

# Vintage Softball Club

## Board of Directors Meeting

### May 04, 2021

#### **Attendees:**

#### **Officers:**

Jeff Greenberg, President  
Mark Loveless, VP ← Absent  
Mike Friedman, Secretary  
Don Shrank, Treasurer



#### **Directors:**

Kent Gaynor  
Chris Milosovich  
Jeff Hacker  
Jim Palte  
Rob Gelpman

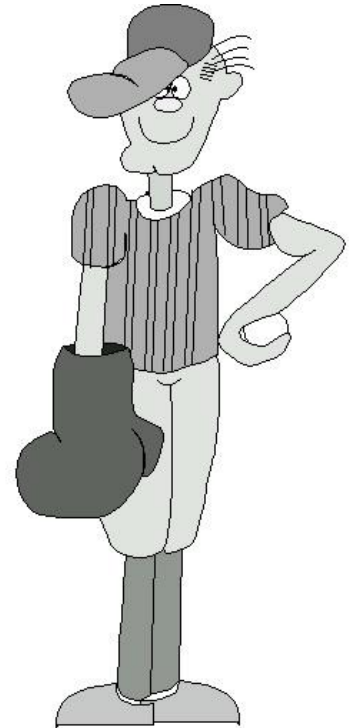
#### **Commissioners:**

John Leong, Fun league  
Lou Silver, Saturday league  
Jack Boniface, Tuesday/Thursday leagues ← Absent

## **President's Comments:**

We're back! Vintage re-opened in the beginning of April, and all leagues have been up and running for four-plus weeks. We have instituted safety protocols to ensure everyone stays healthy that can be found on our website. Thanks to everyone so far for making the return a fun and safe one!

We also have seen a record number of new players- 25 since February! The new players are across all of our leagues, and membership is higher than it's been in several years. But we have room to grow further, so keep inviting your friends and family to join!



## **New Members:**

WELCOME to TWENTY-ONE new club members since our last Board meeting in March!!! **Jason Faria, John Burchfiel, Baldemar Gil, Drew Lavery, Dan Ickert, David Wong, Rick Wong, Ilisa Kim, Norman Pestana, Philip Haseltine, Mark Myers, Alex Mordwinow, Dina Kennedy, Joanna Maston, Gary Serbent, Mike Kinsella, Bruce Harrison, Marc Haberman, Dave Brown, Manuel Melchor, Robert Mogyorossy.**

## **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The Board approved the March 2021 Board meeting minutes that are posted on our website.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

After limited expenditures in the past year, expenses, especially for fields are starting to come in. Between a credit from last year's field costs of \$2500, plus the recent increase in membership (influx of \$), we have more than covered this increase through April.

The Board approved the report.

## Rules Committee Report:

- A long discussion was held around pitching screens and the fact that they are not being used properly to ensure safety, with 2 pitchers being hit by batted balls this past Saturday. The purpose of the screen is to protect pitchers from hard hit balls up the middle that could result in bodily harm, not to provide another defensive position in the field:-}

Any player who sees an unsafe placement or usage of the screens should bring it to the pitcher's attention.

The Pitcher's Protection section from the Vintage handbook is included at the end of these minutes.



## Old Business:

- **Re-Opening:** Our re-opening has gone very smoothly. KUDOS to the league commissioners *Jack Boniface, John Leong and Lou Silver* for enabling a quick and efficient start ... putting teams together, balancing teams, getting schedules published, and just dealing with the many issues and questions from the membership!
- **Future fields:**
  - Arcadia is not yet available (and they are not yet able to provide us with an estimated date), so we are looking into Paul Moore and Starbird for a second field on Tuesdays/Thursdays to replace DeAnza.
  - On Saturdays we will move to Greer in Palo Alto for June and July to evaluate those fields in comparison to Starbird (note that Greer fields are right off 101, just another 7 minutes past Moffett). With 2 co-located fields we will be able to replace the 2pm games with a second morning game. There is a significant difference in price between renting San Jose fields vs Palo Alto (~ \$8K per year) which would dictate an increase in yearly dues for Saturday players.

- Utilizing Columbus is not a near term option; however, the club is continuing talks with SJ. We would not move forward unless the field condition issues are resolved.
- We continue to evaluate other options for Saturdays, including Campbell. Competition for fields on Saturdays is VERY HIGH, with little leagues, girls' softball and soccer groups all vying for the same fields. Plus, weekend costs are 5-10x higher.



