



MISSION STATEMENT

"To guide and assist our youth in their pursuit of personal growth and the meaning of sportsmanship through athletic excellence, that will improve the lives of all that are involved."

RASA MINUTES

February 8, 2012

Attendees

Stacie Calder	Paul Hetrick
Mary Jo Webb	Craig MacIntyre
Peter Hall	Bob Fafard
Rich Ponak	Bill Coblentz
John Pepkowski	Valerie Lopes
Rick Galloway	Rich Scott
Joan Ponak	Kelly Mitchell
Renee Cuce	

I. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January 11th and the January 22nd meeting were approved. Pete Hall motioned to approve the minutes and MaryJo Webb 2nd, all approved.

II. Treasurer's Report: attached

Review of the Treasurer's report showed a the majority of the income was from Spring Registration/Raffle and the left over money in the Women's league account. The following checks were approved for payment:

Coplay Sports	Equipment
Paul Hetrick	Billboard mailings
Stacie Calder	Spring Rec

It was noted that the 2nd page of the treasurer's report was not lined up correctly. All amounts should be moved down one row. Pete Hall motioned to pay the bills and approve the Treasurer's report. Rick Galloway 2nd. All approved.

The Travel Teams accounts were reviewed and it was noted that most of the expenditures were for uniforms and tournament fees.

III. Old Business:

Spring Rec League:

- Teen Umpires: Mary Jo Webb said she has 2 girls signed up so far. Craig MacIntyre said his daughter Ally would like to do it and Stacie Calder said her daughter Madison would be a substitute. Ray Fox will train the girls (possibly 3/24/12-during Opening Day). The umpire gear (chest protectors, masks, counters, brushes) are upstairs in the club house. It was asked how these girls would be insured-as a registered girl or independent. Mary Jo will look into it. Mary Jo did want to emphasize the importance of coaches backing these girls up and making sure the parents were kept in line. Stacie will make sure it is included in the Minors coaches meeting.
- The final walk-in registration is this Saturday, 2/11/12, at Dairy Queen. Stacie Calder and Pete Hall will be there. Currently there are 120 girls registered. This is down from last year but Stacie is not concerned since the phone calls will be made starting Sunday and that is when most of the girls register.
- Draft Cards: Pete Hall has created a draft card in the registration program so all the girl's experience, Sunday Select, Home Run Derby, All Star will be on the card. Stacie asked Renee if the photographer

would give RASA a disk of all the players so that could be uploaded to the girl's registration as well. The draft is scheduled for 3/3/12 at the clubhouse. The head coach is required to be there.

- Coaches: there is an over-abundance of coaches this year. Stacie and Pete will be notifying them this coming week about important dates. Roy Godard of TNT has offered to do the skills/drills training for coaches on Monday, 3/5/12 at the HS from 7-8. The division meetings and equipment hand-out will be Sunday 3/11/12.
- Benner Hall: Stacie Calder checked with Richlandtown Parks & Rec about use of the new field at Benner Hall. Jocelyn Moyer of the board explained it is not ready for this year since the grass was not seeded yet. It is also a Little League field so the dimensions are a little different from RASA fields. Jocelyn will work on getting a reservation system in place this year for next year and will contact RASA.

Sunday Select:

- Steve Fuscellaro is the U10 coach and Rich Ponak is the U12 coach.
- Steve has emailed Pete his roster so it can be set up in the website. Rich needs to email Pete his roster yet. Pete is setting up the Sunday select teams in the system so the Sunday Select payments can be made on-line this year. All Sunday Select players must be registered in the Rec league before they are allowed to register & practice with Sunday Select.
- It was brought up that there was a problem getting enough girls to be on the U10 team this year. The first night of try-outs only 9 U10 players came out and 23 U12 players came out. This was due to 10 year olds playing up in the U12 level. Research on the other area Sunday Select teams shows they are age pure. It was suggested that RASA go age pure also. Val Lopes strongly opposed this idea because she said it is not in the rules that the teams have to be age pure and that it is not right to hold a girl back. It was pointed out that the girls are encouraged to play up in the Rec league and that the Sunday Select team already is an All-Star team. It was decided that if the same imbalance occurs next year at the first night of try-outs the teams will be age pure. Rick Galloway will check with the VIGS league that runs the Sunday Select program to make sure the teams do not have to be age pure.
- It was requested that in the future when a girl is being told she did not make the team that she either receive a personal phone call or a personal email. If a mass email is being used then all recipients should be "Bcc". This way everyone's privacy is maintained.

Winter Clinics:

- The first winter skills clinics were held Monday and Tuesday nights. There were 25-30 girls at each night. The U14 Pa Panther's ran the Monday night clinic and TNT ran the Tuesday night clinic.
- There was a mix up with the U16 team and the gym space on Tuesday night. A football team had been using the space from 8-10 after the u16 practice. Dave Bolton did not realize that when the clinics started the football team would no longer be allowed to use the space and the U16's would have use of the space for their practice after the clinic. Dave cancelled all practices and told Stacie he did not want to change. Stacie informed the school district that they are no longer using the space from 8-10Pm on Tuesday nights.

Equipment:

- Stacie sought bids from Longstreth, Coplay, Sports Center of Bethlehem, and SVS. Coplay came back with the lowest bid of \$1,840.20. The order was placed and will be delivered to Stacie's house tomorrow.

Background checks:

- Kelly Hall has offered to be the new coordinator of background checks. She will contact Lisa Lewis to see what she needs to do. Mary Jo gave her the Little League account number.

