

minutes

SAMSPA GM		
2024-04-13	Scheduled: 10am – 12noon	St. Albert Legion 6 Tache Street
Meeting called by	President Joel McGovern	
Note taker	League Operations Coordinator Lynda Holden	
Timekeeper	President Joel McGovern	
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order by the President at 10:02am.	
51 Team Rep Attendees	Mafia, The Chefs, Tailgaters, VooDoo, Young Guns, Designated Drinkers, Louisville Chuggers, Smokin Bunts, Pudgy Ps Pirates, Riverside Mariners, Railcore X, Ram Ranchers, Grizzlies, Rummies, Pedlars, Strikers, Slick 50, Diamond Bears, Raiders 50, Naturals 50+, Naturals 60+, Auto Selects, Bad Company, The Crush, Can Alta Sox 70, Dynasty Relics, Old Buzzards 70, Buzzards 60, Old Vets, Raiders +70, Silver Backs, St Albert 70s, Cobra Kai, Broke Bat Mountain, Diamond Kings, Pound, Chuck, Classics. Mediocre Sluggers, Sturgeon River Swallows, Admirals, Big League Boys, Thirsty Beavers, Ballers, Alchoballics, Big Dickeyes, Ravens, Classics 50, Older Bulls, Redline, Rockers City of St. Albert – Brendan Smith	
8 Absent	Elite Selects, Kamikazes, Wolf Pack, Thirsty Pigeons, 440 Rockies, C-Section, Sox, Furies Missing Board Members – Bryan Shields and Trevor Zilm	
Approve Minutes from 2024/01/27 th AGM		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
Motion was made by Paul Hjartarson and seconded by Wayne Hilsendeger to approve the minutes of the January 27 th , 2024 AGM. Motion carried.		
GM Agenda Approval and call for additions		
Darren McBride, Secretary		
Nothing was brought forward.		
Motion was made by Drew Kells and seconded by Terry Willis to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.		
New Agenda Items/Agenda Items/Tabled Items		
Joel McGovern, President		
Meeting Purpose		
To provide the membership with general information including Executive position updates, League updates, 2024 Budget presentation, Fundraising Initiatives, information items and preparation for 2024 season.		
a) Updates		
The President provided an overview of how the meeting process would take place, how voting would be recognized, how to ask questions and rules of order SAMSPA Bylaws. Quorum was confirmed for meeting. Each team was allocated one voting member.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2024 Board Portfolios were shared by the President and Board Members in attendance were introduced. 		

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- Schedule – President shared that the goal is to start the season April 29th 2024 season consists of 15 weeks, 28 games plus playoffs. President hoping to have the schedule released April 16th, 2024.
- Bat Testing policy was reviewed. All bats will require a 2024 bat sticker. 2024 Bat Testing weekend will be April 20th and 21st. There are 6 extra bat testing dates on Tuesday's from 6:30pm – 7:30pm. Schedule and Dates are posted on the SAMSPA website.
- 2024 Divisional Alignment was shared via PowerPoint presentation. The President asked that all 8 teams in Open A and Open B representatives stay after meeting for a quick discussion on schedule challenges for 2024. Open C will have 9 teams and D will have 8 teams, 40 and 50 divisions each have 5 teams, 60+ has 9 teams and 70+ has 7 teams with efforts being made to still build 1 more 70+ team to balance at 8.
- Team Fee policy was reviewed by the President. Optional \$200 team fee for unlimited batting cage for the season was shared. Reminder of payment options was reviewed as follows:50% of balance due April 1, all remaining fees due by May 1. The President then shared that fees can be paid via e transfer to treasurer@samsplaslowpitch.com.
- The President shared that we now have Wi-Fi at the Meadowview Diamonds.

Off Season Fundraising Initiatives were reviewed.

CrowdFunding Initiative - donated \$5,276.80, matched \$2,488.40, Total \$7,765.20

Online Auction - \$4,085.00 raised, original target was \$2,500.00.

