

Vintage Softball Club

Board of Directors Meeting

March 5, 2019

Attendees:

Officers

Jeff Greenberg, President
Mark Loveless, Vice President
Larry Murchison, Secretary- Absent
Don Shrank, Treasurer



Directors

Chris Milosovich
Brian Adams- absent
Mike Friedman
John Cawley- absent
Rob Gelphman

Commissioners

Tom Simpson, Fun league
Lou Silver, Saturday league
Jack Boniface, Tuesday/Thursday leagues

General Counsel

Allen Baden - Absent

President's Comments

The club would like to welcome new members **Rafael de la Cruz** and **Tony Rodriguez**, plus returning players **Steven Payne** and **Bob Mandell**.

It's time for the weeknight league! Starting **April 1, we will begin playing on Monday nights at Hamann Park**. Blain Thomas will be the commissioner of the league. The weeknight games are more low-key but always fun. All club members are invited to play, at no extra cost, plus you have an opportunity to meet new players. Please let Blain or me know of your interest in playing this year.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Board approved the January Board minutes, posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved.

Rules Committee Report

Rules Committee Reminders

Too many pitchers are still getting hit by batted balls.

The pitcher must pitch from the pitcher's box, depicted on page 81 in the 2017-2018 SSUSA Handbook (www.vintagesoftball.org), with this caveat: the Vintage box shall be three-feet wide and extends from 50-feet to 60-feet from home plate. The screen may be placed four feet in front of the 50-foot pitcher's box, or anywhere within the box, as long as the pitcher pitches from behind the screen. The screen must protect at least half of the pitcher's rubber, in order to ensure that the pitcher is protected while he/she is in the pitcher's box. **Thus, a pitcher must pitch within 18-inches of a line from home plate to second base, in that 50-60 foot "box."** After release of a pitch the pitcher must be in a position that s/he can quickly/easily move behind the screen to avoid being hit by a batted ball.

Rule 3.6 Gloves

Gloves may be worn by any player, but mitts may only be used by the catcher and first baseman. **Thus, a first baseman's mitt may NOT be used in the field in any position other than 1B and Catcher.**

We expect the managers to make sure pitchers are in compliance with these rules! However, these rules do not apply to the Fun League.



Old Business:

2019 Roster

We have 187 members signed up for this year, about 30 below last year's level, but we still have about 20 people injured/yet to return and expect some new players to still join the club. Our membership has been stable overall for the last several years, but we would like to minimize the churn to just get back to the same levels by aggressively recruiting new players. We will probably have an emphasis on younger new members (who will then be playing for a long time), and who most likely play on Saturdays.

The board discussed offering an incentive to entice club members to refer others to join the league. Rob Gelphman is preparing a plan for the Board to review and approve.

Separately, Mark Loveless will contact the Redwood City Seniors Club to determine whether any members have interest in playing on Saturdays, since their league does not have Saturday games.



New Business: Fields

We made major progress in our survey of potential fields to play on, for both weekday and weekend games. The committee led by Tim Town, who is our fields coordinator, along with board members Rob Gelphman and Brian Adams, reviewed and identified 20+ potential fields, across San Jose, Campbell, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Milpitas and Mountain View, rating them based on suitability and availability.

The conclusion is that for weekday play, we have lots of options but our current fields represent the best combination of quality and price. Still to be determined are the new fields being built by Eastridge mall, as they won't be ready until year-end, and pricing and availability have yet to be specified.

As for Saturday alternatives, given the competition from soccer and little leagues, those are fewer and appear to be far costlier than our current situation. We can compete for those fields, but more research is needed- however, we must prepare for the time when the current Moffett fields may be torn down. Next steps include: utilizing Eastridge fields, partnering with the city to upgrade and maintain fields at Columbus in exchange for priority Vintage usage, looking at corporate fields, exploring local colleges (i.e., Mission, DeAnza, Foothill), and continuing to work with NASA on any new fields being built at Moffett. Suggestions for Saturday options are definitely welcomed!

Marketing/Recruiting

Rob Gelphman presented a marketing plan for the club, focused on recruiting new members. He created a wide-ranging list of actions we can take over time, but have decided to initially focus on two: an incentive and contest to recruit your friends, family and co-workers, and having Vintage sponsor a tournament to both build out our brand and recruit new players.

The plan is still being worked on but expect more on this in the coming weeks.

San Jose Giants Game

We will be hosting our annual evening at the San Jose Giants, in the picnic area this year. Tentatively, the event will be held on June 30. This is always a fun event, so bring your entire family. Details will be provided as we get closer to the date, but for now mark your calendars.

Weekday Night League

The Weekday Night League will be on Monday evenings at Hamann Park. Games will start on April 1 and run through August 26. This year, we will *place all interested parties on two teams in order to create more of a competition and commitment to attend.* **Blain Thomas** has generously agreed to be the league commissioner. Please let Blain or me know of your interest in playing in the night league so we can have a full list of players. A formal sign up will also be issued shortly.

Ball/Shirts/Caps

After reviewing our inventory, we determined we have enough shirts for the year. We also have 6 dozen balls, with our annual order of 45 dozen coming in next month. A new cap order will be made.

Future Meeting Sites

The Board agreed to continue meeting at the Santa Clara Senior Center.



League Commissioner's Reports:

Fun League

Due to the weather we've only played a few times recently, but had 31 at our most recent game. In honor of Jessie Jessup, the Fun League's Sportsmanship Award has been renamed the Jessie Jessup Sportsmanship Award. Jessie was also honored at a special service at his church, well attended by the Vintage family.

Tuesday/Thursday Leagues

Many thanks to those who "stepped up and offered to coach" so that we could field nine Weekday teams. New coaches are: Kent Gaynor, James Montoya, Tim Town, John Baker, Jeff Greenberg and Tony Trebaol.

Players are reminded to help out with field preparation, whenever possible. When the burden is shared, there is less work for each person. If you are watching the coaches do all the field prep, then it is time to get involved. Put out the bases, set up the scoreboard or home plate, place the cones, chalk the baselines, and help take everything down after the games.....we can all participate in having a great time playing softball, without leaving all the work to the coaches.

Saturday League

A new six team season is waiting for the rains to stop so we can start playing.

The Board voted to adjourn at 9:00PM, PST. The next meeting will be held May 7.



Please visit our web site at: <http://www.vintagesoftball.org/>

The Goal of Vintage is to have **FUN**, be **FAIR** and play **SAFE**