



## OCEE PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 30, 2007

### MEETING BROUGHT TO ORDER

President Wayne Henderson brought the meeting to order at 10:00AM at the Ocee Park Pavilion #2.

Board members present: Wayne Henderson, Lalo Munoz, Keith Siegfried, Reese Jacobs, Gillen Young, Julie Munoz, Rick Holcombe (by proxy to Reese).

Board members absent: Kathy Robb, Jon Brasher, Rick Holcombe.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Minutes of March 26, 2007 OPAA Board Meeting** – Gillen Young distributed the minutes from the March 26, 2007 board meeting. Keith Siegfried made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Lalo Munoz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Fall Update** – Reese Jacobs provided an update on the Fall 2007 program. The 9-10 and 11-12 baseball division is full. Registration is set at \$175, \$150 for T-Ball. The plan is to use minor league uniforms. No Babe Ruth uniform patch on the uniforms is needed for the fall season. Wayne made the statement of trying to return to a “sub-board” to run the fall program. Strong commissioners are needed to do this in the fall.
- 2. Financial Update** – Julie Munoz distributed a financial update and the results of the 2006 financial audit. No issues were reported in the audit. About \$88,000 is available for project work. Julie noted that the spring season had a lower umpire expense due to the board decision to eliminate umpires for Farm league games and have only one umpire for Single A baseball games.
- 3. City of Johns Creek Update** – Wayne and Reese met with Neil Freeman and Kirk Franz. Johns Creek wants to offer programs for all ages. They had discussions about having Ocee Park Athletic Association run an adult softball program. It was agreed OPAA would run an 8 team program in the fall provided all of the necessary details could be worked out in time. Base registration would be \$60 per player plus an assessment for capital improvements, as OPAA does for youth programs.
- 4. Board Member Elections** – Wayne notified the board that Skip Hamel had resigned from the board. Rick Holcombe was planning to resign at the end of the summer given he has moved to Birmingham. Wayne, Gillen, Lalo, Kathy, Skip and Rick were elected to two year terms in October 2006. Jon Brasher was selected to finish the one remaining year of JD Rutledge's term. Reese, Julie, Keith elected terms end this fall. Reese Jacobs agreed to serve an additional



year, finishing Skip Hamel's term. Julie Munoz agreed to server an additional year, finishing Rick Holcombe's term. John Brasher and Keith Siegfried expressed a willingness to serve another 2 year term. That leaves a net 2 board positions to fill. Wayne, Gillen, Kathy, Lalo, and a non-board member will make up the nominating committee for board member elections for terms beginning October 2007. Lalo made a motion to accept resignations from Reese and Julie and that they be re-elected by the Board to fill the positions vacated by Skip and Rick. Gillen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Reese and Julie abstaining from the voting on their particular re-election to the Board. The Board terms previously held by Reese and Julie are now vacant.

5. **Future Programs** - Reese explained that in addition to adult softball, OPAA may be able to develop true baseball travel teams for 13U and 14U ages. Fall 2007/Spring 2008 will be the last season where an Ocee Stars travel team is playing out of Ocee Park that is not affiliated with OPAA. This allows the Select Program to expand and use field times currently slotted for non-OPAA travel programs. This is subject to discussion and field allocation decisions with the City of Johns Creek.
6. **Baseball 16-18 Program** - Reese explained that he has had numerous requests as player agent for a 16-18 baseball program. We will plan on offering that starting in spring 2008. This team will interleague with Wills Park and other area programs. CJC is not going to allow the Junior Cougar organization to have a field use permit but will allow high schools within the City limited use of Field #3. We will use the field time slots currently used by the Junior Cougars that are not allocated to the high school feeder teams for this new program.
7. **Tournament Teams** – Wayne explained that OPAA could not field 10U and 11U baseball tournament teams. There was insufficient participation given the late tournament date and out-of-town location. Tournament teams will be fielded in 8U, 9U, 11U, 12U (60), 12U (70), and 15U in baseball and 10U and 12U in softball. All teams will represent Georgia in the Southeast Regional tournaments with the exception of the 15U team which must first participate in the Georgia state tournament.
8. **Capital Improvements** – Gillen Young agreed to initiate an email discussion collecting ideas for improvement projects from the board members.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Wayne will notify the board of the next meeting date.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to end the meeting was presented, seconded, and carried. Meeting ended at 11:33AM.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT IDEAS

In general, recent capital improvements have been focused on safety. Major projects in this area have been the bleacher replacement (to bring all bleachers to current safety specifications including back fencing) and shade covers to provide protection from foul balls and sun for spectators. Those projects are complete and require no further investment on our part.