Chuck A Puck - \$1,523.00

Oil Kings 50/50 - \$4,000.00 target. Still waiting on final numbers from Oil Kings.

Total raised to-date = \$17,361.20

President went on to discuss the importance of fundraising. Aging facility. Aging equipment. All require \$\$\$.

The options for paying for these were reviewed:

Grants - need to be planned well in advance and are not guaranteed.

Fee Increases – League is seeing the first one this year in five or six years.

Cash Calls – last one was three years @ \$200 to pay for netting project.

Beverage price increases

Withdraw beer rebate program.

And lastly, fundraising.

The Board has prioritized fundraising as a legitimate option.

The President went on to thank the numerous volunteers needed for the success of these fundraising initiatives and recognized that the Operations Coordinator has been amazing at advancing these initiatives.

A question from the floor was raised on beverage price increases. The President shared that there will be no price increases in 2024.

2024 Budget Presentation/ Motion to adopt

Brian Dickson, Treasurer

2024 Budget Presentation

The President shared a PowerPoint presentation of the 2024 budget as approved by the SAMSPA Board. The projected budget for 2024 was reviewed with highlights on revenue, expenses, concession, beverage room by the Treasurer. The Treasurer provided a summary of the SAMSPA financial budget and discussed the financial picture with 2024 costs vs revenue streams and summarized the successes from 2023.

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The Treasurer shared that currently the 2nd 2024 Auditor position is vacant. He went on to explain that SAMSPA requires two volunteer auditors and that volunteer auditors must be approved at a General Meeting of the society. After a brief description of the role and responsibilities, the Treasurer shared that Andre Hebert was appointed at the 2024 AGM and made a call from the floor for a second auditor.

Wayne Hawks confirmed he would allow his name to stand for this position.

Motion to approve Wayne Hawks as the second auditor for the 2024 financials. Moved by Dan Barber and seconded by Kelly Doyle. Motion Carried.

Questions from the floor were taken.

A question was raised around what capital projects were planned for 2024. Capital Projects confirmed but not limited to the following: new mower, batting cage, point of sale machines, new bases, repair to St. Albert Source for Sports, D#1 3rd baseline dugout, website, painting. It was shared that some of these items are dependant on grant funding and if we are successful.

A member asked if the budget was going to be presented line by line. The Treasurer shared that as the budget was provided in detail via email prior to the meeting for review, he was prepared to answer specific questions at the meeting, however felt an overview was sufficient.

A review of procedure and information on the beverage rebate and explanation on team codes and when teams would be notified was requested. The Treasurer shared that all teams qualify to receive an annual rebate from the beverage and concession by providing their team code when purchasing anything. This applies to teams, their families, friends or guests. Team codes will be posted at the concession/beverage room for the start of the season.

There were no other questions presented.

The President called for a Motion to adopt the 2024 Budget as presented, Moved by Terry Willis and seconded by Wayne Hilsendeger. Motion Carried.

Fundraising Initiatives

Lynda Holden, League Operations Coordinator

President screen shared information on the upcoming SAMSPA Mixed Tournament.

The League Operations Coordinator shared that SAMSPA will be hosting the annual SAMSPA Mixed tournament presented by Alley Kat Brewing Company this summer on July 12th, 13th and 14th. with an objective to raise funds to offset operational costs and project costs.

The goal is to have 24 Mixed teams.

Currently there are 16 Mixed teams preregistered, looking for 8 more teams.

League Operations Coordinator announced that SAMSPA is looking for volunteers to assist at the tournament in several roles, encourage members to put in a team, or provide an item for team prizes. Members were encouraged to support this initiative and contact the League Operations Coordinator if they can assist.

The League Operations Coordinator shared that this year we are excited to announce that Alley Kat Brewing Company has come on board as our tournament sponsor and will be providing craft beer taste testing and RiverHawks ticket give aways at the tournament. Flyers about the tournament were at each table and members were invited to take one to share or for themselves to enter a team.

