

**Rheems Athletic Association
Board Meeting - March 9th, 2014 - Meeting Minutes
Babbo's Italian Grill, Mount Joy, PA**

President Mike De Stefano called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM with the following board members in attendance:

Sean Burton (vice-president), Mike Hamilton (softball co-commissioner), Brian Heffleger (softball co-commissioner), and Brian Bell (secretary).

Bob Mueser (website administrator - non-board member) was also in attendance.

Mark Weissend (lacrosse commissioner) arrived at 7:15.

Heather Hassinger (treasurer), Craig Hummer (soccer co-commissioner), Joe Carter (soccer co-commissioner), Sarah Hoffman (fundraising commissioner), Rick Knowlton (volleyball commissioner) were not in attendance.

- Special business/guests – Roger Garber (Conoy softball commissioner), Corey Dehme, Kellie and Michael Peters

Ken Burke (Rugby) - Did not attend. Ken is looking to talk to board about forming a rugby league. Joe Carter invited him to meeting. There was an initial discussion about rugby and there was a concern about taking kids from other sports.

Corey Dehme - Mike De Stefano introduced Corey to the board. Mike indicated Corey is the coordinator for care and maintenance of the soccer fields. Corey stated the following:

- Organized a crew to line the fields Friday mornings.
- There is a two year plan to improve the condition of the soccer fields.
- Tomlinson Bomberger has been hired to improve the field due to their knowledge of sports fields.
- Discussed all the steps Tomlinson Bomberger will be taking to improve the fields.
- West Donegal Township will take care of the West Donegal fields.
- Soccer bought a pallet of grass seed to be applied to the soccer fields.
- There is a plan to get tarps on the fields as soon as the snow melts and the weather cooperates.
- Greentree is the soccer field in the worst shape.

There was a discussion about finding help to line fields. Corey indicated it came down to asking people. Mike Hamilton indicated mostly coaches' line the field for softball. Brian Heffleger indicated EGSA paid someone to line the fields in prior years. Corey reiterated it comes down to personally asking someone to help. Brian Heffleger indicated softball would rely on coaches.

Mike De Stefano asked Corey how the board could make his job easier. Corey indicated he wants to get into an annual maintenance cycle with field day at the start of the season. Mike De

Stefano stated that it would be beneficial to get a calendar of events. Corey indicated he would like to have 2 people each season assigned to a field for lining.

Mark asked how long the soccer season runs. Mike De Stefano indicated it starts about the second week in August and runs to the second week in November. Mark indicated the fall lacrosse program runs for six weeks.

Corey stated that soccer will try to use the school for 11v11 games and that the school does all the line painting. Corey also indicated that he will start documenting his efforts.

Kellie and Michael Peters - Mike Peters indicated he and Kellie attended the meeting to offer to help the organization. Brian Heffleger indicated they have helped out with EGSA with field maintenance. Mike Peters stated he liked the direction softball is going with getting coaches to coach the same way and getting girls involved at a younger age. Mike Peters indicated combining the softball programs and implementing the aforementioned changes is a great idea and the high school softball team will be better for it.

Kellie Peters stated that playing under the lights will be beneficial along with having the softball complex at Rheems. Kellie indicated that she is willing to help out and provide contacts for different events. Mike De Stefano explained the composition of the board and it's members. There was a general discussion about the 6U and 8U age levels and teaching the girls correctly at the start. Mike Hamilton stated that the coaching clinic instructs the same fundamentals as college coaches' use. Shawn Burton questioned if Kellie would want to be the coordinator for the snack stand. Kellie indicated that Michael Peters works with Turkey Hill and Reutters. Michael Peters stated he has reached out to Turkey Hill for providing food and drink at a reduced cost. Michael Peters indicated he will know the week following the meeting and will look to get contact information. Michael also indicated that he may be able to get equipment for the snack stand at a reduced price.