The Board will continue to consider projects that promote safety for players and spectators, but add a capital improvement theme of improving facilities for the development of player skills. Due to the popularity of the OPAA baseball and softball programs, we all are aware of the limited practice space and facilities such as batting cages and the challenges it presents to coaches and managers.

We have some constraints. Fields 1 and Nichols must remain flexible to use for adult softball. Field 3 must remain a full size field for 80/90 ft base paths and correspondingly deep outfield fence.

Here is a list of potential projects (not in priority order) that the Board will consider, investigate, and authorize once analysis of cost/benefit for each is complete and pending financial review following the conclusion of the Fall 2007 season:

1. Field 4 tilling and re-grading of the surface.
2. Building the bullpen areas outside of fields 1 and 4.
3. Correcting the protruding spikes above the new gates to field 4.
4. Improved electrical outlet and lighting for all of the batting cages (some do not have lighting or power, some are inoperative, and some only have limited coverage. Using the cages during the 2nd practice sessions when it is dark is difficult and often dangerous.)
5. Enclose bullpen areas on Home & Visitor sides of Fields 1-4. Use 8 ft fencing (given to us from Fulton County). Include gate(s) for maintenance access (to mow and maintain enclosed areas; to provide equipment access to Field 3 via firstbase side & Nichols via thirdbase side.) Explore if bullpen fence design would allow opening the adjacent end of the dugout for dugout access, close off current dugout to field gate, and end up with only one gate entering the playing field (as opposed to 2 gates now, one access field from outside, the other to access the dugout from the field. Design must provide protection for players in dugout from wild pitches thrown during bullpen warm-ups. Benefits - improve spectator safety by restricting access to bullpen areas; limit field access to one gate on each side by fewer gates to keep closed and maintain (addressing problem of getting "locked" in the dugout due to poor latch design.)
6. Obtain a second John Deere Sandpro. There is limited time available to drag and prepare 8 fields prior to games. A second Sandpro would help with field preparation prior to games. (Note - it is not feasible to drag F1, Nichols, Tee-ball, Jacobs using hand drags.



7. Obtain a Gator type vehicle to use for hauling field maintenance materials.
8. Replace batting cage nets on Lang, Jacobs. Replace nets as needed on other cages.
9. Add additional batting cages adjacent to cages between F2 & F3. This provides more batting cages available for pre-game warm-ups and practices. Benefit - practice during bad weather, more cages = more reps = better skills.
10. Construct 3 fenced off practice areas in the outer section of Field 2, each with infield area, bases, and a batting cage. Would require raising the F2 outfield fence to 8-10 feet (or higher to prevent practice balls from entering playing field). Could shorten distance to fence along foul lines to 205 ft to reclaim 15 feet into the practice areas in left and right field back areas. Compensate by increasing the fence height along the line to 15 feet (creating a "Green Monster" type effect.) East Cobb has some fields in the 200ft -210ft range, but upwards of 20ft high fence. Shorter distance from home to foul lines, but higher fence to compensate. Keep a deeper center field at current 220ft distance. A practice infield with adjacent batting cage would allow split practices to be more efficient with a small space. Could be a tight fit, but possible. BENEFIT - improve practice facilities for player development. Each area could also be named (possible sponsorship opportunity) and make easier to schedule practice areas by eliminating some (not all) of the guess work. Higher outfield fence on F2 makes it more competitive and provides new opportunities for sponsorship signage (i.e. bigger signs) on the outfield wall. Would need to include in budget screening for the higher fence. Benefit - improved practice facilities for player skill development.
11. Put concrete pads at soft toss nets adjacent to batting cages between F3 and Nichols. Add 4 ft high fencing to section off these areas to prevent someone from walking into a player swinging a bat. Pads would eliminate the holes forming in the ground from repeated use.
12. Construct a large covered area over batting cages between F2 and F3. Add additional cages under this covered area, thus expanding the number of cages. Allows for batting practice during less than perfect weather. Would also provide protection from the weather for spectators and players when a sudden storm happens. A covered batting cage area would also allow us to put permanent pitching machines in this structure. In general, think of expanding existing cage area between F2 & F3 incorporating all the space between those 2 fields and putting a cover over it. The facility would include lights and a concrete pad with artificial grass covering the area. (This is probably more than \$88k). BENEFIT - practice during bad weather, more cages = more reps = better skills.
13. Provide netting cover around concession stand for foul ball protection.
14. Add second story meeting room/storage above existing concession stand plus other concession stand renovations.



15. Provide canopy at concession stand to protect from foul balls. (This would not be needed if we did #9).
16. Install dust control system on Field 2 and Field 3. This is different from the current irrigation system. This would allow light spraying of the dirt areas without watering the grass.