

Washington County Senior Softball League

MINUTES

For the 6:30 p.m. league meeting Monday, November 5, 2018, at the Washington County Sheriff's Office Conference Room in Hagerstown, Maryland

League officers in attendance were:

- Theresa Emery, President
- Tim Doyle, Secretary
- Cheryl Gouker, Treasurer
-

League members attending were webmaster Jeff Bean, Tom Hyme, Jimmy Taylor, John W. Rowe, Randy Moffett, Frank Hood, and Frank Emery.

OPENING

Theresa Emery opened her first meeting as league president by thanking everyone who voted in favor of her nomination to be president at the October 15 meeting. In addition, Theresa announced that the league will be preparing a condolence gift for the family of league member Mike Conley whose sister passed away.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the October 15 league meeting were approved as prepared by the leagues immediate past secretary Teresa Emery. Highlights of the October minutes were presented by current secretary Tim Doyle.

BONANZA FUNDRAISER

League member Jimmy Taylor announced that the league Bonanza fundraiser and dinner event has been scheduled for 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, January 26, at the Fairplay Fire hall in Fairplay, Maryland, in Washington County. The fire hall can accommodate 300 people, and 150 tickets are to be sold at \$40 each for two people. Dinner is to include fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, beer and other beverages, and a cupcake desert.

Event organizers Jimmy and Brent Taylor are arranging for temporary liquor and gaming licenses. Plans include 40 small tip jars and one large King Tut tip jar.

Tickets for the Bonanza fundraiser should be available by the next league meeting December 3. Anyone interested in helping with Bonanza activities should contact Jimmy or Brent directly. Fundraiser proceeds will support the purchase and installation of a storage shed for league equipment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Cheryl Gouker presented the league finance report that included a checking account balance of \$1,700.25 and savings account balance of \$5,533.35.

Cheryl reported that six registrations have been received as part of the league's early registration effort for the 2019 season. The treasurer also announced that Terry McCloud won the league's recent Chili Cook-off contest at Halfway County Park. The team of Frank Emery and Marty Reichert won the Chili Cook-off Corn hole Tournament.

SHIRTS, HATS, SPONSORS

Theresa announced plans for a single \$400 sponsor fee to replace the league's previous "tiered" sponsor fee system. Each sponsor is to receive a free team shirt, but the first sponsors to pay their \$400 fee will get a team name and have their logos printed on the front of their teams' shirts.

The names/logos of all sponsors are to be printed on the back of all team shirts. Player numbers would then be printed on the players' shirt sleeves. As in the past, the league's \$50 registration fee will provide each player with a team shirt and hat. Jeff mentioned that the league probably would attract more sponsors if it had a 501(c)3 nonprofit designation.

2019 SEASON

The league's 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday open practice sessions are scheduled to begin April 1, 2019, in Hagerstown City Park. A player registration deadline of April 8 was recommended, but the league will continue to encourage players to submit their registration papers and \$50 payments before March 1. The player draft is scheduled to take place May 1, and games are to begin May 13.

"Everybody should be drafted," Theresa said in reply to questions raised about the league requiring each team to have 14 players. If possible, the 2019 season will include tournament games with teams from the Chambersburg Senior Softball League.

SPRING PRACTICE

It was suggested that new WCSSL players be required to attend a minimum two of the league's April spring practice sessions. Players who don't attend the minimum number of practices would then be kept out of the first round of the player draft.

It was also recommended that the league find a way to obtain as much softball background information as possible regarding the new players in the draft. And because photos of new players are very important to team managers, it was suggested that the league purchase its own digital camera.

Last season's system of allowing team managers to select their assistant managers received positive support and will continue into the 2019 season. Frank Hood said the league's April practice sessions could use a more disciplined activities structure to help managers determine the strengths and weaknesses of the new and continuing players. Voicing a concern about injuries, Frank Hood volunteered to gather pricing options for protection screens that pitchers could use during any and all league batting practice sessions.

RUNNERS FROM HOME

It was moved and seconded that players who are 70 years of age and older should be allowed the option of batting with a substitute runner from home plate. Coaches then must announce before a game starts which players require a substitute “runner from home.”

In addition, it was suggested that a substitute runner should be the person who made the batting team’s last out in the previous inning. All agreed that common sense should be used to curb any abuse of league rules regulating such items as courtesy runners or intentional walks.

COMMITMENTS, REPORTS, SUGGESTIONS

Theresa said she is committed to the league’s full season, to its July picnic, and to its end-of-season tournament, all-star game, and banquet. She also indicated that the league should consider Jeff’s suggestion of hosting a Saturday championship game and picnic instead of a banquet.

Teresa acknowledged Jimmy’s preference for rescheduled full games over six-inning double-headers. And she said the league should consider Jimmy’s plan to replace its eight inning games with nine inning games where each at-bat begins with a one ball and one strike count.

Tom reported that he has purchased the chemicals needed for lining work at the league’s two City Park playing fields. Storm water runoff work by league volunteers awaits tractor availability, Tom said.

Volunteers interested in helping with the league’s website work or with the treasurer’s efforts should contact Jeff or Cheryl directly.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM