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**SUN CITY WEST SOFTBALL CLUB
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President, Dick Lemoine at the Liberty Field Clubhouse at 7:55a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Farrar, George Karras, Bob Latzo, Dick Lemoine, and Ernie Mueller.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Carol Bowden, Ray Early, Ken Skinner, and Richard Wells.

MAY MINUTES APPROVAL:

Bob Latzo made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2006 meeting. Motion seconded by Ernie Mueller. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Dick Lemoine distributed the treasurer's report in detail, and reported on behalf of the treasurer, Lyle Bakken who was absent. Dick reported a closing balance as of August 20, 2006 of \$10,409.98. The SCW Recreation Center is currently carrying a balance for us of \$12,097.42. Dennis Farrar made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by George Karras. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Field Maintenance:

Field Closure:

George Karras reported that the field will be posted closed for overseeding and other maintenance work from October 2 through October 23. Fall league play will start on Tuesday, October 24. There is a possibility that it could open earlier. During this closure, arrangements have been made for four practices at the Bicentennial Field in Surprise. We have 57 players currently assigned to play. Anyone who plans to attend any of these practices will need to sign a waiver form before they will be allowed to play. We would like to extend a special thank you to Steve Griswold for setting this up for us.

New Storage Building:

The new storage building is in and on a concrete pad and this was all funded by Sun City West Softball Club. Members also donated their time to pour this concrete pad. Dick had contacted all the board members by phone and it was unanimous that George follow up on getting the new storage building and getting the concrete slab poured for the new storage sheds foundation. This project was also voted on and passed at the last general meeting in February, so the George just followed up on completing the project. Thank you George for all the hard work and effort you have done to complete this project.

Donated Shopping Cart:

George Karras reported that we now have a shopping cart that was donated by Bashas' for us use for our practices. There's also a new set of bases, but they will not be used, except for tournament play. We will play with the current bases for regular play until they fall apart. George also mentioned that we now have a new pitching rubber.

Small Storage Container:

George has requested, pending board approval, to purchase a small storage container to put the bases and things into and to place the container behind the drinking fountain on the third base side. Dennis Farrar made a motion that we authorize George Karras to buy the small storage container as he requested, but not to exceed \$100.00. Ernie Mueller seconded. Motion carried.

Long Range Planning:

For our long-range plan, George reported that they planned to take down the existing bulletin boards in the dugout's and put new bulletin boards next to the Hall of Fame bulletin board. George feels that we would have better control of the bulletin boards and what goes on the bulletin boards if placed in this area. No further action taken.

Special Events:

Sponsor's Carnival and Pancake Breakfast:

George Karras reported they had a trial run breakfast that did not turn out well because the gas grill did not work. Ken Skinner sent out 42 letters to all the sponsors and is at one response back so far. Ken has requested that all sponsors RSVP by October 6. Sponsors will be given two weeks after receipt of the letter, and then we are to make personal contact with them to find out what their intentions are. Joan McKenna said she would make the follow up contacts on behalf of Sun City West Softball Club. Larry Kuberka will do the same for the Sun City Club. The recreation center has made it quite clear that nothing can be sold at this event. Sponsors can give out items such as pencils, pens coupons, advice or information. The local firemen will be there doing free blood pressure tests. George Karras is asking that all ballplayers who plan to attend, whether you are working or not to wear your sponsors jersey and hats. This will enable all the sponsors who attend to see all the uniformed players at one-time. George also mentioned there will also be local publicity in papers of Sun City West, Sun City as well as Sun City Grand. Posters will also be up at the Recreation Center and various businesses in the area. George said that he would like to have an idea of how many may attend so they are pre-selling tickets. See Ken Skinner for tickets. The menu is, precooked bacon, pancakes, orange juice and coffee. All for only \$3.00 per person (all you can eat).

Planning / Annual Calendar of Events:

Dennis Farrar had nothing to report at this time. No further action.

Sponsors:

Team:

Ernie Mueller reported that Bill & Joan McKenna are no longer helping him with the team sponsors. The new couple to help Ernie with the team sponsors will be Joe & Diane Oliver. Joe plays in the National League. For clarification, Ernie only does Sun City West team sponsors. Desert Golf Cars will now be a team sponsor and replaced Wells Fargo Bank. All other team sponsors are paid and current. Larry Ott Realty will be the sponsors of the newly formed all woman's team known as the "Sparks." Ernie also mentioned that Lund Cadillac will provide us with 2 more sets of summer jerseys and we will now wear our league hats. Lund will also provide us with balls, shirts and hats for the Friday, Saturday, and Monday teams. We would like to thank Lund for their continuing support and for their support over the past 12 years.

