel team dues and 3 haven't filled out background checks forms yet. McCardy Park is not expected to be ready for 2 weeks yet. Sportsmanship Award – this year will do something different, each coach will be asked around June 10 or so to nominate a number of players from their own teams, maybe 3-5, and the drawings will be from those nominations.

SPONSORSHIPS – \$23,650 has been collected, Tailgators has \$1500 due yet. Should get \$25,000 in for this year

LEAGUE REP REPORTS –Levi: need team coordinators for his league for volunteer refunds. Jason: late registrations in April were all handled and placed on teams. Dan: the new pitching machine at Valley works well. Gary: all going well.

The Gator needs a new battery and last time it was started the idle ran way too fast. Mike will get it in to the John Deere dealer in Garretson.

With no further business to discuss Sundall motioned the meeting be adjourned. Brown seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

The next board meeting will be June 9, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. at Tailgators.