

OCEE PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2006

MEETING BROUGHT TO ORDER

President Wayne Henderson brought the meeting to order at 8:15AM PM at the OCEE Park Pavilion.

Board members present: Rick Holcombe, Lalo Munoz, Reese Jacobs, Wayne Henderson, Gillen Young, Skip Hamel.

Board members absent: Kathy Robb, Keith Siegfried, Julie Munoz

Guest – Paul Belongie

OLD BUSINESS

1. Teams for spring. Reese started a discussion on teams for the spring given the switch to Babe Ruth. The National League will play at the 50 pitching mound and 70 foot base path distances. The calendar Reese sent to board members prior to the meeting proposed a schedule on skill assessments. In addition, Reese has documented plans for Spring 2007 evaluations. There was general discussion among member on changes in assessments. One idea being considered is to have independent evaluation for majors players (i.e. skill assessment scores would come from coaches outside the major's manager group). The plan and decisions regarding skill assessments will be addressed following the fall season. *Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. Age – Babe Ruth league does not have 15-16 yr old program. This will impact some of the Ocee 16 yr olds who have are not eligible for any other recreational program. A comment was made about adopting a local league rule to allow a 15-16 year old division. Babe Ruth has a program for 15 year olds and 16 year olds but unlike Little League, they do not play together. There is probably not sufficient registration to create and sustain a 16-18 league based on past history. We will of course fully support 15 year old players in the program. We will not be able to obtain a waiver for 16 year old players to play in 13-15 - this is not possible. *Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.*

2. League Boundary. The board reviewed the proposed Babe Ruth league boundary. Where do you make the line at. Issues include tournament teams eligibility. Existing OPAA participants and their siblings will be grandfathered into the program. Drawing the boundary using zip codes allows for more boundary checking during registration and would greatly simplify boundary eligibility for tournament play. The alternative is a more tedious mapping process of players to determine eligibility is we include partial zip codes in the league boundary. The other key issued discussed was that simply making the boundary arbitrarily large can and will have a negative effect on recruiting neighboring programs to Babe Ruth. This is particularly true in the case of adjacent programs like Sandy Springs. *Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.*

3. Web site - is converted to new format including logos for Babe Ruth. Board members have been reviewing the new site prior to public release. All approved of the content reviewed so far.

4. Local League rules adoption.

- Reese commented that Babe Ruth rules do not have minimum playing time requirements. The board plans to adopt LL playing time rules as a local league rule beginning with the change to the Babe Ruth program in Spring 2007.
- Wayne explained that Majors American baseball division under the Babe Ruth program would be played like the National League division, observing batting 1-9 and following substitution rules observed by the Spring 2006 Majors division for baseball.

Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.

5. Spring Pictures. Reese asked Gillen Young prior to the meeting if he would be interested in taking the spring pictures. Many park families expressed a very positive response to including the pictures in the registration fee. Gillen explained he was interested in doing this, but due to the time involved and impact on his family, he would not be able to do this as a volunteer fund raising project. In addition, Gillen was concerned about conflict of interest since he is now a board member. Wayne and Reese commented they did not think this would be an issue since Gillen has done the fall pictures for the past 4 seasons and they have had multiple compliments on the quality of the pictures Gillen has produced for the league. The immediate issue was the requirement to add \$25 to registration cost to cover a picture package. Reese explained that effort was needed now to make the changes in order to include the higher registration fee when registration opens in early November.

Lalo Munoz made the motion to increase spring registration by \$25 to include a picture package. Skip Hamel seconded the motion. Vote – Unanimous (5 of 6 members voting yes – Gillen Young abstaining to avoid conflict of interest.)

(POST MEETING NOTE – Reese confirmed via email with Gillen that he would do the spring pictures. The league will keep \$2 of the \$25 additional registration fees to cover contribution to the park and the 3-4% fee kept by Active.com for processing OPAA registrations.)

6. Volunteers. Wayne expressed a desire to have more volunteers involved at the park. An example to consider in the spring is that OPAA does not pay anyone to line the fields work weekday games as is currently done during the fall season.

Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.

7. Spring 2007 Calendar – Reese had distributed a proposed 2007 calendar via email prior to the meeting. Drafts must be sequential given the league alignment. The suggestion was made to move the coaches meeting to Saturday, January 13th since Fulton County does not begin classes until Monday January 8th.

Discussion of the rain makeup date needs to be conducted at next meeting since it may conflict with the select program open weekend dates for tournaments. We need a schedule from Skip on the baseball and softball select programs before we can finalize the schedule.

POST MEETING NOTE – Reese discussed with Gillen dates for pictures. Picture day will be March 17th with March 24th being the rain date.

8. Coaches Clinic – coach Perez has inquired about doing the spring clinic. Jim Poole has also inquired about doing the spring clinic. The board discussed having coach Perez to the general clinic and Jim Pool do a pitching only clinic with coaches and kids.

Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.

9. JD Rutledge resignation from board and as UIC. Wayne gave board members some background on events that led to JD's resignation from the board on October 10th. Wayne tried to get JD to reconsider his decision, JD thought it best he not continue in a leadership position with OPAA. Discussion took place on the recommendation by Wayne (via email prior to meeting) to

have the UIC as non board perspective. There would be a UIC for baseball and another for softball, each reporting to the respective board VP over baseball or softball.

Discussion then turn to the recommendation to replace JD with John Brasher for the remaining 1 year on JD's director term. **Lalo Munoz made the motion to replace JD board position with John Brasher for remaining 1 yr of term. Reese seconded the motion. The 6 board members present gave unanimous voice approval.**

The board then discussed having Paul Belongie become UIC baseball. **Rick Holcombe made the motion to have Paul Belongie become UIC baseball, a non-board position reporting to Rick Holcomb for the 2007 season. Lalo Munoz seconded the motion. The 6 board members present gave unanimous voice approval.**

The softball UIC position will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

10. Select teams. Skip Hamel will be running the spring select team program. Skip is exploring options for coach selection now. Managers being identified for each group. More discussion and documenting the program is required. Other programs have guidelines on select programs which Skip will research. Findings will be presented at a later board meeting.

Discussion only. No motions were made. This will be discussed more fully at the next board meeting.

11. Field maintenance. Gillen explained that overseeding and fertilizer was needed at the conclusion of the fall season if the board wanted green infield grass at the start of the spring season. Gillen suggested authorizing a \$500 budget for fall maintenance to cover overseeding the infields on Field 2, Field 3 and Lang Field. We need to see what the City of John's Creek will do regarding maintenance when they take over park maintenance responsibilities on Dec 1, 2006. However, field maintenance action is needed before 12/1. **Rick Holcombe made the motion to authorize \$500 toward fall maintenance. Reese seconded the motion. The 6 board members present gave unanimous voice approval.**

NEXT MEETING

Reese requested that the meeting be held subsequent to December 3 (close of registration) and December 9 when the lottery is conducted so that any final decisions on league alignment can be made prior to the lottery. 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 9:17AM