



OCEE PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 11, 2007

MEETING BROUGHT TO ORDER

President Wayne Henderson brought the meeting to order at 9:03 AM at the Ocee Park Shelter #2.

Board members present: Wayne Henderson, Lalo Munoz, Reese Jacobs, Gillen Young, Julie Munoz, Kathy Robb, Jon Brasher, Rick Holcomb (by phone) .

Board members absent: Keith Siegfried.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of June 30, 2007 board meeting – Gillen Young distributed the minutes from the June 30, 2007 board meeting. Jon Brasher made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Julie Munoz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fall Baseball Format – Reese Jacobs raised the topic of the format for 11-12 Yr Old baseball – using the 46'/60' distance vs. 50'/70' distance. One option could be use the shorter distance during September, then the longer distance during October games. Given the focus of fall baseball is on player's skill development, the shorter distance achieves the goal of the fall program. Reese made the motion to adopt 46/60 distance for the fall program. Lalo Munoz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Fall Update – Reese Jacobs provided an update on the fall program. All leagues are full with a waiting list for any dropouts. Games will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, and on Saturday.

Uniforms have been ordered. Minor league uniforms for baseball 10 yr old and younger, major league teams for 11 yr old and older.

Kathy Robb agreed to coordinate trophies with Denise Fasone for T-ball and 7/8 year olds in baseball and 6-8 year olds in softball. If Denise is unavailable to assist with Fall trophies, Kathy will work with Jim Krause directly.

Coaches Shirts – board discussed and agreed that coaches shirts for the fall would be black polo's with OPAA logo. Reese will place the order and coordinate pickup.

The board approved the design for the fall participation pins that Reese sent out. Lalo made the motion to authorize \$1300 for purchasing the pins. Kathy Robb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Reese to place the order.

Trophy and pin distribution date tentatively set for Saturday, October 20th.



3. Fall Coaches Clinic - Discussion on a fall softball and baseball coaches clinics. It was discussed and recommended that Dave Butler do the baseball clinic. Wayne Henderson made the motion to authorize \$1,000 to pay for these clinics. Jon Brasher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Coaches Certification – Beginning in 2008, Babe Ruth requires all managers and coaches to be certified. A certification class is being planned with coaches from both Newtown and Ocee participating. To encourage Ocee coaches to get certified, it was suggested that OPAA pay the cost of this certification class. OPAA's portion would be \$125 plus \$17 per person. Julie Munoz made the motion that OPAA pay for Ocee Park coaches participating in this class. Lalo Munoz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Annual Membership Meeting, New Board Positions – The board reviewed the upcoming open board positions. OPAA constitution and bylaws stipulate the annual membership meeting is the first Saturday in October (10/6 for 2007).

Current board members and their respective terms are:

Elected to two year term beginning November 1, 2005

Julie Munoz, Reese Jacobs, Keith Siegfried, Jon Brasher*

* Jon Brasher was selected to fill the remainder of JD Rutledge's term which expires October 31, 2007 due to JD's resignation in November 2006.

Elected to two year term beginning November 1, 2006

Wayne Henderson, Gillen Young, Lalo Munoz, Kathy Robb, Rick Holcombe*, Skip Hamel*

(note: board expanded to 10 members beginning 11/1/2006)

* Board resignations:

Skip Hamel resigned from the board in July 2007. This position has been unfilled.

Rick Holcombe resigned from the board effective August 31st due to his move to Birmingham.

Reese, Julie, Jon, and Keith's elected terms end this fall. With the resignations of Skip and Rick, six board positions are open as follows:

4 positions for a 2 year term serving from 11/1/2007 to 10/31/2009

2 positions for a 1 year term serving from 11/1/2007 to 10/31/2008

Wayne, Gillen, Kathy, Lalo, and a non-board member will make up the nominating committee for board member elections for terms beginning October 2007.

Current board members were asked about their willingness to continuing serving as a board member:

Reese Jacobs said he would be willing to serve an additional year.

Julie Munoz said she would be willing to serve an additional year.



Jon Brasher and Keith Siegfried expressed a willingness to serve another 2 year term.

