

Stone Creek Softball Club

Quarterly Business meeting - March 13, 2024

Call to order - Bill Walby

Bill brought the meeting to order, 57 members checked in.

Approval of minutes completed by Cindy Good.

Mike Miller motioned to approve the previous meetings minutes and Tom Castaldo seconded the motion.

Treasurer's report - Bob Lissau not present / Updates read by Bill Walby

The current cash balance is \$13,000.

The club received a \$400 donation from Nature Coast Financial, VIA Joe Valentine.

The club recently purchased a shed for \$3,500 and a refrigerator for \$1,400.

Commissioner - Gary Johnson

Gary indicated that the team were recently rebalanced with very little movement. There are 5 teams in the running for first place.

Gary thanked all the volunteers including the following:

Umpires, scorekeepers, field maintenance, and all that assist with the ladies division.

In addition, please do not question the umpires and the scorekeeper. They are volunteering their time and doing the best that they can.

Gary brought up that it has been difficult having 4 A players on each team and suggested changing this to 3 A players.

There are 10 regular games left followed by the playoffs.

Field report - Phil Coraci

Phil thanked all the volunteers that continue to assist with the field conditions.

Gene Cross assists weekly with the field conditions, especially with the ladies division.

Thanks to Kruno Boncich for all his assistance with the shelving in the shed.

The outfield grass has Bermuda grass which doesn't grow well in the winter but has recently been fertilized. The field was also sprayed with a liquid herbicide and sprayed for fire ants.

Phil also had the groundskeeper from the golf course look at the field and we are still waiting on answers from the HOA for what Brightview is responsible for.

Clay has been ordered. The plan is to work on tilling and adding material to the infield and the warning track between the current and next season.

Phil met with Kevin from Brightview to try to schedule a date to level and till the track.

The water schedule is constantly being worked on to help with the field.

Old Business:

Second Base and avoiding contact:

Bill opened the floor for discussions:

Runners need to slow down and defense needs to avoid crossing the bag.
Who has the right of way? The runner should always veer to the right and the defense player should not throw through the runner.

Don stated that there is no way to predict where the play will be and that we are not professional. Every player should be responsible and avoid contact.

Larry suggested having more communication with the league to make everyone aware of issues.

This is a non competitive league and everyone should be careful.

This issue is still up for further discussion.

Code of conduct:

We are all responsible for our actions including the treatment of all of our volunteers including our umpires and scorekeeper.

The team Manager is the only person responsible for talking to the umpire and all calls that are judgment calls and should not be questioned.

Umpire training:

Training was held in December and 15 people attended.

Don volunteered to maintain the umpire schedule.

New Business:

Possible rule change regarding number of required A players per team:

Bill opened the floor for discussion:

Gary mentioned that it is sometimes difficult to assign 4 A players per team. This makes some teams unbalanced when there is not a true A player assigned. It was suggested to change it from 4 to 3.

It was brought up that all B players are not equal and that there should be different levels of B players. The issue is to try to give B players more chances to play.

It was also suggested that when teams are missing B players that they should also replace them and each team plays with 13.

Herm Heinle motioned to change this rule and Tony Gurdak seconded the motion.

A vote was held with 25 voting yes and 17 voting no.

The motion was voted on and passed starting in the Summer season to only have 3 required A players per team.

Safety on the field:

Bill asked Tom Castaldo to talk about heart related issues on the field.

Tom stated that there are 3 major symptoms of heart attacks:

- 1) Chest pain, squeezing and pressure / pain in the neck, back and shoulder
- 2) Shortness of breath.
- 3) Sweating

There is also an AED machine located in the pavilion.

Home Plate:

Discussion regarding removing home plate and replacing it with a chalked white line.

This is for safety reasons to avoid collisions and slipping on the bag.

By a show of hands it was unanimous that the chalk line should replace the plate starting with the next game.

Tournament for the 70 and over group:

The tournament is located at Summer Glenn and starts on March 25th at 11:00.

The fence is 250 ft and the bases are 60 ft apart and there are no cones.

Dogs at the field:

It is a community rule that dogs are only allowed in designated areas and should not be brought to the field.

Communication with teams:

Managers are responsible to communicate all meeting information or any updates including the rules to their teams.

News and Welfare:

Safety first. Please use caution and be safe and have fun!

No political discussions at the field.

Please return all ice packs after use. In addition, if you have any to donate please do so.

It was suggested to sign out all ice packs.

Motion to adjourn meeting by George Kaufer and seconded by Jose Abirached.