Billboards:

George Karras said we now have 17 sponsor billboards up right now. A program has been presented to True Value Hardware. George said that they will meet with them after the first of the year to determine what they want to do. True Value has showed a great interest. A program has also been presented to the Federal Government regarding the smoking program they have and it looks pretty good. In the future there is a program that will be presented to Gila River Casinos. The Daily News Sun and The Exterminator are also going to be board sponsors.

Election Committee:

Dick Lemoine has appointed Dennis Farrar, Bob Latzo, Ernie Mueller, and Jim McGuire to serve on this committee with Dennis Farrar as the chairperson. Dennis reported that he has received no interest at this point. Dennis posted a list of the committee on the bulletin board with the names and phone numbers of the committee members. Please contact one of us if you are interested in being nominated for the board. This is a two (2) year term.

Dennis will follow up with those that have expressed an interest and make a list of candidates who are willing to be placed on the ballot. The election will be held on November 9 (National League), and November 14 (American League).

Membership:

Ken Skinner reported the following membership status as of September 11, 2006:

Total members in good standing: 277

Detail breakout:

American League (Active & Sub List)	103
National League (Active & Sub List)	105
Woman's League	42
Members not assigned (injuries, etc.) to teams	26
Unassigned	1
Totals	<u>277</u>

Uniforms & Equipment:

Ray Early reported that the new uniforms have been ordered and should be received in time for play. Ray said we will need to order more balls before the year is over but we have enough for now. Ray also presented the jersey design for the newly formed women's team called the "Sparks". No further action.

UMPIRES ASSOCIATION:

Ken Skinner mentioned that he would like to start an umpires association that would umpire tournaments and possibly regular league games. Ken would like to have this clinic once a week for going over the rules and specific mechanics to those who attend. There will also be uniforms for the umpires. Ken will keep us posted on how this is coming along. Ken's first session will be September 28, 2006. Please plan to attend if you are interested.

TOURNAMENTS:

Ken Skinner reported the following events are on the calendar:

Nov 4-5	Bosom Buddies	Jan	None Scheduled
Nov 11-12	SCW Firefighters	Feb 3	Cardiac Kids
Dec	None Scheduled	Mar 1-4	Spring Fling

Dennis Farrar has asked Ken Skinner for an article to be put in the newsletter, so be looking for Ken's articles in the upcoming newsletter.

Dick Lemoine has suggested in holding a Vintage Softball Tournament. This would be based on the first year of baseball which was 1864. They would use a rag ball and the players would be wearing vintage uniforms and the calls of the game would be of that era. Mike Hester is willing to set this tournament up. Dick would also like to see "League Of Their Own" which was the 1940's women's ball game if there is enough interest to participate. And also Dick would like to see a "10 up" game. This type of game is popular in Canada. Dick has access to the "10 up" rules. No further action taken.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dick Lemoine covered again on the cost of \$215.00 to wax the both floors. Dick also said we have players that know how to do this and if we rent the buffer they would do the waxing. Dick said that Mike Graham now has the managers picked for the AL fall league play. Dick has the list if you would like to know who they are. Dick read a letter received from Wayne Mitchell about summer ball stating that he would like to see if the players are interested in using a different softball during summer play only. Wayne is asking that a better ball be used for summer league play. No action taken.

Dick reported that Matt Szydowski is no longer the liaison to the softball club. Dick Lemoine met with Matt at a meeting. Dick read part of the minutes of the meeting that basically covered what the Recreation Center want to do with the parking lot and other plans for the future that would affect our field.

OLD BUSINESS

FOUL POLES:

Dick asked Bob Latzo to repaint the foul poles in preparation of getting them installed. The Recreation Center is going to prep the areas by moving back the fencing on both foul areas the first day the field is shut down (October 2). They are going to drill the holes and place the foul poles right after that. General Sign is the company that is going to set the poles. Once we get the poles in place it will be the Recreation Center job to maintain them.

FOUL LINES:

The Recreation Center made the decision to remove the fire hoses as foul lines. Todd Patty then had the maintenance crew remove the fire hoses and replace them with sod in its place. They've then painted the lines with paint. The recreation center has agreed to purchase the paint, but the club will have to keep them painted. There is a painting machine that has been provided for us.

If this doesn't work Todd has agreed to do something different, but we are not going back to the fire hoses. Todd will be asked to set a 4 inch line instead of the current line.

