



BTBA Board: January Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2019 – 7pm
Bloomington City Hall – Haeg Room

Agenda Items:

7pm – Call to Order – Jim Peterson

1. Welcome
2. Approve Minutes from Nov 4 & Dec 2 Board meetings
3. Executive Committee Update
4. Assistant Field Coordinator

7:10 – “Vote Yes” initiative for Bloomington Sports Facilities – George Bender

7:15 – Registration Update – Jim Peterson & Robert Chamberlain

7:20 – Treasurer’s Report – Robert Chamberlain

7:25 – Scholarship Discussion – Jim Peterson & Robert Chamberlain

7:30 – Legal Report – Aaron Dean

1. IRS Update

7:35 – 2019 Paid Coaches (13U & 14U) Discussion

7:55 – Tournament Committee Update – Jodi Syrjamaki

1. Assistant Tournament Director Update
2. Tournament Scheduling Update
3. 14/15A Tournaments

8:05 – 2019 Field Crew Planning – Austin Hamilton

1. Review of the 2018 season

8:10 – Winter Workouts (High Schools & P2P) Update

8:15 – Committee Updates:

1. Player & Coach Development – Scott Nelson
2. Tryout Committee – Corey Vucinovich
3. Communications Committee – Jean Gonzalez
4. Hrbek Improvements – George Bender
5. Fundraising Committee – Currently Suspended

8:25 – New Business/Public Comment Period

1. Discuss Announcing Baseball365 Bat Demo Day on 1/26/19

8:30 – Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 17, 2019 at 7pm

Attendees:

BTBA Board Members Present:

Jim Peterson – President
George Bender – Secretary
Aaron Dean – Legal Council
Jodi Syrjamaki – Tournament Director
Scott Nelson
Adam Brown
Jean Gonzalez
Corey Vucinovich
Scott King
Brian Carter
Austin Hamilton
Justin Remsbottom

BTBA Board Members Absent:

Drew Squires, Robert Chamberlain, John Coady, Ryan Schilling

BTBA Membership Present: 10 members present

The January Board meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Jim Peterson.

- Jim introduced Justin Remsbottom and indicated Justin had agreed to fulfill the role of Assistant Tournament Director. Jim Peterson motioned to add Justin Remsbottom to the BTBA Board and the motion was seconded by Scott Nelson. The motion passed unanimously.
- The paid coaches update was moved up on the agenda for the benefit of the membership present. Scott Nelson had followed up with Starters and Pitch2Pitch and provided an update. Starters agreed to provide a coaching clinics at no charge and P2P wanted a \$2000 fee for the same service. Starters also agreed to have the 13AAA & 14AAA coaches host at no additional cost some shared practices for the 13U & 14U age levels. Starters will also host a practice for the 10U, 11U, & 12U age levels at no additional cost at the Hrbek week from 6-10pm every 2-3 weeks as can be worked into the schedule. A total cost of \$10,000 would be paid to Starters for 4 coaches. The coaches would stay with the players for a 2-year cycle if it worked out. Ryan Schwartzman of Starters is in the process of moving to Bloomington. Starters is waiting for a go-ahead from BTBA to begin working on selecting coaches. Starters indicated a typical charge for a head coach from their program is \$6,000 per coach per season. Starters is also going to coach the Jr & Sr Legion Blue teams this season. Starters could be asked to visit a future Board meeting to further discuss the proposal if needed. BTBA would pay Starters directly for these service in lieu of paying the coaches. Hence there wouldn't be ancillary costs such as taxes, insurance, & unemployment. Starters would need to sign an agreement that lists out the agreed upon terms. Future discussions could include the possibility of utilizing the Starters facility for team practices.

- Aaron Dean indicated the Board has been discussing looking at the possibility of lowering fees in upcoming seasons. Aaron Dean also requested the vote regarding this topic be a fully recorded vote. The 15U program was discussed for the upcoming season. It still appears there will not be a team at the 15U AAA level. Hence, the \$3,000 budgeted for the 15U AAA level would be available to use for the paid coaches at 13AAA & 14AAA. Aaron Dean was in favor of the coaches being provided by Starters but felt it was appropriate for the families of the players that make those teams to bear the financial responsibility of the obligation due to directly benefiting from the arrangement – rather than BTBA paying for or contributing to payment of the cost associated with the agreement.
- A discussion followed for BTBA to commit the \$3,000 to the paid coaches and for the parents of the players that make the 13AAA & 14AAA teams to contribute an even amount to make up the remaining \$7,000 of cost.
- Adam Brown commented on the benefits to incoming coaches and indicated he was for the proposal.
- Justin Remsbottom commented on the benefits to volunteer coaches as a primary benefit.
- George Bender commented he felt it should be an even split between BTBA and the parents of the players making the teams in order to make it more fair to those families. He indicated he would make another motion proposing a 50/50 split if the original motion did not pass.
- Scott Nelson motioned to adopt the agreed upon program with Starters for \$10,000 for 4 paid coaches, 2-3 coaches clinics, 13U and 14U age level practices, and a minimum of three 10U, 11U, & 12U age level practices and Bryan Carter seconded the motion.
- Jim Peterson voted For the motion
- Adam Brown voted For the motion
- Austin Hamilton voted For the motion
- Jodi Syrjamaki voted For the motion
- Scott King voted For the motion
- Scott Nelson voted For the motion
- George Bender voted Against the motion
- Bryan Carter voted For the motion
- Corey Vucinovich voted For the motion
- Jean Gonzalez voted For the motion
- Aaron Dean voted Against the motion
- Justin Remsbottom voted For the motion

The motion passed 10-2.

