

## July 2025 Soderville Baseball Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 07/13/2025  
Present: Eric P., Nate, Aleshia, Caitie, Sophia, Greg, Terry, Eric L., Tim S., Troy  
Not Present: Corryn

6:03 Call to Order

Approval of Committee Minutes for June – *June meeting minutes approved.*

Public Forum – *N/A, just committee members present*

Old Business

- Storage Container Update/Mural
  - *Painting of the storage container and mural will not occur in 2025; will pursue in 2026.*
  - *Weeds are growing around the storage container - need to weed whip.*
  - *Inside the storage container gets very hot. We should investigate a vent kit to allow air circulation and to allow heated air to escape.*
  
- Diamond Doctor
  - Soderville Field repairs and City field 3
  - *The cost to repair Soderville Field was \$3,200 while the original estimate for both Soderville Field and City Field 3 was \$4,000 to \$5,000. City Field 3 needs a lot of work. Since the actual cost for Soderville Field was so high, there are concerns about contracting with Diamond Doctor again for City Field 3.*
  - *MN Sod was out to look at City Field 3. They will be providing an estimate for doing the work on Field 3. We will need to get the work done this year.*
  
- Field Maintenance Training at Lions Park
  - Main lessons learned from field maintenance training:
    - *Dragging speed needs to be reduced*
    - *Dragging needs to end at least one foot from the grass to reduce berm formation*
    - *Once per month, a backpack blower should be used to blow dirt along edge of outfield back onto the infield*
    - *Water should be removed from fields with a sponge only*
  -
  
- Baseball Scholarships – *Eric P. met with scholarship recipients Nathan Haukos and Max Kinney and awarded them the 2025 scholarships.*
  
- Landscape edging around batting cages
  - *The landscape edging will be installed around the batting cages by this fall.*
  - *We need to raise the nets. The plan is to remove the extensions holding the net to the cables.*
  - *We should consider buying one or two ladders for installing/removing nets.*

New Business

- Complaint from parent on Len Zenk's team regarding an incident during a game against Smentek's team
  - *This incident was discussed at length at the beginning of the meeting. From the discussion it was clear that some of the parents for team Zenk acted in a manner that violated the code of conduct.*
  - *Eric P. will draft a response to the parent regarding the Baseball Committee's discussion on this issue.*
  - *Eric L. will talk with coach Zenk about the issue.*
  - *We also discussed ideas to improve options for coaches and parents to provide feedback*
    - *Adding cross-coach reviews*
    - *Adding questions to the end of season survey about player/parent/coach experience and ideas for improvements*
    - *Creating a separate coach survey*

- Fall Ball requests
  - *There have been many requests/inquiries received regarding Fall baseball. Eric P. is directing these requests to MYAS to register as free agents in their Fall baseball leagues.*
- Field 4 complaint regarding sunset
  - *A complaint was received regarding Field 4 at sunset – according to the complaint, the setting sun makes it difficult for catchers to see.*
  - *The committee agreed to take no action as this is the first complaint the committee has received about difficulty with sunset on Field 4.*
- Score board at Soderville Park from Ham Lake Hornets
  - *The Ham Lake Hornets have volunteered to make and install an old-style/manual scoreboard at Soderville Field.*
  - *This was discussed with the City of Ham Lake and they will need to approve the scoreboard installation.*
  - *The city needs a sketch with the size, location, etc. of the scoreboard. The plan will then need to be approved by the Ham Lake Park Committee.*
  - *This was discussed with the Ham Lake Hornets. They are still interested in installing the scoreboard but it will be delayed due to the need for city approval.*

#### Committee Reports

- Budget (Greene/Schesso) - *Nothing new discussed*
- Tournaments -
  - *Anders Flaa Tournament (13U and 14/15U): Soderville 13U teams Delong and Bossany took 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Overall, the tournament went well and there were no complaints.*
  - *6U/8U Tournament: At 6U, teams Kirkham and Hallich took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. At 8U, teams Schmid and Robinson took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively.*
  - *12U All-Stars: These games are scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>. Andover hosting.*
  - *10U/12U Tournament: July 18-20 – Currently there is no tournament director committed for this tournament. Plan is to reach out to Mike Richmond about leading field maintenance. Various committee members are planning to be at the tournament to help.*
  - *Gopher State All-Star: August 2 - 13U at City Park – Site/field directors are needed for this tournament. Field Directors will receive \$150 for the tournament.*
- Junior League Baseball (6U-10U) (Open)
  - *Due to the large number of rainouts this season, teams didn't have many practices this season because practices were replaced with re-scheduled games. We discussed the possibility of having fewer games next year and converting one or two games to practices during the season. This will be discussed more in the off season.*
  - *Briefly discussed a rule change for 2026 for coach pitching distance.*
- Senior League Baseball (12U and up) (Open) – *Playoffs are in process.*
- Tournament Team Baseball (Schraufnagel) -
  - *Registration is open and signs are up.*
  - *Greg mentioned possibility of setting up a table at the 10U/12U tournament next weekend to talk with attendees about Tournament Baseball.*
- Uniforms (Schesso) – *Nothing new to discuss.*

- Equipment (Laumeyer)
  - *Two of the shelves became partially disassembled when they were removed from the old storage container and moved to the new container. We need to secure shelves in the storage container before we can store equipment, etc. on the shelves.*
  - *Need to buy new catcher's gear and baseballs.*
  
- Development & Training (Laumeyer) -
  - *Eric L. will be meeting with Eric Lovedahl in the off season to plan training for 2026.*
  
- Umpire Coordinator (Aronson)-
  - *Umpire coverage has gone pretty well so far in the 2025 season.*

Other

- *Briefly discussed a complaint received from a coach regarding a game in which the umpire was related to a player on the opposing team. This was discussed with Gail and she has addressed this with all the umpires.*
- *Briefly discussed umping in general for the 2025 season. Consensus was positive – umpires have generally been very good this season.*

Next meeting – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM at Ham Lake Lanes.

Meeting Adjourned 7:58PM