



Guelph Minor Baseball Association Inc.

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Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday February 4th, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Meeting was held virtually, using Google Meet video conferencing.

Present: Jeff Hoffman, Stefanie Mocuik, Ryan Herron, Iain Durk, Jill Gillis, Adam Fanjoy, Erik Tremblay, Kirk McNabb, Rob Robinson, Dave Shapka

Absent: Heather MacPherson, Donato Dibucchianico

Approval of the Feb 4th Agenda

Ryan to add discussion on PRC at the end

Moved by Erik, Seconded by Adam. Motion approved

Approval of the January 7th meeting minutes

Moved by Jill, Seconded Adam by. Motion approved

Declaration of Conflicts

None

Motion: Motion to move meeting In Camera was moved by Jeff, Seconded by Adam.

Motion Carried

---- In Camera ---

--- Out of Camera ---

House League Committee Update

Adam provided an update from the House League Committee

- Rule book modernization is in progress, expects to bring revised Rule book to the board for review in March.

Registration Update

Adam provided an update on the registration process

- Plan for registrations
 - House League committee meets next week

- After the committee meeting, a soft open for families with carry over credits from last year will happen
- Full Registration open on Family Day – Feb 15th
- Promotional activities are planned for the registration, including Social Media, Email Blasts, Radio Station Advertising
- Advertising will highlight new enhancements for this year, including
 - Additional training for House League Players
 - Players can select their Jersey #
 - New Equipment
 - All games and practices on city diamonds.

Capital Projects

Adam provided an update on the capital projects initiatives currently being evaluated. They are segregated into 3 streams

Partnering with the City

- Eramosa fence extension
- Improving diamonds for younger age groups with designated dugout areas/fencing
- Howitt fence extension
- Pearson dugout covering.

Requests to the city.

- Addressing identified safety issues at diamonds
- Norm Jary infield extension

GMBA funded

- New training facility proposal
 - Kirk discussed a domed facility on Woodlawn road being reviewed
 - Viewed a Farley group facility in December with Jeff & Steve Marshall.
 - Facility has about 80'x100' available to use by GMBA
 - Only have access from Nov to April as used for storage during summer.
 - Would need investment in flooring and netting to be usable for baseball.
 - Feedback after viewing it was different from initial conversation
 - GMBA needs to continue evaluating to ensure it would be feasible.

Ryan asked if this is the year to approach the city about dugout improvements as Covid-19 separation rules will likely still be in place.

Adam noted we would still approach the city to ensure they are aware of the concern.

Jeff asked about the Eramosa 1 diamond and the issue with balls flying into the water plant. Action: Adam to add extra netting on Eramosa 1 diamond to the list.

Umpires

Adam provided an update on umpire registration

- Registration is open on the GMBA website.
- Umpires must pay for their own clinics
- Level 1 & 2 Register and pay through GMBA
- Level 3, 4 & 5 Register and pay through Baseball Ontario.
- Hoping for some returning umpires, lost 30% more than expected last year.
- Email blast will be sent out to the organization.

Kirk: Do all umpires start at Level 1. Would we consider paying for level 1s if we are short umpires?

Adam: We would consider, but it is an extra cost to the organization, and we have traditionally strong enrollment in the umpire program.

Jeff noted that if it becomes needed, we could find the funding.

ICBA Update

Stefanie provided the ICBA update

- Teams/Divisions:
 - 134 teams in ICBA at this time. May be some changes yet with interlock partners.
 - There will not be an 8U T2 loop. Corey Brown is interested in playing in 8U T1 loop.
 - Niagara will be joining at 13U and 14U T1. Both our teams were in favour. They will play their home games on a Sunday.
 - All divisions 12U and up are moving to a series-style playoff. 11U and below will continue with traditional tournament style playoffs.
 - We are responsible for convening 9U T2, 14U T1 and 14U T2. Let Vicki Marshall know if anyone is interested in convening.
- Decision was made to continue with collection of proof of age documents for this year
- Looking at potentially moving to the use of TeamSnap for the website. Currently getting quotes. Will likely trial a sample division this year and then go live with everything next season if successful.
- OBA Rule Changes approved at the Jan. 24 meeting can be found [here](#)

Rep Rule Changes

Stefanie walked the board through all of the proposed Rep rule book changes that were provided in the preparation material.

Outlined below are the key sections where discussion occurred.

Section: General Rules 2.2

- Discussion focused on proposed late fees

- Rep currently has 1 unregistered player and 8 non payments as of this meeting
- GMBA has communicated multiple times with the families and they have not responded.
- Jeff mentioned a \$50 fee was discussed at the executive level.
- Iain noted that the Finance Committee discussed the structure and recommends a percentage instead of a fixed amount to ensure they are proportionate with the registration fees.
- Adam noted that a fixed \$ amount is preferable as it is consistent and this is not an increase in the fee, it is a punitive charge for late payment.
- Kirk is in agreement, noting this charge related to trying to chase people down.
- Payments were due by Jan 10th, they are more than month in arrears.
- GMBA has offered to work with families if alternate payments arrangements are needed, however families have not acknowledged multiple requests.
- Stefanie noted that these players are also delaying our submission of rosters to OBA.
- Iain will be calling the families to discuss outstanding balances and missing registration.
- Board is comfortable with the proposed change, will vote at the end of the review process

Section: Administrative 3.8

- Sponsorship Logos could not be placed on any part of the official uniform.
- Jeff about teams which may have already sold sponsorships for the uniforms
- Teams should discuss directly with the Rep committee on how to address.