- Membership in attendance requested accountability regarding this program for fulfilling the agreed upon terms. Membership also requested the Board's perspective regarding players taking individual lessons at Starters with the proposed incoming coaches. The majority of the Board found this agreeable because the names of the coaches may not be known to everyone and a session could be scheduled without knowledge of the potential conflict.

Presidents Update

- Jim Peterson read aloud a letter BTBA has received from a BTBA player (Ray Jones) requesting more out-of-state tournaments be scheduled and his reasoning for why it should be considered.
- The minutes from the November 4, 2018 & December 2, 2018 were considered for approval. Bryan Carter motioned to approve the minutes and Corey Vucinovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Update:

- MBL is planning to limit the amount of adults in the dugout area for the upcoming season to 4 adults (3 coaches and 1 scorekeeper).
- MBL is changing the 15U program to a 14 game season in lieu of 16 games.
- MBL is planning to keep the change made last season to have the 14U level utilize continuous batting and unlimited substitutions.
- Heather Bartfield has agreed to be the Field Coordinator again for the 2019 season.
- BTBA is still seeking an Assistant Field Coordinator.

- George Bender presented an update on the 'Vote Yes' initiative to create and promote a referendum on the next voting cycle to provide funding to maintain and enhance sporting facilities and facilities for other activities within Bloomington. George Bender, Scott King, & Jean Gonzalez represented BTBA by attending the initial meeting with the City and other sporting programs within Bloomington.
- Following a discussion on the topic, George Bender motioned to express interest to the committee in the city-wide campaign and potentially contribute seed funding in the future to help provide the necessary resources for voting success. Bryan Carter seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Robert Chamberlain was unable to attend this meeting as he was under the weather. The treasurer's report was tabled to the next meeting. This included registration update and a follow-up discussion related to Board guidance on the scholarship program and a potential cap.

Legal Update

- The IRS is still seeking to follow-up on BTBA's 2011 filed taxes. The original meeting date had to be postponed and the next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 25.

Tournament Committee Update:

- Gopher State bids were received for all age levels and divisions except for 11AAA, 11AA, 12AA, & 14AAA.
- All teams have been registered for away tournaments.
- 148 of 180 spots for the tournaments BTBA hosts in Bloomington have been filled.
- Work for the production of the Tournament Coordinator books is next on that task list.
- Jodi Syrjamaki requested a lockbox at Hrbek to house a key to get into the closet used for tournament materials.

- BTBA was requested to host the 14AA State Tournament for Gopher State. BTBA declined the offer due to lack of appropriately sized fields available for the 14U age level.
- BTBA registered for two 14A/15A teams but have only paid for one to date. A discussion on this topic ensued and it was determined to pay for the second team because it was felt there would be enough players to participate.
- Jodi Syrjamaki to prove a list of the scheduled away tournaments for posting to the website.

Field Crew Update

- Austin Hamilton indicated 5 young adults had expressed interest in working on the field crew in 2019. Additional personnel is needed. Todd Fortner has agreed to be a worker for the upcoming season. John Kern has indicated he will have very limited availability to work for the field crew in the 2019 season. It was decided to advertise through social media to try to obtain additional help.

Umpiring Update

- Jim Peterson is planning to schedule a meeting with John Meacham (BT Umpires) & Grant Garland (Supervisor for BAA Umpires) to find ways to get new umpires in the young adult age range.

Winter Workouts Update

- George Bender indicated ~25 players have been routinely participating in the workouts with Pitch2Pitch and generally it appears to be going well. The kids are having fun for the most part.
- It was also indicated that there was ~50 players at the training opportunity hosted at Kennedy this evening.

Committee Reports

- Player and Coach Development – There have been 3 coaching applications submitted to date. It was decided to utilize social media to attempt to get more applications in. Typically, the number of applicants goes up significantly as the season gets closer.
- Tryouts - The lower pitch speeds used last year will likely be raised to challenge the hitters more and differentiate between the players. The grounders will also need to be hit a little harder. The plan is for the tryouts to be hosted over 1 day again this year but 2 days are still being communicated and scheduled just in case a second day is necessary.
- Communications – Jim Peterson would like Instagram to be utilized during the upcoming season to facilitate players being more involved. George Bender will forward an email to Jean Gonzalez regarding the bat day coming up which will be hosted by Baseball 365.
- Equipment - ~\$15,000 was spent last season on new equipment. The proposed budget for the needed equipment is around \$7,000. The bases at Hrbek this year are planned to utilize permanent base spikes.

- George Bender motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bryan Carter seconded the motion.
- The next Board meeting will be held on February 17, 2019 at 7pm at City Hall.