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The League Operations Coordinator thanked the League members for their ongoing support and asked if there were any questions. No questions came forward.

Advertising Package/Incentive Program

Lynda Holden, League Operations Coordinator

President shared PowerPoint screens on advertising package and shared earnings.

The League Operations Coordinator reviewed the current signage at SAMSPA and the opportunities available. It was shared that SAMSPA has successfully secured 4 naming rights sponsors for diamonds as follows; D#1 St. Albert Source for Sports, D#2 The Canadian Brewhouse, D#3 Play it Again Sports and D#4 Select Equipment Rentals.

The League Operations Coordinator went on to share the importance, opportunities, and benefits to the League.

The following information was shared via the PowerPoint presentation.

- Why is your league asking for Player's Participation?
 - *Revenue source for SAMSPA operations*
- What benefits do you get?
 - *Extra cash for you or your team*
- What can you do?
 - *Contact business/sponsor and explain options.*
 - *Confirm purchase and connect customer with our Operations Coordinator.*
- What would be the impact of 59 teams each selling one board?
 - *59 teams X \$1,275 = \$75,225 in gross revenue or \$25,075 per year spread over the three-year term and each team earns \$400 per signboard sold.*

Shared Earnings was explained for each level of board.

Members were encouraged to participate in this initiative and support our sponsors when out in the community.

Information Items

Joel McGovern, President

Spring Work Bee (April 27/28)

- Each team provides two volunteers.
- Four time slots (9-1 and 1-5 on SAT/SUN)
- Register your two players with Lynda.
- There is a schedule published on the website under the Teams menu.
- The President shared that the Concession/Beverage room will be open, and the new point of system will be tested at the Spring Work Bee.

A question from the floor was raised around what kind of tasks will be done at the work bee. The 60/70+ Director shared several items from fencing repairs, painting, rock removal, spreading of crush etc.

The Vice President reviewed the following policies in detail.

- Alcohol and Drug Policy
 - No bringing in outside liquor
 - No drinking in dugout or surrounding area while game is on
 - First offense \$100, second offense is team expulsion from league.

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- Air Quality Policy
 - Use Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) at <http://airquality.alberta.ca/map/>
 - AQHI = 7-9 (President makes call)
 - AQHI = 10+ (Games cancelled)
- Roster Policy
 - Team rosters due no later than June 1
 - Submit via webpage.
 - Teams can only use players on roster for playoffs.
 - Maximum roster size of 25.
 - Players cannot be on two rosters in same Division.
 - Failure to submit roster by due date will result in forfeited games after June 1 until roster is submitted.
- Uniform Policy
 - Minimum of 7 players should have matching uniforms.
 - Jerseys are to include numbers.
 - Caps are optional but should match.
 - Teams have until June 30 to comply.
- Smoking Policy
 - SAMSPA is non-smoking except designated smoking areas.
 - Last year, cigarette butts were found often at/in dugouts.
- Cannabis Policy
 - Our guidance on Cannabis restrictions come from the City of St. Albert.
 - Space leased from the City is considered public and as such, **consumption of cannabis is not permitted at SAMSPA.**
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The Vice President asked that members please review all policies and rules on the SAMSPA website and ensure your players are familiar with them.

The Vice President reviewed League Procedures

- Player Waitlist
 - We have 14 players looking for teams on website.
- Protests
 - File protests with SAMSPA Operations Coordinator at admin@samspslowpitch.com
- Game Sheets
 - Keep until end of the season.
- Posting Scores
 - Scores should be posted via website or app by winning team no later than next day.
- Cancellations / Defaults
 - Must provide 24 hours notice for cancellation otherwise subject to a \$100 fine.
 - Although the League encourages teams to play their scheduled games, again this year will be the opportunity to reschedule a game you need to forfeit with the opposing team. The teams must work together to agree on a date and time that is open on schedule and then communicate with League Operations Coordinator to finalize rescheduled game. This will be on a first come first serve basis and based on availability.

