

BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, October 18, 2021

Meeting Time: 8:00pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

8:04 pm

Present:

Co-Chair	Steve Hanson
Secretary	Ann Scheinost
Treasurer	Jim Haakonson
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Eidenshink
Director	Eric Fenstad
Director	Zach Heidmann
Director	Jeremiah Piepkorn
Director	Mandy Vanek

Absent:

Co-Chair	Troy Rushmeyer
Director	Wade Haapajoki

OPEN FORUM

Time allocated for non-members to bring matters not on the agenda to the attention of the Board. Time limits may be imposed.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve this agenda, without additions, along with the meeting minutes from 9/15/2021, was made by Mandy Vanek, seconded by Eric Fenstad. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Survey Results:
 - a. Strong feedback on the rec ball requirement
 - b. Positive reactions on coaches, need to determine next-steps and plan of action using the survey results
 - c. Meet with the coaches and walk them through the results (especially over the next few weeks)
 - d. Look at working away from all levels of rec, and what we do to guide activities for next spring, working with MYAS on a 13/14 leagueAny interests in volunteer help/Open Board position
Broader survey questions moving forward – interests in umpiring, etc.
2. Need to schedule a date to meet with coaches in person as a group (Steve and Troy will set)
3. Need to still meet with ISD 181, similar to meetings with both cities – perhaps new AD related to tourney play - concessions - moving forward; much of our discussions with the cities will drive this.

BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Coach Grahams has requested an informal meeting to discuss vision, etc. Concern: How many quality pitchers/ball players can we groom for their program?

4. Steve and Troy to address Baxter City Council Tuesday 10/19 at 7pm to present \$2,500 check (field usage, maintenance workers, etc.) and share brief summary of who we are and what we are trying to accomplish.
5. Actions we need to take to find good candidate for open board position (IT -Marketing) – i.e: posting on social media sites, BBBA, city and community ed. Websites, email our clients. Our survey included a place for those who indicated interest in serving on the board. Those individuals should be contacted. GOAL: have new person in place before New Year. (Zach suggested Phil Berg.)

New Business

1. 2022 Battle of the Lakes Tournament Sub-committee: Leverage individuals showing interest from the survey
 - a. Communities reaching out for dates: Blaine, Edina, as well as MYAS
 - b. We moved all dates up 1 week to better suit State qualifying status and allow cities to put on their calendars.
 - i. 10-12AAA - June 3-5
 - ii. 11-13AAA - June 10-12
 - iii. 9U and 14AAA - June 17-19

Board discussed vote on approving to post these dates on website, to allow for teams to start registering now and close registrations when full or by mid-April whichever comes 1st. Waiting list for teams related to date inquired.

Discussed capping team registrations at 12 teams for 12 and 13U and 16 teams for 9, 10, 11 and 14U. Coach input will be needed for 9U @ 16 teams, as that could be a bit high.

Is the use of softball fields for tournaments a viable option? (Price out portable mounds and portable batting cages.)

Motion to approve dates and level of play was made by Jim Haakanson, seconded by Zach Heidmann. Motion passed unanimously.

During meeting, website was updated with these new dates. Also will explore ability to accept credit cards and implement this option ASAP. Deadline to register is set at April 1, 2022 and can be extended as-needed.

- c. Additional topics:
 - i. Volunteer requirements and requiring team families to work one home tournament they are not playing in (adults and players). Per the handbook, fee is \$200 per family, 4 hours need to be filled. Balance of unfulfilled hours is billable at \$50 per hour. Before the New Year, lock in what the requirements, options (pay vs. volunteer) and what opportunities are available. (Tracking via Sports Engine = Dibs, Mandy to reach out to Hockey Board to see what their process looks like.) Invoice those who do not fulfill their obligation.
 - ii. Concessions (not discussed)
 - iii. Marketing for increased sponsorship revenue – leaving a lot on the table; also need to formally thank our 2021 sponsors
 - iv. Increasing our umpire pool with quality umpers - partnering with Rozinka/Berg, Community Ed, our clients, MYAS. (Umpire clinic sometime this winter).
- d. Form group (doesn't just have to be board members), start meeting and report to entire board at regular scheduled monthly meeting

BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

2. Skills clinics this winter – Steve has had discussions with Jennifer Rushin, and presented date and price options.
 - a. Wednesday and Sunday nights? (increased costs for weekends) – could potentially start as early as November if we choose to. We are currently at the mercy of the availability of the Forestview gym. Question on if space at Forestview is available other days, but later hours? Are there options to reduce the facility usage fees being charged by Forestview?
 - b. Open to all kids – fees? (not addressed)
 - c. Pre-tryout skills week and try-outs (reserved)
 - d. Research purchasing drop down or portable batting cages to set-up at schools other than Forestview to give us more options and potentially save some costs for facility usage fees.
 - e. Todd Vanek personal skills lessons on nights scheduled through the Association (he is a coach, and currently insured under the Association, and is holding sessions at Baxter Park while the cages are still up). Concern of conflict of interest was raised. Question is what will this look like in terms of a partnership, fees, one-on-one and/or groups, what he would look for us to provide, etc. Mandy indicated that she would have Todd present the information to Steve.
 - f. Coaches and umpire clinics? (not addressed)Motion to approve dates and fees with date changes and option to negotiate rates was made by Mandy Vanek, seconded by Jim Haakenson. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Not discussed: MYAS meeting (Steve and Troy had a zoom meeting on October 6 with several of the MYAS people and discussed the following) – MYAS and CRBR zoom meeting tonight
 - a. Potential travel league opportunities next year for our 13 and 14U teams.
 - b. Discussion for creating a central MN league with other outstate communities, i.e. Waite Park, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Moorhead, Grand Rapids, Bemidji, etc.
 - c. Wanted to clarify that next year's Brainerd tournaments (9U-14U AAA) are being listed as State qualifiers.
 - i. Spring and Mid-Summer classics potentially being held in Brainerd in the future
 - d. Bases and field sizes if MYAS had requirements (We are working to adapt the ball fields, so they are universally adjustable (Base lengths) for Brainerd and Baxter communities - league and tournament play)
4. Road map - lots to discuss and address (need to schedule a meeting)
5. Treasurer's briefing: Total Association donation for new weight room at BHS came to \$4,000.00, resulting in a \$4,000.00 match. Current account balance was provided.

NEXT MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2021

Meeting Time: 8:00pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

9:50 pm

Motion to adjourn was made by was made by Eric Fenstad, seconded by Jim Haakenson. Motion passed unanimously.

**BRAINERD BAXTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION BBBA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**