

**BTBA Meeting Minutes
from Board Meeting
September 25, 2016
Haeg Room, City Hall – 7:00 pm**

**7:00 WELCOME – Mike Steffen
Attendance/Introductions**

In attendance at the meeting:

Mike Steffen
Aaron Dean
Kristi Wesolowski
Maggie Johnson
Dan Cagley
Bill Shermak
Brian Carter
Mark Scott
Mike Doyle
Drew Barns
Guest Presenter - Greg Westendorf

**7:05 Special Guest Speaker - Greg Westendorf
Positive Coaching Alliance**

The Bloomington Softball Federation uses the Positive Coaching Alliance and BTBA is looking at how this could work for us. The alliance is used to train coaches, offers better ways to train players and offers better ways to communicate to parents.

The overriding philosophy is that:

Players = Play
Coaches = Coach
Parents = Parent

If you sign on to use the PCA, you are assigned a rep.

PCA teaches respect above all else, to all groups - coaches, players and parents. And teaches respect for the following:

R = Rules
O = Opponents
O = Officials
T = Teammates
S = Self

They also focus on the ELM tree philosophy:

E = Effort
L = Learning
M = Mistakes

More information is available at www.positivecoach.org

Offers mentoring tips - working on teaching how deal when things go wrong, when plays go wrong, when games go wrong,

PCA also offers tournaments and concussion testing training and other coaching.
THANKS GREG for all the information.

Next Steps for BTBA:

As we dive into survey follow up and team prep for next year, we will work with PCA on adapting different philosophies.

7:20 Parent/Player Survey Results – Mike Steffen, Bill Shermak, Jim Peterson

Surveys are in and results have been tabulated; we will discuss the findings and determine best routes for addressing issues and themes that were recurring in the survey. Positive Coaching Alliance will be part of our survey action items.

170 parent/players returned the surveys

Mostly positive feedback - 85% of those returning the survey indicated that they would participate again in 2017.

We did receive feedback on coaches that we would like to share in a two prong way:

1. Individual with certain coaches to address very specific issues and concerns.
Offer ways to train and work to improve
2. Larger scope meeting for coaches, assistant coaches and those possibly interested in coaching to discuss philosophies, mentoring opportunities, etc.

This is where PCA would come into play.

Jim Peterson, Mike Steffen, Bill Shermak will get together and review the results and determine how much to share with the whole group. A broad summary of our action steps will be posted on the website as a follow up to the survey.

This will be on the agenda for the next meeting as well and we will continue to discuss and work on coach/asst coach leadership training and discussions.

7:35 Forecasting Teams for Next Year – Mike Steffen Numbers/Teams per age group Reports to MBL

As we move into tournament planning, and for meetings Drew needs to attend in November, we do need to start forecasting how many teams we will have at each grade level. As of now, here are the numbers we determined:

15U - 1 (AA)

14U - 2 teams (AAA/A)

13U - 2 (AAA/A)
12U - 3 teams (AAA/AA/A)
11U - 3 teams (AAA/AA/A)
10U - 4 teams (AAA - need to decide if we will have two AA or two single A)

Notes from this year included that we should NOT put just 10 kids on a team again, minimum of 11 and that we will NOT field a 8U/9U team, they will play as 10U's like we have done in past years.

7:45 2017 Tournaments – Drew Barns, Kristi Wesolowski, Mike Steffen

What tournaments will we host next year

What tournaments will we participate in next year

Timeline for decisions and registering

Drew will start meeting with MBL in November to start determining tournament offerings and to start determining what tournaments we will participate in.

Using our forecasts from above, we also need to determine what tournaments we will host and offer. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

7:55 BTBA Budget – Bill Shermak, Mike Steffen

Developing a budget/guidelines

Costs and Expenses - What is static, what is flexible, what is open for discussion

Developing budget information for the website – creating transparency for our members so they know how their dues are being spent.

Bill Shermak presented a complete budget. Goals for the budget include breaking it down into more specific line items, developing a high level sheet that can be posted on the website and reviewing the budget as a standard part of all meetings.

As we move forward, we discussed possibly getting a CPA to help develop a more detailed budget although the proper software would help us split/divide and prep sheets for the IRS.

We also discussed trying to build a safety net.

We should develop a budget - analyze costs, determine what we need to spend funds on, develop a listing for the website that shows what percentage of the fees goes to what parts of the budget.

8:10 BTBA By-Laws – Aaron Dean, Kristi Wesolowski

What are by-laws?

What needs to be done with ours?

Aaron is working on the first draft which he will have at the next meeting. There is much in the "current bylaws" - the most recent copy we could find was from 1996 - that is obsolete and no longer applicable. In addition, there are things that should be added to the bylaws that currently are not included.

Things to be added:

1. Spending allowance outside of the budget, what can be spent without board approval
2. Player requirements - ages, living situations, etc.
3. Review coaching/assistant coaching content

8:20 Updates and Other News

Tryout Dates for 2017 – Mike Steffen

Tryout dates have been set for March 25 and 26, 2017 at Jefferson Activity Center

Partnership with Pitch to Pitch

Much progress has been made on an exciting partnership with Pitch to Pitch.

Bloomington would offer field space at Hrbek/Dred for Pitch to Pitch fall leagues in exchange for coaching clinics and player space for winter training at Pitch to Pitch locations.

Pitch to Pitch is also possibly interested in some infrastructure work on the fields.

This is a multi-year deal that would also provide kickbacks from Pitch to Pitch; City of Bloomington is on board and participating in discussion.s

Update on training dates at Kennedy and Jefferson – Mike Steffan

Kennedy training dates are all set for Sunday nights; age group definitions will be made so all players get the most out of training sessions.

Jefferson dates not set yet, having trouble getting contact back to set dates - hope to have by next meeting. We will get all dates posted on the website as soon as we have them. Then can start promoting for next year.

Cooperstown Updates

Team tryout was held on Saturday, Sept. 24. 23 kids tried out and 13 were chosen for the team. All have been informed. Jim Peterson will be the head coach. We are able to cover them under our insurance as they are a branch of BTBA - covered under our 501c3.

Uniform Updates

Mark Scott and Brian Carter have started discussions with Lori at JBL, she is working on a new design for jerseys and they are evaluating pants, especially after sizing issues we had last year. May have a design by our next meeting.

Setting Next Meeting Date

NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting - Oct. 23, 7 pm in the Haeg Room at Bloomington City Hall

Follow Up Items and New Items for the agenda:

Dave Rau, Bloomington Softball Presentation on Fundraising
Follow Up Discussion on Team Forecasting
Follow Up Discussion on Tournaments
By-Laws
Follow Up Discussion on PCA - where do we go next
Tournaments - Evaluating our own tourneys, tourneys our teams will participate in
during 2017
Budgets - Next Step/Updates
Surveys - Next Steps/Updates

SEE YOU ON OCTOBER 23!