Mankato Peppers Softball

Wednesday, September 16 @ 7:00 PM
Peppers Performance Facility

Officers

President:
Ryan Kapsner
Vice-President:
Dan Grack
Secretary:
Kelly Biedscheid
Treasurer:
Brenda Stevermer

Positions:

Tournament Director:
Phil Tostenson
Organizational Coordinator:
Ashley Staunton
Finance Manager:
Katie Faugstad
Concession:
Stephanie Davis
Social Media Coordinator:
Emily Hudspith
Umpire Coordinator:
Rose Veldhuisen
Gambling Manager:
Megan Grack

Members

Jamie Aanenson
Bob Elsen
Ryan Altmann
Eric Davis
JJ Helget
Mike Kirchoff
Brittany Schloesser
Kelly Terrell

Next meeting Scheduled:
Wednesday, October 21 @ 7:00pm
Peppers Facility

Agenda

- Welcome and introduction – Call to order: 7:04 pm –
- Adoption and/or correction of the minutes of the last meeting – **Dan motioned to adopt the minutes from last meeting, Brenda 2nd, all in favor.** **Voting Item**
- Financial Report – We don't have a financial report yet. Ryan will get one from Katie and will send it out once we have it. **Voting Item**

Committee Reports

- Tournaments - **(Phil)** Phil was not present at meeting but emphasis was put on the need to continue pushing out registrations for our summer tournaments.
- Umpires - **(Rose)** Nothing new to report other than Rose has agreed to continue being our umpire coordinator.
- Concessions - (**Steph**/Eric) Monsta tournament was a success for concessions. Jim from HyVee has agreed to take over as our concessions coordinator.
- Equipment - Talked about getting nets on order, catcher's mitts for Jamie's teams, homeplates. Plates came in. Jamie's team got mitts. Nets should be in this week at Play It Again – got 4 of them in order to get discount. Back storage room should get organized.
- Performance Facility - (**Dan**, Mike, Brenda, Ryan A) Dan is hoping to get construction started this weekend – working on Grant's availability. Will get the rails in for the 3rd cage 1st and then start on pitching/catching room. Want that done first so that it's done before it gets cold. Outside cages will get wider. 3rd cage is here – rails are also. Just need to be hung and existing rails moved over. Turf is only 7 days out. Once wall gets taken out, then turf can get ordered. TV will be put in pitching room so the Pitch Logic ball can be bluetoothed to TV. Scheels did decide that it's not in budget to sponsor new turf. Will look at possible different sponsor for new turf. Will have good pitching mats – Portolite in Winsted. Will see if we can do something with them (sponsorship, etc.). Maybe get all new mats (hitting, pitching, everything).
- Jerseys/Apparel - (**Brenda**, Eric, Kelly T, Brittany, Mike) Uniform committee met with BSN. Came up with a pinstripe option, a navy and blue option in Nike. 10u and 8u will have two sets of uniforms. 12u and up will have 3 sets. To offset costs, may not offer belts and socks in order to stay on budget. BSN is sending samples. The goal would be to have them by Thanksgiving so that teams would use them for dome ball. If we don't do Nike top and Nike bottom, then navy's could differ. We could go Champro – it's a little lesser quality but it would be less expensive and would match the Nike navy. Nike and BSN designs would change until 2029 so players could reuse uniforms from one year to the next and get a credit back if they don't need a new uniform the following year.

- Summer/Dome Travel- (**JJ**, Dan, Ryan A, Kelly T, Bob) Need to clear up fall ball and travel teams in SSL fall ball league. Ryan had meeting with Matt Mangulis about dome ball and if we get enough teams at every age level, they will make it work. It's hard to get players to commit. Also, teams don't want to play the same teams week after week. It's budgeted for teams to do dome ball but if it doesn't work out, then maybe we look at doing scrimmages in the dome, etc. Communication to families should be clear so we're not giving false information. Once there's a plan in place, families will be informed. Ryan will continue to have conversations with Matt. It's early yet. If it's determined dome tournament won't happen, it will be communicated.

  Ryan talked to JJ. We still need 14u coach. We're looking at 14u pitcher next week. Hopefully she will work out to fill out team. She will come down to the facility to be evaluated by board members. There's another player looking to get added to a travel team – not a pitcher. Ryan will send email to travel committee. Will continue to look for a 16u pitcher as well. We have time so there's no big concern at this point. Finding a coach is the biggest thing.

