

April Meeting minutes

April 5, 2017

Board Members

President; Larry Pardi, Present – lpardi@sbcglobal.net

Vice President; Paul Woodland, Present

Treasurer; Tom Marking, Present

Secretary; Roy Willis, Present

Commissioner; Jay (Buzz) Johnson, Present

Members or Affiliates Present

Pat Wagner, Gary Markegard, Jon Japport, Mike Owen, Kent Wills, Doug Waterhouse, Dennis Palmer, Robert Nickell, Brad Golding

Guest Present

Richard Marks representing Arcata Softball teams and players that may be looking for a position with HCSSA.

General Membership Meeting

Items discussed;

- Possibility of Changing Managers meeting to an earlier start time
 - This was addressed in the March 1, 2017 meeting
 - Discussed around moving the monthly Board meeting to 6:00pm from 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month. There was a motion by Gary Markegard to hold the monthly meeting starting at 6:00pm except for the General meeting in April which will remain at 7:00pm. Seconded by Buzz and approved.
- Change waiver due date to the First meeting in May
 - This was addressed in the March 1, 2017 meeting
 - Discussed having Players Wavier forms turned in **before or at** the May 3rd Meeting. The League Constitution requires 14 days before league play starts. This adjustment would allow for the ease and handling of the forms this year. A motion to allow turning in waver at the May 3rd meeting was made by Gary Markegard and seconded by Buzz and approved by the members present. As this does not comply with the existing Constitution it cannot be a blanket change and only applies to this season.
- Discussed the finalizing the 2017 Schedule 3rd draft and some changes to address additional traveling team impacts. A motion to approve the schedule with changes was presented by Paul Woodland and seconded by Gary Markegard, with no further discussion approved by all present. The final Schedule will be on the HCSSA Web page; <http://www.humboldtseiorsoftball.org/home>
- Discussed the lowering eligibility age to players turning 58 in the year. Concerns with too many players under 60 year old per team. Additional discussion around lowering the eligibility age for female players to less than 58, this was tabled for later discussion. A motion by Gary Markegard to allow players 58 years of age or 57 turning 58 during the calendar year to be eligible to play in the league but only allowing two players under the age of 59 turning 60 during the year per team. This motion was seconded by Paul Woodland and approved by all present.

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- Discussed the 2017 season team membership fees. Treasurer Tom Marking presented that the existing fee of \$500 should be adequate for the year. No motions to changes the fee were presented.
- Discussed the outfield 50 foot line and the need for 5 out fielders. Concerns about the potential for collisions between fielders with 5 and also the potential for higher scoring games with only 4 fielders. Discussed the potential for games to run longer and visibility limitation at the CR late games. A motion by Brad Golding to reduce the number of players on the field from 11 to 10. This was seconded by Jay (Buzz) Johnson. The vote of the members present were 3 opposed and 12 for, motion was passed.
- Discussed the potential confusion over when a ball is considered to be on the grass to allow a batter to automatically reach first base. The issue was around if a fielder on an infield play catches the ball off the infield dirt but is carried by their momentum on to the grass. The consensus of members present was that this condition allows a play at first and is **not** an automatic base. Additional concerns about the sizes of the infield dirt at different fields but no conclusion were drawn and the rules stand as written.
- Discussion around the need to speed up the games. One primary concern was associated with the late game at CR but in general the need to move the games along quicker. A proposed 1 and 1 count, where each batter would start with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike was discussed. There was a motion for this but no second, and a straw poll was taken with mixed results. The consensus of those present was the manager could decide during a game to adopt this process if there appears to be a need.

Adjourn General Meeting

April Regular Meeting

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve March meeting minutes was made by Gary Markegard, seconded by Brad Golding, and approved by all present.

Approval of Financial Report

- Tom Marking presented the financial report outlining an ending balance of \$2455.50 which with planned expenses (fields, balls, restrooms, etc.) and the team 2017 fees should cover the season. Tom also discussed the management of the Traveling Team fund with the HCSSA funds for a better understanding of roles and responsibilities. A motion to approve the financial report by Gary Markegard was seconded by Paul Woodland and approved by all present.

Report of Commissioner

- The commissioner reported that he has potential new player and that Pierson should have two. Also remember the player release forms are due by the May meeting. Please get those into the Commissioner.

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Old Business

- Pat Wagner gave an update on the banners he has places around Eureka. Pat found the Banner he had on the Pierson offices on Harris St. had been damaged. Pat reported a second banner has been placed near Walnut St and Hemlock St. Pat reviewed the 14 location he was able to present the 8 ½ X 11 posters around Humboldt County. He request others to get a copy of the posters and place them around the area to better advertise the league and potentially get new players.

New Business

- Tom Marking discussed that this year there a two Traveling teams funds being manage through the HCSSA. It was discussed for the Traveling team sponsors to be able to contribute to softball there need to be an official Association.
- The Commissioner Buzzy contacted the SSUSA to try to determine if there are any direction to help classify a legal wood bat for a wood bat league. The SSUSA does not have any specific requirements for wood bats. The present HCSSA requirement on discusses length and weight not barrel size. Existing requirements are, "Bats shall not be more than 34 inches long and more than 38 ounces in weight..."). As this is a concern of safety Commissioner Buzzy will look into the ASA rules to determine if there are any specific limitations the HCSSA could apply.
- Richard Marks is associated with the softball teams that play in Arcata. He stated is was very interested in our association as many of the Arcata players may be eligible to play with us. They are in the spring season but he will be communicating with the Arcata teams about our league.
- There was a discussion about the availability of the softball we used last year and which type of softball we should be using. Tom Marking be looking into this issue.

Meeting adjourned