

PSGSL
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2020

Attendees:

Board Members:

Scot Howard – Commissioner

David Binder – Assistant Commissioner

Stephen Gomes – Open Division Director

Vicky Harrison – Treasurer

Clay Peterson – Secretary

Team Reps:

Ballers D – Leo V.

Ballers E – Leo V.

Broke Bats – Peter

Crazy Pitches - Vangie

Eagle 501 – Leo N.

Gorillas – Danny

Greyhounds – Billy / Nabil

Orphans – John

PS Heat – Stephenie

Retros – Dennis/Brian T.

Roadrunnerz – Richard

Rounders 2.0 – Jeff

Sandstorm – Nick

Stingers – Steve L.

Tiki Warriors – Antonio

Meeting Minutes:

Clay reviewed the meeting minutes from the Feb 25th meeting. Scot proposed an amendment/addition to the minutes, under Board Elections, that was brought to the Board's attention: "The question was asked if a person needed to be available to be nominated. Vicky and Scot responded yes. A discussion followed and the Board said it would check the ByLaws." By a majority show of hands, the addendum to the meeting minutes was accepted. Stephenie made a motion to accept the minutes. Leo seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Vicky reviewed the treasurer's report. The report showed that because of COVID the league did not incur a lot of the expenses it normally does during a Spring Season, including fields, umpires, Awards Ceremony, and that the league was in "good shape" financially. As such, Vicky motioned the following regarding team and player fees for the upcoming Fall Season: "All team and player fees for the 2020 Fall Season will be waived for those teams and layers that paid for the 2020 Spring Season." Nick proposed an amendment to the motion that during Fall registration, teams and players be given the option to donate their registration fee to the league and that a link or some other mechanism be included with the registration to make it easy to do so. By a majority show of hands, the motion with the amendment giving the option of donating fees to the league was accepted. Steve L. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Peter seconded and the report was accepted.

Spring Season COVID Considerations:

Scot advised that although BLD announced a target opening of June 20th, Palm Springs Youth and Adult softball leagues are still on lockdown until further notice. Based on conversations with City officials and Parks & Rec, the ban will not be lifted on June 18 as originally planned. Scot advised that the City is meeting this week when they might open but, based on discussions with Mayor Koors, and Parks and Rec, it is very unlikely it will be before July 1st. Once the lockdown is lifted, the league will explore available options to begin before Fall, including night games, early morning games, games during the week, etc. It will then present those options to the coaches and managers to see what interest their players may have. The league must abide but the rules set forth by the city, county and governor. A national NAGAAA survey revealed that 60% of leagues wanted to wait before resuming play. Leo N. asked if the league was discussing starting the fall season early versus resuming the current spring season. Scot advised that this year's spring season has concluded.

Back to the Ballpark:

Scot informed the group that USA Softball, one of the league's governing bodies, has published a 20 page document regarding recommendations for resuming play. Although much of the document concerns tournament play, the league will incorporate many of the recommendations provided. For example: No players in the dugout, no sharing of equipment, hand sanitizer in the dugouts, wearing of masks, etc. Note: A copy of this report was provided to all league members on June 11th.

Sponsor Appreciation:

David Binder spoke about Sponsor Appreciation. League sponsors have taken a big hit as a result of the COVID-19 shutdowns. As sponsors reopen the PSGSL members should make a full league wide effort to support our sponsors. David and Scot will forward a list of sponsor information to the league emails as well as social media.

GSWS Update:

Scot informed that the 2020 GSWS in Columbus has been cancelled due to safety concerns regarding the spread of the coronavirus. This also impacts subsequent World Series planned for Dallas in 2021 and Twin Cities in 2022. NAGAAA has decided to move all GSWS back one year so the 2021 GSWS will be in Columbus, followed by Dallas in 2022, and so on. Steve Gomes informed that we will not be submitting ratings to NAGAAA the Spring Season. The board will investigate ratings options for Fall Season and beyond once we resume.

NAGAAA Cup 2021:

Palm Springs will host the NAGAAA Cup in 2021 and the dates being considered are March 26-28 and April 2-4 (Easter Weekend). A lot depends on the actual date selected, including hotel availability, Saguaro Cup 2021, and the dates for both the Coachella and Stage Coach festivals. All sponsors that donated money to the league for NAGAAA Cup have not asked for their money back. Jeff Herman offered the opinion that the holiday weekend may benefit participation.