- Prior meeting minutes review and approval

Mike De Stefano asked if there were any objections to the February's meeting minutes. No one indicated any. **Shawn Burton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes which was seconded by Mike Hamilton. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the board.**

- Finances – Heather Hassinger

February Finances - Subsequent to the meeting, Heather emailed the financial statements for February. Mike De Stefano indicated that Susan Smith has agreed to accept the treasurer's position starting in June. Mike indicated it was up to the board to appoint the position. Mike also indicated the position is a two year term. There were no objections for the board members that were present.

- Previous business - Action Items - April

1. Sarah to contact Wenger Feeds in August for fall donations. **Update - Sarah Hoffman made contact with Wenger Feeds and was asked to send in the information to Jamie Rowley's attention. Sarah and Mike De Stefano met last week to discuss the format of the letter to send over to Wenger's with a target date of no later than March 14, 2014.**

- Previous business - Action Items – January

1. Brian Heffleger to coordinate locks with Joe Carter and Joe will contact locksmith. **Open** Brian Heffleger indicated he still needs to figure out what to do with the softball equipment. *No update. Brian Heffleger still needs to figure out equipment. Corey indicated there may be a need for additional boxes for soccer. The boxes may need to be moved to different locations. Brian Heffleger to coordinate with soccer to determine if there is a need for the boxes. Shawn Burton indicated the shed at Wolgemuth should be coordinated with Mount Joy Township. Brian Heffleger indicated he will attend the next Mount Joy Township meeting.*

2. Craig Hummer to contact the high school about borrowing a mound. **Open** *Craig not present at the March meeting. Update to be provided at the April meeting.*

- New and Ongoing business

1. Fundraising and sponsorship - Sarah Hoffman - Mike De Stefano provided an update. Mike De Stefano summarized that Wenger feeds provided \$2,500 last year and Wenger indication of helping in subsequent years. There was a discussion about naming the complex for Wenger. Mike De Stefano indicated that Sarah would approach Wenger with a letter on Wednesday (3/12/14). Mike De Stefano also discussed enhancing sponsors' exposure and would try to get dates for the fundraising meeting.

Mike De Stefano stated the following:

- Board members should try to keep the website fresh with something new on the website.
- Sarah created sheets for marketing to facilitate website updates.
- Sponsorship promotional opportunities for Rheems to be added on the website.
- All but three previous sign sponsors have paid.
- Softball sub sale needs a person identified to assist in coordination.
- Opportunities exist with restaurants on fundraising but require distribution of flyers to bring to the restaurant so they know how much is attributable to Rheems AA. Challenge in the past has been to get the flyers into the hands of our members. Brian Heffleger commented on using email to facilitate this.
- Pizzatown is available to do fundraising for Rheems.

2. Softball - Mike Hamilton/Brian Heffleger

News/updates - Mike Hamilton indicated the town hall meeting went great and there were many positive comments. Mike Hamilton indicated the Conoy East field may not be in use for softball. Conoy may need to use it for soccer. Roger Garber confirmed the previous statement and indicated he would know more after the Conoy meeting on 3/11/14. Brian Heffleger indicated he submitted Conoy field for 6 games. All the games

are for 10U and have mostly Conoy players. Brian Heffleger indicated that are no dates yet for the Donegal/Rheems league.

Mike Hamilton discussed the number of kids playing at each level and the number of teams. Brian Heffleger discussed the teams' age level, changing names and field usage for each age level. Brian Heffleger indicated that evaluations will be held at the Lanco Field House on 3/22/14 due to the weather. Evaluations will be for 5 hours at a cost of \$85/hour. Brian Heffleger and Mike Hamilton discussed the equipment that was purchased for the softball program emphasizing the 6U and 8U ages levels.

Kellie Peters indicated that Dick's gives out team coupon packets with 20% off on one day. There is no cost for the packets and the couches would distribute them. The coaches would need to fill out paperwork for the packets. Kellie also indicated that Dick's also does sponsorships, but they need a business plan. Shawn Burton also indicated that the Sports Authority has a similar coupon program.