Sponsorship (teams):

- Renee Cuce is half way through sending out the letters to the sponsors. Renee is hand delivering the letters to make sure they are received and to give the request the personal touch.

Sponsorship (billboards):

- Paul has sent all the letters out and is actively trying to get new sponors.

Woman's League:

- Renee and Val have a meeting scheduled for Thursday February 23rd at 7pm at the Township Building. They will update RASA after the meeting.

Restrooms:

- nothing new has occurred with the restrooms at this time.

Special Olympics:

- Rich and Joan Ponak stated there were 21 people signed up for the Friday night league. The league will start April 20th and run 8 weeks. They will require 2 of the lower fields.
- The kids get t-shirt which cost around \$6. RASA has offered to buy the t-shirts this year (or possibly find a sponsor) so the kids have official “RASA” shirts. Total cost will be approximately \$125.
- RASA requested that the kids come to Opening Day and get pictures taken. They will be included in the picture schedule.

Uniforms:

- Stacie received an estimate from MBM&C and costs are in line with last year, approximately \$25 per girl. Stacie asked if she should get bids from other sources or if everyone was happy with MBM&C. It was decided that RASA would stay with MBM&C as they do a great job, costs are in line with other companies, and the convenience of their location.

IV. New Business:

***Tournament Guide:** Bill Coblenz is trying to get a guide together of our sponsors. The sponsors will pay a small fee to be in the guide and then the guide will be distributed during the tournaments. This will encourage the people visiting the tournament to use our sponsors.

***Field Maintenance:** Bill will order more infield mix to fill in a few places on some of the fields. Kelly Mitchell said her husband Ted would be willing to spread the additional mix. Bill is also waiting to hear from the “tarp” guy about the trial sunshade for the dug-outs. Bill wants to let it stay out all year in the weather to make sure it will last.

***Spirit Wear:** Kelly Mitchell has contacted SVS and it was a bit more than expensive than the Milford Sportswear but they would guarantee delivery dates. Kelly will keep the same logo but change colors this year. She is looking at ordering a solid T, tie-dye T, sweatshirt, and sweatpants. Kelly is also working on getting magnets. She is going to check prices at MBM&C and Ayers. She is looking to have the order form ready for the next RASA meeting so it can be placed on the website and be given to coaches for handout at the 1st practice. The orders could be picked up at opening day. She will also have a small selection of cash and carry.

***Travel Teams:** Craig MacIntyre of the U16 team said now have 11 players and their 1st tournament will be March 17th at the Dome in Wyoming. Rich Scott of the U14 team said they are practicing Monday and Saturdays. Quite a few of the girls are also going to the QHS open gyms on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Freshman Center from 3:30-5. Their 1st tournament is also on the 17th at the Wyoming Dome only they will be competing in the Midnight Madness.

***Bob Fafard** was at the meeting and offered to help out with setting up a skills/drills program for RASA. Bob was a coach of the semi-pro Lehigh Valley Storm football team. He feels RASA needs to have a training program in place from T-ball on up. He understands that all the coaches are volunteers and they may not have the background in softball or coaching to be able to properly teach the girls how to play. Bob will work on getting a program in place for the Tball/Rookie level. He will make sure it is available on the website and offer trainings for the coaches. Bob is also considering being the Fall Ball coordinator.

***Opening Day:** Val Lopes is chairing the day again. Pete will send her the list of people that volunteered to help with the day. It will also be picture day this year and the schedule should still be 15 minutes per team with each team arriving 15 minutes early.

***Home Run Derby (HRD):** The Halls have volunteered to chair the event.

***Fundraising:** The possibility of perhaps having some sort of a “sales” based fundraiser for the girls to raise more money to defer the cost of registration. It was felt that since we currently ask all girls to participate in the raffle that an added fundraiser would not be supported. It was decided that RASA would rather hold a bucket drop at WalMart or a carwash.

***Stephanie Hill:** Stephanie played in the woman’s league a few years ago. Her husband murdered her last month and some of the members thought it would a nice idea to have a tournament to raise money for Stephanie’s daughter’s care. Joan and Rich Ponak will look into this.

***Pitching Lesons:** Mary Jo passed on a message from Mike the pitching coach. Mike asked if it would be possible to continue pitching lessons inside at Strayer passed the March 12th cutoff. Stacie will check with Maureen Montoney at the district to see if Strayer is available 3/26, 4/2, 4/16.

VIGS: Rick Galloway attended the 2/7/12 VIGS meeting and the biggest change will be the possibility of allowing B travel team pitchers to pitch in the VIGS. The same board will be in place for the coming year. The umpire fees have gone up slightly but the league fees will be the same this year, \$400 per team. The U14 VIGS will begin 4/23/12 with playoffs 6/10 and the U18 VIGS will begin 5/7/12 with playoffs 6/24. They are looking for a host for the All-Star game on 5/18/12-5/19/12. The fee for the All-Star tournament is \$200 per team. The pitching mounds have all been set to 43’ to match the HS and USSSA. The next VIGS meeting will be 3/4/12 in Souderton. The VIGS will need the number of RASA teams by next meeting and the rosters and registration fees and 2 black-out dates (no games played) by April. Rich has asked that someone else be the VIGS representative. Rick’s daughter has made a travel team and he will not have the time to devote to the position. Joe Oniskey was suggested as a replacement. Stacie will contact Joe. Mary Jo brought up that RASA has to bill the VIGS for the 2011 lights bill. She will bill them \$600.

Adjournment:

8:53 PM MaryJo Webb motioned to adjourn and Pete Hall 2nd. All agreed.

Next meeting – Sunday, 2/19/12 at the Township Building