- SSL/Lil Peppers/Fall- (**Kelly**/Eric/Mike/Brittany) Language next year between fall ball vs. travel teams will get cleaned up so there's no confusion going forward. Fall ball teams will turn equipment in soon. There were a lot of new parent coaches this year. Fall ball is tough – some travel coaches have struggled getting their full team to commit so they're picking up players. It's how it goes but it all works out.

- Marketing/Social Media- (**Emily**, Brenda, Kelly B, Ashley) Maddie is finalizing website. Mockup will hopefully be done end of week or next week. Pages will be sent to respective committees to add content. Maddie is working with Phil to get tournament results added to the tournament page. Feedback on social media posts has been good – teams keep content coming.

- HOF/Foundation - (**Brenda**, Kelly T, Brittany) HOF form will go on the new website. Brenda is going to do a writeup about the foundation. Would like to do a push with I'm a Pepper t-shirts.

- Sponsorships (**Ryan K**, Eric, Bob) Had a meeting with JB at The Venue. He was thinking that the Peppers could have a Peppers night or something at the new trampoline park/Crooked Pint. Most of the proceeds would be donated back to the organization. He was thinking that there could be pull tabs at The Venue – could maybe test something there. Crooked Pint could be a tournament sponsor for the Classic and give coupons back. They also have Pizza truck with Green Mill – could set that up at tournaments and give us all the proceeds less the cost of the product. They took sponsorship form and plan to meet on Tuesday and will let us know. Maybe sponsor new Hittrax.

  If anybody knows of a business who would like to sponsor, talk to them. We're looking for sponsors for the buildout (turf, Hittrax, pitching lanes, etc.). Brenda made a new sponsorship form and will send that out on Band.

- Camps/Development - (**JJ**, **Kelly B**, Ryan A, Bob, Jamie) Offseason training opportunities are being worked on.

- Gambling - (**Eric**, Kelly B, JJ, Dan) Megan is finalizing everything and getting paperwork, insurance stuff done.

- Fundraising - Jim showed sample HyVee fundraising card. Sell for $25, should have a discussion on what the kickback will be to player vs. organization. There's currently $110 value on card. All discounts are at HyVee. This will be something that will only be offered to Peppers. Will include Mankato and St. Peter HyVee stores. Jim will make some final revisions and send out soon so we can print. Will look at doing HyVee salt fundraiser again later in the year or early next year – long after hockey is done. HyVee also does frozen cookie dough fundraiser. Also could do a single topping pizza fundraiser. Both fundraisers will make $4-$5 per item. Discussed doing a punch card instead of buying pizzas up front and having them on hand. Peppers will be only group doing that. Jim will send us a list of different options.

Old Business

New Requests- Discussion and voting items

- Committee budgets submitted this month New committees for 2027 plan We need some new board members. Maybe invite them to a board meeting. Committees should start thinking about budgets, they're not due yet but should get thinking about them. Getting financial reports from Katie will be helpful. Hopefully that we'll kill the budget this year.

- Off Season training schedule tentative Construction Update we know we're short. We don't know how short yet but we know we're short. Once we meet with Katie, we'll have a better idea of where things offset. Mckayla Armbruster will work with kids on pitching. Hitting with Megan – Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays with Saturday am catch-up. Catching with Megan – very similar to pitching which is once every other week with work to do at home. Sports psychology will also be offered with Makayla. Maybe do it by team – may do it by age level. She will work with girls on everything sports psychology. This will be done in-season – hopefully once a month. Close to $40K for all of that. Travel will not break even but it will be rebuilt – with all the training, uniforms, facility costs, nonparent coaches, etc. all the new things - $1,200 player fees won't cover that and we knew that. We couldn't increase fees more than what we did. We're trying to build it so families are getting a $8500 value at $1200. We're projecting a loss for travel – but we'll go get it back. Having Jim will be a huge asset to help recoup some losses for travel/tournaments. The hope is that we'll continue to get more families each year when they realize how much of a value they are getting with having hitting/pitching/catching lessons included with fees. Brenda will send out schedules to coaches so that we can get rolling on a schedule. Bethany College girls also want to get involved in lessons. Coaches could still use a night for team practices. The goal is to have players in the facility as much as possible.

Adjournment – Voting Item **Brenda motioned to adjourn meeting, Altmann 2nd, all in favor. Adjourned at 9:04 pm**