6. CJC Business – OPAA received its City of Johns Creek business license and it has been posted at the park as required by law. Reese also confirmed OPAA received its 501(c)(3) tax exemption designation letter from the IRS completing our Form 1023 filing and application process.

Wayne shared with the board information from meetings with Kirk Franz, park and recreation manger for City of Johns Creek. For Fall 2007 and Spring 2008, there will not be any residency requirement or preferential treatment to CJC residents for spots in the OPAA programs.

7. Fall game time limits – The board discussed ending fall games at the time limit, without completing the inning if necessary. Given the fall focus in on skill development and win-loss records are not kept, this would help to keep games starting on time. In addition, Reese has posted fall playing rules on the web site and explained to the board what he recommends. Julie made the motion to accept the rules as stated on the website and end games at the time limit regardless of baseball rules covering completion of an inning (for fall season only). Reese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Field Space – Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 are the final seasons the Ocee Stars organization will share field space at Ocee Park. The Stars have space on Field #1, from 7:30 to close on Tuesday and Friday nights and one slot on Sunday.

CJC has agreed to provide space on Field #3 to the Northview and Chattahoochee High Schools. They would get space on Wednesday, 7:30 until 10:30pm and all day Sunday. The agreement by CJC is that the high school baseball coaches will be responsible for allocating that space.

This arrangement frees up field space and will allow OPAA to start a 16-18 yr old baseball program beginning Spring 2008. OPAA would be able to do inter-league games with Wills Park and perhaps have games with other area teams. Reese made the motion that OPAA create a 16-18 yr old baseball league consisting of 3 teams beginning Spring 2008. Gillen Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Given OPAA is getting a new Sandpro, the board agreed that the Stars, Cougars, and Titans would continue to use the old Sandpro to drag the fields. Arrangements will be made with those organizations for a fair fee to compensate OPAA for wear and tear as well as fuel and maintenance costs for the tractor.

9. Concession Stand Hours – The board discussed the hours the concession stand should be open during the fall. Agreement was reached to have the concession stand open Monday – Thursday from 5:30 – 8:45; Friday 6-8; Saturday 8:45 – 4:30. The Board agreed to re-visit the operating hours based on business once the season begins.



10. Umpires – The board clarified that paid umpires at Ocee Park are subject to Department of Labor regulations. All paid umpires must be age 14 or older. 13 yr olds may umpire 7 or 8 yr old games to get experience but they will not be paid.

The board agreed that there would be no umpires for any 8U baseball or 6-8 yr old softball games. The board agreed there would be only 1 paid umpire working 10U baseball (9-10 yr old games).

Reese made the motion to adopt these guidelines. Julie Munoz seconded the motion, The motion passed unanimously.

Gillen Young agreed to begin working on an umpire policy and procedure manual to have ready for the Spring 2008 season which would include defining pay scales with board approval.

11. Spring Registration – Spring registration is planned for 11/10 – 12/2 (all online including the lottery). The player lottery will be conducted by 12/9. Opening Day for Spring 2008 is scheduled for March 1st. Web site will be updated with Spring 2008 registration information on or before 10/1/07.

12. Capital Expenditures – Gillen gave an overview of feedback received regarding capital improvement projects. The board reviewed the list.

- A. Purchase a new Sandpro.
- B. Fencing to enclose bull pen areas on Fields 1-4.
- C. Create new batting cages between Field 3 and 4.
- D. Create fencing partitions at existing soft-toss nets next to F3 batting cages.
- E. Develop 2 defined practice areas behind Field 2 by replacing current 4 ft fence with 15 ft fence. Area would include batting cages for both practice infield areas.

Motion was made by Lalo to authorize funding not to exceed \$10,000 to purchase the new Sandpro. Gillen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gillen is getting fencing quotes for the other projects and working with Kirk Franz for CJC approvals.

NEXT MEETING

Wayne will notify the board of the next meeting date which is expected to coincide with the OPAA General Membership Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to end the meeting was presented, seconded, and carried. Meeting ended at 11:37AM.



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.