

Bozeman American Legion Executive Committee Meeting
Morrison & Maierle Office
December 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Ullman, Mark Johnson, Paul McGray, Chris Tarabochia, Jason Jarrett.

Coaches in Attendance: Coach Poliquin, Coach Johnerson, Coach Schultz.

Others in Attendance: Arlene Roberts, Todd & Connie Evenson, Albee Willett, Kathy Nash, Bryce Scalia, Jeff Gyselman, Craig Simcox, Matt Faure, Robin Hubley, Gayle Frandsen, Dawn Tarabochia.

Call to Order

7:00 p.m.: Jim Ullman called the meeting to order.

Changes/Additions to Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. One addition was made to the agenda: Adult Baseball League.

Adult Baseball League: Jeremy has contacted Mark with regard to the 2017 season.

Approve Minutes

A motion to approve the November 2, 2016 minutes was made by Jason, seconded by Mark. Motion to approve the November 2, 2016 minutes was passed with a 5-0 vote.

Financial Report and Payables

Jim thanked the Hubley family and announced that the Hubley's have secured an anonymous donation of \$25,000 to Bozeman American Legion Baseball. This donation will be used to pay the following outstanding debts (note totals are approximates): all three credit cards (\$4,153.00 Bucks, \$ 1080.00 Spikes, \$747 B's), fertilizer for the field (\$600), Debt to Steve Wheeler (\$7,500), and Coach's apparel (\$92.00). **Total amount to be paid: \$14,172.77**

A motion was made by Jason to approve the spending of the donation for the aforementioned items, totaling \$14,172.77. Chris seconded. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote to pay off aforementioned bills and to wait to pay off the \$4,000.00 (proceeds from the golf tournament) owed to the youth program.

Committee Reports

Game Operations

Field - Halo Project

The Halo around home plate will be redone and will have the First Interstate logo as per the agreement re: the field debt. The bids have come in at \$3,900 and \$3,600. This includes new walk-ups, which will include the lettering: Post 14. These bids cover materials only, and do not include concrete work. Also, the boards along the walk-ups may need to be replaced.

First Interstate will remain on the halo until the end of the lease (2023).

Q. Is public relations for First Interstate included in the agreement?

A. Yes, First Interstate Bank and Bozeman Legion Baseball have an itemized list regarding what First Interstate Bank will get for their donation. The PR will be handled as part of the duties associated with the new marketing committee (proposals for new committees will be discussed under new business, revise committees).

Q. Stockman Bank has donated money to Bozeman Legion Baseball for the scoreboard, how do they feel about the halo project?

A. The agreement with Stockman Bank is for the scoreboard only, the agreement only includes the content that is placed on the scoreboard, this agreement is being followed and all is well with this sponsorship.

Field - Indoor Facility

With the new financial situation (no more field debt, and \$25,000 donation) this now opens new possibilities for raising funds for an indoor facility. Discussions have been initiated on possible sites, size of the facility, and possible options for an indoor facility.

Sites: Aerial photos of the field were provided to the Executive Committee by the county. One possible site includes where the batting cages are currently located on Legion Field at Heroes Park. Another site could be out in right field in the "bone yard". However, the county is considering revitalization of this area. There is much to be discussed between Bozeman Legion Baseball and the county. Jim Ullman and Andy Willett will continue to research possible sites and initiate conversations with the county (Laurie Cox) regarding lease options.

Q. Would the indoor facility (if built on county property) have to be leased like the field is?

A. Yes, and that would need to be negotiated. Additional negotiations regarding extending the lease into October also need to be discussed.

Size: initial discussion on size indicates that it may be too small. Further discussions will ensue between Jim Ullman and Coach Poliquin regarding optimal size of the indoor facility. Available funding and site location will be considered.

Options: A “bubble” was considered as an option for the indoor facility, but was not viewed as an optimal option. A more permanent solution is the goal for the indoor facility. Discussion of creating the indoor facility to be a multi-sport space with the ability to lease it out has been discussed. Further discussions will continue throughout the process.

Currently there are a lot of “what ifs” and plausible possibilities regarding the indoor facility. The Executive Committee will continue to move forward on options and a committee may be formed to assist this effort.

Q. What about an indoor practice facility for the upcoming season?

A. CJMS has been secured for T/TH from 7:00-8:30. There will be issues with time conflicts associate with school activities. Play It Again Sports has a space that can be used as a batting cage – Coach Poliquin is going to research this option. Additionally, Paul McGhay is continuing to look for other options; one option is the indoor soccer facility in Belgrade. City property is no longer an option.

AA State Tourney

Hotel blocks have been made. Need to secure contract with state. Emails are being collected and a letter is being drafted.

We need more help on the state tourney committee, currently this committee only has 6 people and there is a lot of work to be done.