## **New Business:**

- **2021 Budget:**

The final fiscal 2020 and new 2021 budgets were reviewed (the club's financial year goes from October through September). 2020 was obviously an unusual year with the pandemic halting play. We took in most of our revenue (\$17k) but with substantially fewer expenses (\$8k) so that we made just over \$9000 last year through September.

For fiscal 2021, we have completed the first seven months and the budget reflects the remaining 5 months. Going forward our major expense will be fields. Mise is \$15/hour, DeAnza/Hamman/Starbird \$4/hour. Arcadia will be \$17/hour. The PA fields will be ~ \$30/hour.

In our previous full year, we paid \$7k for fields. Using PA fields will increase our expenses \$8K (more than double), and switching to Arcadia from DeAnza will cost an incremental \$4k annually. For this year, the Board agreed to subsidize those costs but depending on the final field configurations, dues for 2022 may need to increase.

We don't expect to need to purchase shirts, hats or balls for 2021.

We would like to investigate upgrades to our website to improve search hits / make it easier for people (new members) to find us.

As of now, we are keeping the dollars for a picnic in the budget and will revisit in the July board meeting the viability of holding that event as well as the annual holiday party.

The 2021 budget was approved.

- **Shirts, Balls and Hats:** We should have sufficient supply for this calendar year. Note: Our budget is for ONE new ball per doubleheader.



### League Commissioner's Reports:

- **Fun League:** Commissioner John Leong has instituted a reservation system where people can request to play in the early game, the late game or both games. With that information John sets up teams and sends out that information the night before the games. Typically, two 6 inning games are played. Approximately 35 people per day are attending with up to 24 people per game, substantially higher attendance than pre-COVID.
- **Weeknight League:** THANKS to *Steve Maranon* for performing commissioner duties. About 32-34 people have indicated interest in playing week nights but after a strong start only 15 people attended the 5/3/21 game. So come on out, even if you haven't expressed interest- the weeknight league is free for all club members (except those only playing on weeknights). Through May we are rotating Mondays and Tuesdays each week, due to field availability. Because of visibility issues we will look into the possibility of changing the field; however, week night demand for fields is high and we don't have as much flexibility as we do on week days.
- **Saturday League:** Games have been at Starbird field, which after being mowed has proven to be a decent venue. People have indicated that the second game of each doubleheader is too short. Possible solutions might be playing one or both games with a 1-1 count and moving the 9am start to an earlier time (8:30?).
- **Tue/Thu Leagues:** Working well overall. We were able to add a fourth team on Tuesdays, eliminating the bye week. On Thursdays, the numbers indicate that we may be able to support a fifth team. We have one volunteer to be a manager, but need one more co-manager.

The Board voted to adjourn at 9:10 PM, PST

The next meeting will be held July 7, 2021.



From the Vintage Handbook

- **Pitcher's Protection**

The pitching screen shall be used in all Vintage softball games. The following rules apply except for the Fun League, which has its own set of pitching screen rules. The screen shall be positioned so that the pitcher is protected on a ball hit "up the middle." The pitcher may pitch the ball over the screen, or on either side of the screen. If not pitching from directly behind the screen, right-handed pitchers must release the ball from the right side of the screen, and left-handed pitchers must release the ball from the left side of the screen. The pitcher must pitch from the pitcher's box, depicted on page 81 in the 2017-2018 SSUSA Handbook ([www.vintagesoftball.org](http://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 when placed in front of the rubber, in order to ensure that the pitcher is protected while he/she is in the pitcher's box. A batted ball that hits the screen will be considered the same as any foul ball. Thus, if batters have two strikes on them, and they subsequently hit the screen with a batted ball, the resulting "foul" will be considered the same as any two-strike foul....a strike out. If batters starts with a "one-and-one" count and thus has a "free foul" once they have two strikes, they have the same benefit as our present rule allows: with two strikes they can hit the screen one time without being called out. Hit balls that in any way touch the screen or its support structure are treated as foul balls. Thrown balls that hit the screen are in play



Please visit our web site at: <http://www.vintagesoftball.org>  
The Goal of Vintage is to have **FUN**, be **FAIR** and play **SAFE**