SCORE BOARD:

When the contract was signed with Liberty Buick, Matt Szydowski gave the field naming rights Liberty Buick for 20 years. The name would call "Liberty Field". The plans of grillwork being submitted to the recreation center to be placed above the scoreboard in Center Field. On the scoreboard there will be the words "Liberty Field" in 16 inch red letters. The approximately \$500.00 to cover the cost of this project will come out of the SCWSC treasury. The local metal shop is working on this grillwork, and it should be completed within two weeks after the field is closed. This will complete the scoreboard as planned.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW LEAGUE HATS:

Several members have expressed an interest in purchasing new hats for the league. This would be a better quality hat and would cost around \$6.25 each which includes embroidering and shipping. Paul Turley is working on a new logo for the new hats. It was also indicated that each hat would have a small American Flag over the left ear of the hat. Sun City West will cover two thirds of the cost, and Sun City club will cover one third of the cost. Dick Lemoine has agreed to present this at the next League Board Meeting on September 13, 2006. No further action.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The next general membership meeting will be held on October the 16th 2006 at the Palm Ridge recreation Center. Dick Lemoine has asked Ken Skinner to give a presentation on special events that are coming up. George Karras will also make a presentation on the proposed bleachers and dugouts. Dick Lemoine will cover how the Ramada's project is going and Loran Swanson will about the Hall of Fame.

BLEACHERS / DUGOUTS:

George Karras has planned about doing something with the bleachers and the dugouts and presented a plan to the members present. George passed out the drawings and after some discussion it was determined that Paul Turley would render these drawings on a computer in a picture format and then send that these drawings to Dennis Farrar to render in a PowerPoint presentation for George to present to the club membership at the October 16. At this meeting, George will cover the cost of this project at the General Membership Meeting so you want to be sure you're there. A project like this could take as much as 12 to 14 months to approve because of having to go through the Recreation Center for permits and final approval. The Recreation Center has agreed to meet with us after a general membership meeting to determine how soon we can move forward with this project. No further action taken.

SUMMER LEAGUE PLAY:

Rich Wells mentioned that for the third session the sub list was too long, and that a sub list should never be that long. Also you need to do one session at a time and not all three at one time. A player plans could change. Rich asks each player himself and if they can not make half of the games they do not play for the summer play.

Dennis Farrar mentioned that his main problem and frustration was that some players would schedule to play in a session and then tell their manager they would be leaving for the summer after only playing four or five games. Players need to understand that there is a lot of effort exerted to setting up the summer play, (or any play as far as that goes) and the players need to be honest and "shoot straight" with the coordinators that are setting up rosters to make teams. Dennis on the other hand feels that the length of the sub list is irrelevant. Many of the subs on the list were from the National League and were going to be gone on and off for a couple of weeks or so and didn't mind not being assigned a team but wanted the opportunity to play if they were called. Dennis saw no harm in this concept as long as he and the manager knew. Managers were instructed to pull from the sub list first before going to other teams for subs. All managers should know that if you get an answering machine you go to the next one. This allows more players to play more ball games and not just a selected few. In conclusion it was agreed upon that a committee be formed to set up some standards for the summer league play. Rich Wells and Dennis Farrar have agreed to stay on to be a part of this committee and two others (1 more NL player and 1 more AL player) will be appointed to make up the Summer League Committee. Dick Lemoine suggested that maybe we try something different in the last session. Dick Lemoine thanked Rich and Dennis for all their hard work and for volunteering to setting up the summer play. No further action taken.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

On-Deck Circles:

Having on deck circles were presented again by Ray Early with samples and the approximate cost would be approximately \$950.00 for two. These would be stored in the new shed. Dick feels that this item should go to the membership for a vote. Dennis Farrar made a motion to present the on deck circles at the next general membership meeting being held October 16, 2006 at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center. Ernie Mueller seconded the motion. Motion carried. No further action taken.

Field Practicing:

Carol Bowden has requested a slot for the ladies to practice on Liberty Field. Carol was authorized to have Mondays from 2 – 4 p.m.

Clubhouse Cleaning:

Dick Lemoine mentioned that last week he had brought in a cleaning woman, and for \$65.00 she cleaned the downstairs and the upstairs of the clubhouse. They were there for over four hours. It is a feeling that we need to talk to the recreation center about doing a better job on keeping our clubhouse cleaner. Pointed out that we all need to make a better effort on keeping our clubhouse cleaner.

New Home Plate Proposal:

Ken Skinner suggested that we take home plate and make it all one piece. This would do away with the black rubber extension behind existing white plate secured in the ground. Dick Lemoine has appointed Ken Skinner to check on this and report back to the board with his findings on costs and related information. This means that the catcher behind home plate can touch a part of the white to record an out. So you would not have those unforeseen bounces from the ball as it came in and hit the ground.

NEXT SCWSC BOARD MEETING:

Monday, October 2, 2006 • 8:00 A.M. • Men's Club (*Stampede Room*) • Sun City West.

NEXT SCSSL BOARD MEETING:

Wednesday, October 18, 2006 • 9:00 A.M. • Bell Lanes Bowling Alley • Sun City **(please note the normal date change)**

ADJOURNMENT:

Dennis Farrar moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by George Karras. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Farrar, Secretary
Sun City West Softball Club