Fundraising Committee

This committee has been meeting frequently as there will be many changes that are currently in process. With regard to player sponsorship, materials are being gathered and the process is being ironed out. The proposed process and sponsorship levels are being pilot tested to a couple of businesses for feedback. One goal of the fundraising committee is to link each player with businesses for sponsorship and the spreadsheets of current and past sponsors are being compiled. The idea is to have the players be responsible for securing sponsorships, with help and to have each player matched up with businesses to ensure continued business support even as the older players move on. The focus of the sponsorship process is to build relationships between the players and the sponsoring

businesses and to have older players mentor younger players to create continuity within the program.

Other work has included the development of sponsorship packets and a training session for players and parents on the new sponsorship levels and the process for securing sponsors. The time for this training is tentatively scheduled for January 29, 2017 from 4-6 p.m. The finalized time, date and location will be announced shortly. Also, a plan has been developed to notify CPAs to let them know that Bozeman Legion Baseball is potential donation opportunity.

It is the intent and ultimate goal that all players will have the opportunity to fundraise all of the costs associated with playing, both through sponsorship and larger event fundraising.

Program Funding Brochure

A brochure has been developed to outline and explain the new donation structure to potential sponsors. Copies of the brochure were brought to the meeting and were met with great reviews. Thanks to Lori Faure for the creation and development of the brochure!

Basketball Tournament

The basketball tournament has been set for March 4 & 5. Registration is now open. The basketball tournament committee will be putting forth a TDBI grant to Bozeman businesses for funding for referee costs (this funding has been granted for other basketball tournaments).

Public Relations Committee

Website, Facebook, Twitter

The website has been redone. We are looking for volunteers to help with writing content. If you are interested, contact Chris Tarabochia. Further tasks include the need for a press release to announce Coach Poliquin and his coaching staff and to gather biographies of the coaching staff.

Finance Committee

Player Fees will be voted on at the January 10th meeting. The proposed fee structure is as follows:

AA: \$3,000.00

A: \$3,000.00

B: \$1500.00

Old Business

Coach Poliquin's Contract

There have been no substantive changes to the contract. The contract was reviewed by the executive committee prior to the meeting.

Mark made a motion to approve Coach Poliquin's contract. Paul seconded. The motion passed 5-0 to approve Coach Poliquin's contract.

Promissory Note to Steve Wheeler

A promissory note had been drafted. This draft will be changed to reflect that the money (\$7,500) was loaned by Steve Wheeler and paid off.

Mark made a motion to change the draft of the promissory note to reflect the donation of the money made by Steve Wheeler and that this loan has been paid off. Jason seconded. The motion passed 5-0 to make these changes and to pay off the loan made by Steve Wheeler.

New Business

Legion Board Meeting

Jim attended the legion board meeting. The members were happy to have him in attendance to update them on the halo and walk-up project. The legion is very excited about these changes.

Donation: The legion is happy to continue to donate to the baseball program and the donations will go to the general fund for use as needed. A request was made that a representative from the Executive Committee attend the legion board meeting twice a year (fall and spring) to provide updates.

Pancake Breakfast: the legion would like to continue the tradition of hosting a pancake breakfast for the community. This will need to be planned at least one month in advance to provide the legion the opportunity to find volunteers for the event. Bozeman Legion Baseball is happy to continue this tradition. The fundraising committee will find a parent to volunteer to organize this event - the date is still to be determined.

Bingo: Bozeman Legion Baseball will once again donate time to help with Bingo on Wednesday nights. It was discussed that we would help during the preseason (January-April). Jim will work to get this set up and a call for volunteers will go out once the details have been arranged.

GIVE BIG: The legion members think participation in this community fundraising event is a good idea. This event will happen in May and more details will follow.

Revised Committees

Currently there are 4 large committees into smaller committees. In order to do this the by-laws will be reviewed and a new committee policy will be developed to outline the committees and duties.

Chris will continue to outline needed committees and present at next executive committee meeting.

Team Naming

It has been proposed that the name of the teams associated with Bozeman American Legion Baseball Post 14 will be changed to one name – The Bucks. The proposed name of the teams are: Bucks AA, Bucks A, and Bucks B. This will create a unified team and improve branding opportunities. It was mentioned that some teams in Montana utilize this naming method, while others do not.

All coaches in attendance agreed with the proposed team name changes.

Jason made a motion to approve the changing of the team names to Bucks AA, Bucks A, and Bucks B. Mark seconded. The motion to change the team names passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public Comment

Coach Poliquin would like to have sign-ups and a meeting to introduce the coaching staff. This mandatory meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 15th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The location is yet to be determined.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is set for **January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** in the conference room at Morrison & Maierle.

Adjournment

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jason seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed with a 5-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.