Key Dates were shared.

- Schedule Release: April 16, 2024
- League Start: April 29th, 2024
- Cages Open: TBD
- Team Practices: TBD

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League Procedures

- Practice Times
 - TBD
 - Subject to playability.
 - Board will make announcement in coming weeks.
 - Inquire with SAMSPA Operations Coordinator at admin@samspaslowpitch.com
- Safety Update
 - First Aid kits and Defibrillator will be accessible at the Concession and in furnace room.
 - Fire extinguishers to be checked.
 - Glen Dolynchuk is our Player Safety Director.

The President shared that to assist in getting communications out to all players, email addresses are mandatory as a member of SAMSPA.

President shared that there are options to find out Field Condition (web, phone, text)

- Web: Field Conditions Page
- Phone: 780-460-7234 (Option 1)
- Text Notifications TBD
- Posted at 2PM, Immediate Assistance: call Lynda (587) 987-7454

The President went on to share new changes for 2023.

- Rescheduling Games
 - Teams can identify near-term diamond openings and request a re-schedule, rather than outright cancelling games.
 - Subject to availability.
 - Inquire with SAMSPA Operations Coordinator: admin@samspaslowpitch.com
- New Website
 - Sports Engine acquired League Athletics.
 - Our upgrade continues and work is still underway. Your patience is appreciated.
 - Text notifications TBD determined based on new website functions and capabilities.
- Umpires - President shared that EDSUA is actively recruiting more umpires. Some members of our league are already onboard, but they are looking for a few more. Please pass this on to your team members.
- The Vice President/Rules Director shared the following rule changes and wording clarification for the 2024 SAMSPA rules. Rules are posted on the SAMSPA website, teams are encouraged to review them.

Rule Changes and wording clarification in rules for 2024 are:

- Softball Canada Rule Change Batter's Box Line Rule – batters' foot must be completely over the line.
- Compression Sleeves – need to be one color and the same color as team jersey or undershirt. We will be asking the umpires association for some leniency on this rule for 2024, however, please ensure players are aware.

All Divisions

- Rule 1 (wording clarification) provided. **In the event a team at any point reduces to 7 players due to injury or ejection with no available substitutes, the game is immediately forfeited.
**Should any team lose a player due to injury or ejection during the game and is unable to substitute that batting position, that batting position will be ruled an AUTOMATIC OUT for the remainder of the game.
- Rule 3 (wording clarification) provided. Non-rostered players may be used after June 1st to assist teams in fielding a team for competition.

Open – Rule 13 –Change - No metal cleats will be allowed.

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40/50/60/70 – Rule 10 – Flip/Flop (wording clarification) provided If the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the start of the last inning, the flip flop is mandatory.

A question came from the floor asking for confirmation on dugout that the home team gets. The Vice President confirmed home team gets the first baseline dugout.

The President shared via the PowerPoint presentation the Divisional Alignment chart, welcomed and identified new teams and thanked all teams for choosing SAMSPA.

The President then shared the logos and descriptions of partnership signage with all SAMSPA sponsors names, and logos displayed for 4 Diamond Naming Rights. He reiterated that if you get the opportunity to support any of these companies, the Board encourages members and players to support them. They are also shared on our website with links to their sites.

Questions & Statements from the Floor

Joel McGovern, President

The President asked if there were any questions from the floor. Nothing was brought forward.

The President ended the meeting by sharing a screen highlighting each individual SAMSPA sponsor, thanking the sponsors of SAMSPA and encouraging our membership to “Support our Supporters”.

Adjournment

Joel McGovern, President

Motion was made by Tyler Fuhr to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Erv Krawchuk. **Motion carried.**

Adjourned at 11:25am