Brian Heffleger indicated the District ASA Representative approached him about Rheems AA hosting an ASA tournament in the fall for travel. ASA may have a Lancaster County Championship with the Lanco and Donegal/Rheems league winners over July 4th at the 10U/12U/14U age levels. Brian Heffleger indicated there is more symmetry between the leagues than in the past. Brian Heffleger indicated that Columbia wants to do an 8U tournament. There was discussion about parking at the Rheems complex if a tournament would be held there. Tournaments would need to be coordinated with other sports and possibly contacting nearby businesses for additional parking. Brian Heffleger also reminded the Board about Todd Macfarlane's effort to coordinate with Elizabethtown Boy's Club for a baseball tournament.

3. Lacrosse - Mark Weissend

News/updates - Mark indicated he will soon be paying officials. Bob Mueser indicated the schedule will be up tomorrow (3/10/14). Mark indicated there are field issues due to the snow. Mark is looking into getting one of the school's gyms to use. Mark discussed the "play date" games on May 10th and May 17th. Mark indicated the sport is growing faster than the number of coaches. Mark declared teams on January 20th and there are some teams now with over 20 kids. Mark indicated there are about 20 kids in the K-2nd lacrosse age level. The lack of people willing to volunteer as a coach will pose problems down the line as numbers keep increasing. Rheems AA will need to look into ways to support the lacrosse program and recruit volunteers as coaches to help build the program to an ideal ratio of players per team.

4. Soccer - Joe Carter/Craig Hummer

News/updates - No update, both commissioners not present.

5. Volleyball - Richard Knowlton

News/updates - No update, not present.

6. Facility/Field Maintenance - Mike Hamilton indicated he will talk to Conoy about fields.

7. Field Usage - Mike De Stefano asked if all sports were good with insurance certificates. No one indicated any issues.

Mike De Stefano indicated the following items:

- The 990 tax return should be complete by the next meeting and ready to be filed.
- The 501 3c is progressing and he was able to look at another organization that recently filed for their 501(c)3 form.
- To have a complete 501(c)3 application, Rheems AA will need to set up formal policies.
- Asked when Rheems AA was created. Mike Hamilton indicated he has a book of the history of Rheems AA from the 1980's.
- Discussed the history of Rheems AA and the Robinson memorial. Mike Hamilton indicated a need to move a plaque. Mike Hamilton also indicated a flagpole needs to be put up at West Donegal Township and the plaque placed at the base of the flagpole.
- Would like a list of all volunteers from each commissioner to add to the website and provide volunteers with recognition.
- He needs more access to website and will work with Bob Mueser to obtain.
- Roger Garber indicated he started creating a Facebook page for softball.
- Asked if anyone needed anything from him. Brian Heffleger indicated opening day is 4/26/14 and softball needs to pick a field day date. Bob Mueser indicated to use the website to get on the calendar of events. Brian Heffleger indicated he is trying to get teams from other organizations in for opening day.

Action Item #1: Mike Hamilton to get Rheems AA book to Mike De Stefano.

Mark Weissand indicated the LAGLA check needs to go through. Mark also indicated practices will be on Monday so he won't be able to make meetings during the lacrosse season. Mark indicated Sundays would work better for him.

Mike De Stefano indicated he will send out an email moving April's meeting to Sunday April 13th at Lucky Ducks.

Action Item #2: Mike De Stefano to send out email moving April's meeting to Sunday April 13th at Lucky Ducks.

Mike De Stefano indicated the commissioner should create a wish list of needs.

Bob Mueser indicated there are about 1,800 email addresses for Rheems AA families with some duplicates.

Mike Hamilton provided a summary of the meeting with West Donegal Township (WDT) Supervisor, Gene Oldham. Mike Hamilton indicated WDT is willing to buy most anything for field maintenance. Mike Hamilton indicated the tarps for WDT will be used in the fall. Mike Hamilton indicated WDT will also provide all the material for additional lights.

Brian Heffleger made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mark Weissand.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next meeting is Sunday, April 13 at 7:00 PM at Lucky Ducks in Elizabethtown.