Section: Roster 4.2

- Add “and communicated to the Board of directors”

Section: Financial Accountability Policy #3

- Requirement for two signing authorities on an account.
- Adam asked if this can be reviewed, as prevents teams from using E-transfers
- Stefanie noted this was discussed at rep committee and viable work around is to have the coach send e-transfers and have the team reimburse with a signed cheque.

Section: Financial Accountability Policy #9

- Adam requested clarifying the document on if the re-imbusement limit is for Team Fees or if it also includes GMBA Rep Fees.
- Stefanie will bring back to rep committee to review

No concerns raised on any of the other sections.

Motion: Motion to approve the proposed the 2021 rep rules changes with the exception of Financial Accountability Policy #9 and addition of “and communicated to the Board of directors” in Rosters section 4.2 was moved by Stefanie. Seconded by Kirk. Motion Passed.

Motion: As of Feb 19th, 2021, any outstanding rep registration fees for the 2021 season will be assessed a \$50 late penalty. Motion moved by Adam, Seconded by Kirk. Motion Passed.

Fundraising and Sponsorship Update

Jill provided an update

- Currently working on multiple fundraising initiatives including
 - Guelph Auto Cleaners
 - Two 50/50 draws
 - Little Caesars Frozen Pizza
 - Food trucks at key events
- Sponsorships
 - Two have been confirmed so far
 - Revenue generation has exceeded last years
 - 50+ Requests have gone out, 5 replies to date.

Action: Jill to send sponsorship request to all board members.

Action: Jeff to connect with Jill on application to the Tim Hortons Timbit Sports Fund.

Constitutional Review Committee Update

Jeff provided a high level overview of draft structure.

Work is not yet complete, but progressing well

Highlights of the draft proposal include

- A 12 director board
- A 4 director executive
- 2 year term lengths
 - Existing terms would be transitioned to either 1 or 2 years to start
 - Executive positions are appointed on a 2 year term.
 - Succession planning to occur, with President’s role being filled from the Executive.
 - Every director would be appointed to lead a committee, no at large directors.

Guelph Youth Sports Council

Jeff provided an update.

- Covid-19 brought multiple youth sports organizations together to share concerns and advocate for the youth of our city.
- The group approached the Mayor and leaders across the city.
- Group delegated to Guelph city council during the budget process to advocate for reduced usage fees at city facilities. Unfortunately, this failed by 1 vote.
- Discussion is underway to formalize the Guelph Youth Sports Council.
- Jeff will provide more updates as it moves forward.

Finance Committee Update

Iain provided an update from the Finance committee

Audit

- Donato is still working with Auditing firms to gather information needed.
- Finance Committee is targeting to provide a recommendation on the Auditor and the Audit level to the Board in May.

Cost Reduction

- Initial discussion occurred on looking for a potential space/overhead sharing partner.
- Decision was made to approach the Guelph Minor Softball Association as our programming is similar, and they are also located in our complex on Crimea Street.
- Jeff will be reaching out to the GMSA president to start initial discussions.

Food Bank Street Challenge

- Iain presented a slide show on an initiative he is hoping to lead.
- Would be a food drive, where players/teams are challenged to collect donations to the foodbank.
- Iain has already participated in one in the fall, where over 32,000lbs of donations were raised for local foodbanks.
- Would be optional for Teams and Players.
- Process promotes socially distant giving.
- Great way for GMBA to give back to our community.
- Could help create additional awareness for the GMBA brand in the community.

Action: Iain to send out the slide show to the board and discuss further in March.

Rep Uniforms

Dave updated on the Uniforms.

- Cut off dates for orders have been extended to mid February.
- Sportszone has asked us to extend our contract with them until the end of 2022.
- Requested is being considered and there are pros and cons to evaluate
 - Extending will ensure they keep key items in stock.
 - Concerns from some families that they are based out of Waterloo.

- Not as easy for families to get to.
- Recommendation is to continue with Sportszone for 2022 and will provide an update as this progresses

Other Business

Police Record Checks

Ryan noted that PRC deadlines has been extended to next year.

GMBA is still recommending that we get as many as possible completed this year.

Motion: For the 2021 season, the deadline to start the PRC will be determined by the Risk Management chair.

Motion was moved by Ryan and Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

Marden

Rob informed the Board that when Guelph comes out of lock down, Marden is prepared to resume activities.

If we come out of lock down, but remain in red status, our current motion will prevent any activity from GMBA at Marden.

Jeff noted that Guelph Minor Hockey is trying to open up when they return to red status.

Adjournment

Moved by Rob, Seconded by Erik. Approved

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14PM