Special Advisory Committee:

The ByLaws allow the Board to establish special advisory committee. However, Scot requested the league's support in establishing a NAGAAA Cup 2021 Advisory Committee chaired by Vicky Harrison. Scot said that in addition to the time and effort Vicky contributed to the 2020 NAGAAA Cup, her position on the NAGAAA Finance Committee could benefit the league. Plus, this committee would be charged with helping transition the new Treasurer into their role and delegating the many responsibilities Vicky had assumed in the position like maintaining the website, scheduling umpires, etc. By a majority show of hands, the creation of a NAGAAA Cup 2021 Special Advisory Committee chaired by Vicky was supported.

2020 Board Election Results:

Scot Howard was re-elected as PSGSL Commissioner.

Peter Ho was elected PSGSL Treasurer.

Electronic Voting Recap:

Clay spoke about the Voting recap. The Election Runner platform was used for this years Board Elections. The Election Committee consisting of Clay Peterson, David Binder, Brian Thompson and Whitey Whitehurst, had several meetings regarding the processes and selections of the platforms used. The committee also held a Zoom Town Hall Meeting for all candidates to be available for questions. Steve Gomes made a motion that the league use the Election Runner platform going forward for future board elections as well as Hall of Fame voting. Brian T. seconded the motion. Leo N. asked if the time limit be extended for the election. Clay advised that the time limits and terms can be set and adjusted as the parameters are being set up for the election. The motion passed by majority vote.

Hall of Fame Committee:

Steve Gomes gave an update about the 2020 Hall of Fame class. The HOF Committee feels that part of the honor and recognition of being elected to the Hall of Fame is the induction ceremony at the awards banquet. Since we are not having the awards banquet the Hall of Fame Class will be announced and inducted for 2021. All nominees and inductees will roll over to next years class.

Old Business:

Since several teams had fundraisers planned, noting the RoadRunnerz, in Spring that were canceled because of COVID19. Scot asked all teams to send details regarding their rescheduling of new fundraisers team might have planned so that the league can help promote them via the PSGSL website and social media.

New Business:

No new business items were introduced.

Coaches Inquiry Report:

Clay read the Board's official response to the Investigative Committee's findings. The committee found no wrongdoing by Scot Howard regarding John Mulchahey's 5/31 allegations. The Board accepted the findings but noted that the report did not provide counterpoints to the accusations nor did it address the manner in which John made those accusations. The Board's official statement included an appeal to the coaches/managers what, if anything, should be done to address the issue of constant accusations, 23 documented claims over the last 2.5 years, by John.

Scot addressed the group regarding John's broad allegations of Double Standards and Lack of Transparency, and presented 5 counterpoints covering player ejections, sportsmanship, fundraising, player registrations and new player clinics. Details on each of these is included in the John Mulchahey June 2020 Appendix and available upon request via email to the board.

Scot then asked John, "What is it you want?"

John replied, "I want to have coffee with you."

Scot said that was unacceptable and repeated the question, adding he had no desire to have coffee with John without another Board member present. John replied that Scot could bring anyone he wants but wanted to have coffee with him. Scot said he no desire to have coffee with John.

Scot asked the coaches and managers if John's actions was unacceptable behavior. By a majority show of hands, the answer was YES.

Scot asked if the Board should take action to stop the harassment by John. By a majority show of hands, the answer was YES.

Discussion amongst the coaches and managers pursued. Whitey stated that 23 accusations over 2.5 years was unacceptable and had to stop. Both Stephenie and Danny presented examples of unsportsmanlike behavior by John. The discussion progressed to what can and should be done by the Board. Several coaches and managers said that John should be expelled from the league. Steve L. asked if John had ever been formally warned by the Board. The answer was "never formally." Steve L. offered to provide the Board with a formal warning letter issued to a former member of the league for their behavior and actions. Dennis W. asked if John's actions were applicable to the PSGSL Rules. Jeff H. suggested that a formal warning should be given but that didn't need to be the only course of action. The warning could also include a suspension.

The Board stated it would consider all the input and recommendations, review the document being sent by Steve L., and determine a course of action.

THERE WILL BE A BOARD MEETING SET FOR TUESDAY, JULY 7
ON THE ZOOM CHAT PLATFORM

INVITE WILL BE SENT OUT AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE DATE