

## **Meetings Minutes – Nov 15, 2022 Cochrane Minor Baseball AGM**

**Attendees: Michelle O’How, Corey O’How, Mike Maguire, Jason Hardy, Kayley MacLennan, Jackie Nickel, Leigh Edmunds, Jodie Eckert, Warren Boychuk, Frank Evans, Blain Pike, Sasha Pike, Joy Eaton, Erin Nielsen , Alison Clayton**

**Absent: David Optland, Tyler Code and Jason Qually**

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

- Corey introduced the board members and thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and went over the CMB mission statement and the agenda for the evening.

### **President’s Report**

- Corey gave the report and talked about the steady growth of enrollment for all age groups. We will be budgeting for 700 players in both softball and baseball for the 2023 season. We are at capacity on all diamonds and until the TOC moves forward with building diamonds, we are unable to take further registration.
- We are going to continue working with the TOC on new diamonds at Greystone and Horse Creek Sports Park, but the presentations given over the last 5 years continues to fall on deaf ears at the TOC. We have been asking for a baseball only diamond for several years, as we are the only small town in the area that does not have this as an option for our membership.
- Corey will continue to work the TOC on diamonds to ensure we will be able to optimize use of all diamonds by all user groups in town.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

- Mike gave the report that showed updated information to Sept 30, 2022.
- Revenue \$238,561.07
- Expenses \$204,807.03
- Profit/(Loss) \$33,754.04
- Joy Eaton made a motion to accept the financial statement for year end Sept 30, 2022.
- Frank Evans 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.

### **Softball Report**

Cochrane Softball had a great 2022 Season, with just over 100 players on 9 teams. We were able to find a spot for every registered and waitlisted girl to play. By working with West Valley Softball, we were able to offer a few different opportunities to our Cochrane Athletes who were needing a place to play or looking for something more competitive.

- We started the year off with our Winter Skills Sessions for 8 weeks. We were lucky to have the U of C Dinos out to run a portion of the sessions and look forward to having them out again in January! As well, we ran a Pitching Clinic with Dwayne Singer for 6 weeks prior to the season.
- This was our first season running a U11 House League. We easily had 40 players registered for 4 teams of 10, practicing and playing in Cochrane. Our goal was to get as many girls playing as possible, with a focus on skill development at the beginning of the season and transitioning into more competitive play by the end. Overall a great success, and we hope to have the numbers next season to continue.
- We had a div 2 and div 3 team at U13. There was a mix of new and experienced players at this age level, so it was great to have 2 teams for these athletes. Depending on registration numbers, we expect to have 2-3 teams at U13 in 2023. Our U13A team came out Div 2 City Champs!
- Our only U15 team, The Cherry Bombs had a great season, winning the Div 2C Championship! Next year, we hope to have 2 U15 teams.

- We had 2 High School (U17) teams. U17A started out in Div. 1 and moved to Div. 2 by the end of May. Our U17B's played in div 3. Both teams had great seasons, and we are hoping to have 2 U17 teams again next year.
- We hosted 2 pitching clinics during the season to support our younger pitchers.
- Plans for 2023:
  - Winter Skills sessions Jan 8-Feb 26 (Sundays): registration to open soon
  - 8 week pitching clinic starting in Jan. (3 sessions/night for the age groups)
  - Pre-evaluation camps for all registered players
  - Indoor pre season practices for teams (although may be difficult with spring break timing)
  - Regular Scheduled weekend practice times for all teams
  - Host a NCCP Level 1 Coaching clinic
- Your VP Softball is looking for some help! If anyone is interested in taking on specific tasks to get the season going, it would be much appreciated! No major commitment required, just a task! Email vpsoftball@cochraneminorball.ca if you're interested.  
Examples:
  1. Organize the Coaching Clinic
  2. Winter Skills Coaching Support
  3. Evaluation Support

### **Baseball Report**

- Little League Spring Season had the following teams:
  - \* 8 – Minor
  - \* 5 – Major
  - \* 2 – Intermediate
  - \* 1 – Junior
  - \* 1 – Senior
- The season was focused on development and growth for both the coach and player. CMB implemented a new coach development program that hired outside coaching to work with new coaches in both minor and major to help develop core skills and drills for players at this age.
- Will continue to implement coach development in both minor and major to continue growth and development in both players and coaches for a successful season
- Little League had 1 summer team:
  - \* 1 – Minor AA
- Baseball Alberta had 3 summer teams – included a provincial championships
  - \* 1 – 13UAA
  - \* 1 – 15UAA Tier 6 Provincial Champions
  - \* 1 – 15UAAA Tier 2 Silver medalists and qualified for Tier 1 and placed 5th
- Will continue to grow the 13U and 15U programs, along with the introduction of the 18U team to keep competitive players and coaches in the community. Costs will be determined based on coach selection with tryouts scheduled in February 2023.
- Will be offering coach clinics and work with interested coaches to adopt the CMB philosophies, to help develop and grow athletes.
- Will be working with the TOC on the Rodeo S diamond to allow players in 18U to play here.

### **Election of Officers**

- Jason Hardy nominated himself as Director at Large. Joy Eaton 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.
- Jackie Nickel nominated herself as Director of Large. Joy Eaton 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.
- Leigh Edmunds has volunteered in the Safety Coordinator role.
- All nominations accepted.

## **Open Discussion**

- Jason Hardy asked about supporting fall ball in District 3, by putting on website and sharing with the membership.
- Erin Nielsen asked about offering specific umpiring clinics to the BA teams to help grow the pool of umpires and help them understand the game better. Jason Hardy also asked about the shortage of umpires and how to help grow it. CMB will continue to offer umpire clinics in hopes to grow the number of qualified umpires in our community. Jackie Nickel was very happy with the quality of umpires for the season.
- Blaine Pike asked about numbers for 18U BA team and what CMB plans to do to ensure we have a team. The BA committee has already been working on helping to put together enough interest to keep kids playing competitively in Cochrane. Sasha Pike wants to know when they will find out if there is a team or not. The BA committee will start with an early registration to try and determine numbers by mid December and will be able to let families know then. Coach application is now open for those interested in coaching teams in 13U, 15U and 18U and is open until December 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be no releases signed by CMB for players wanting to play equivalent caliber of baseball if we have the program in Cochrane.
- Erin Nielsen asked if we are going to advertise about the 18U program. We have already been reaching out and connecting with past players and future players. Posts will be made on our social media accounts and the information is already on the website.
- Blaine Pike asked we would change the tryout dates for BA teams to earlier in the year to accommodate those wanting to try out for other teams. Corey commented that the lack of facilities and many users groups requesting indoor turf time, only allows CMB to book the dates we have secured at this time.
- Jackie Nickel asked about doing outdoor pitching clinics to help develop confidence in the new minor aged players that are nervous to pitch. Corey commented that we will be offering indoor clinics in March and will look at offering the outdoor camp as this is a great idea for young players.
- Registration for 2023 season will open December 1<sup>st</sup> for BA players in the competitive program and all other registrations will open January 16<sup>th</sup> at 8AM. All information will be posted to social media and the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm