**ELSA Fall Meeting**

Sunday, October 14, 2018

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:31pm**
* 19 teams represented
* Executive Members in attendance: Kristine, Allana, Heater
	+ Regrets: Taylor, Grant
1. **Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting**
* Adopted as reported
1. **Business arising from the minutes** – Nothing to report
2. **Presidents Report**

Kristine introduced herself to the members, as she was not present at the 2017 fall meeting where she was elected President; the 2017 meeting saw the election of a primarily new board, taking over for long-standing executive members - thank-you for your hard work during the 2018 season. There will be two executive members stepping down from the board: Grant will be leaving his position as facilities coordinator and Heather must leave her position as Treasurer as she is moving; thank-you both for all of your hard work for the association, you will both be missed. The ELSA celebrated our 60-year anniversary in 2018; as the only ladies fastball league in Edmonton, our vision is to reinvigorate our position as the premier league we have been known for in the past, increase our team numbers and grow our league again. Some ways we hope to accomplish this is through: increased advertising, getting our name out there for teams/players looking for somewhere to play; better liaise with our communities/sister associations to promote our league for minor teams moving up; and utilize our new website as a promotion tool, bringing back the New Players List (as a public forum) and add the New Teams List for teams to post open positions. For us to be able to take these steps, we need the support of our teams to engage and help us grow as an association.

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – Reported by Kristine and Heather
* There were a couple noticeable increases in expenses in 2018 over 2017, the most notable being a large jump in the costs for diamond rentals. There was a fee increase over 2017, with it costing $176/diamond/night ($44/hr/diamond, $48/hr for lights); we are not anticipating an increase for the 2019 season. We unfortunately do not have many other diamond options available for us to use, as we require certain field dimensions and lighting. We will continue to log complaints with the city regarding lighting issues for our games (not being turned on in time, billing issues, etc.), but this is a continued work in progress.
* The second largest expense increase was seen with the umpire fees, which was up roughly $3K over 2017; the umpires association has also eluded that we could see another increase for the 2019 season.
* We did have additional expenses for the upgrade to our website, which will only affect the 2018 budget; we also put additional funds towards promotion through advertising, this is something we may continue if we deem it successful in attracting new players/teams to our league. We managed to decrease our expenses for both phone/internet costs and our office supplies; we will continue to work hard in trimming expenses wherever we can for future years.
* The 2019 registration fees will not see an increase ($2200 + $200 bond) as part of the promise made to those teams who supported the Pub Night/Silent Auction fundraiser, but we may need to increase the fees for the 2020 season and beyond if we are not able to raise additional funds in the 2019 season. The executive does have some ideas on how we can continue to offset fee increases and will work in the off-season to put together a plan to be rolled out to league members. In order for the ELSA to remain sustainable, we need to have an action plan on how to garner more funds – whether it is additional fundraising or an increase in registration fees. At this point, we will only be able to continue operation the ELSA for another 3.5 years until we have no more funds left.
* The only outstanding expenses until next spring are our office rental, phone/internet and any applicable banking fees.
* We currently have a total account balance of $76,468.28, with $47,113.11 in our General account, $17,538.66 in our Special Even account and $11,816.51 in our GIC (which matures February 2019).
1. **Election for New Executive**
* Both Kristine and Taylor have one year remaining as President and Vice President respectively.
* There is one year remaining in the term to be fulfilled after Heather’s departure as Treasurer.
* All remaining positions up for election are for a two-year term.
* **Facilities Director**
	+ Duties include liaise with the City of Edmonton to secure diamond allocation and rentals. There are three meetings to attend early each year, with meetings 1 and 3 being the most important.
	+ Relationship building and networking are very important in this position
	+ Individual must be ready to “fight” for ELSA to obtain the diamond allocation needed to fulfill our season needs.
	+ Grant is willing to mentor his successor and available to help/answer questions
* Kristine called three times from the floor for any nominations or volunteers; Diane Leeder with the Cougars volunteered to take over the role of Facilities Director, seconded by Kelly Tracey from the Cougars. No further nominations.

**Election of Diane Leeder as Facilities Director CARRIED.**

* **Treasurer – *1 year term remaining***
	+ Duties include paying bills, depositing money, management of record of accounts, liaise with City of Edmonton facilities coordinator and ELSA Program Coordinator to confirm billing accuracy of diamond rental fees, file required documents for association status annually, and work with President and executive with any fundraising initiatives. This position is not a huge commitment in time, but is a vital role within the ELSA and requires an individual with attention to detail.
	+ Kristine called three times from the floor for any nomination or volunteers; no nominations put forth. **Position Tabled** will be readdressed at the end of the meeting agenda.
* **Secretary**
	+ Duties include acting as recording secretary at the annual general meeting.
	+ Allana will allow her name to stand as Secretary for another term.
	+ If there are no nominations or volunteers for Treasurer, she has volunteered to step in for the one-year term, which will leave the Secretary position vacant and in need of further election.
1. **New Business**

**Motion for ELSA to absolve the position of 2nd Vice President and restructure the position as an Events Coordinator that will focus on fundraising moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Lisa Dickner with U19 St. Albert Angels.** **CARRIED**.

Discussion:

**2018 Spring Mixer & Silent Auction fundraiser:**

* We recognize that the spring mixer was introduced last minute to teams with the expectation to sell tickets and supply silent auction items, and was poorly timed during the season when teams were already committed to playing in various tournaments.
* We thank all those teams who did participate in selling tickets to the even and were able to attend themselves. The event was successful in generating additional income for the association, but we know we can make this better.
* For the 2019 season, we will be looking to align the mixer and silent auction with the Ice Breaker. We hope that this timing will boost attendance as most, if not all, ELSA teams will be playing in the Ice Breaker tournament.
* Each team will again be required to sell 11 tickets for the event; supply of an auction item is not mandatory, but it is encouraged and appreciated.
* This fundraiser will help to offset fees and increases in future seasons.
	+ Should there be a fundraiser bond, where if a team chooses not to sell any tickets for the fundraiser they would forfeit their bond. This would ensure that all teams are participating and supporting this endeavor in some capacity.
	+ If a team does fundraising (ticket sales), they would receive their bond back at the end of the season.
* Would there be other opportunities/venues that could be looked at that are not in a pub as there are many underage teams/players in the ELSA that are not able to attend.
	+ The majority of teams/players are of age – we are a “ladies” league that happens to allow underage teams/players to participate. We are looking to facilitate a fundraiser that accommodates the majority.
	+ Parents of such teams use events such as this as a night out and are supporting their daughter(s)

**Motion for ELSA to administer a fundraising bond to be paid upon registration by each team for the season moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Betty Carmichael with TripleX. CARRIED.**

* + No bond amount has been stipulated in the motion so that the amount can be addressed each year and discussed during the fall meeting before being established for the coming season.

**Outsourcing Diamonds:**

* Kristine reports that the City of Edmonton has advised that they have a new algorithm for facility allocation for diamonds in the city. We have to submit our projected registrants (will be based on 2018) and they algorithm should allot us 115% of our needs. This will hopefully help curb block booking for diamond space that in the end is not utilized.
	+ We need to continue to establish better communication with the city facilities department; Kristine will give Diane the business card of the person they have been having meetings with.
* Unfortunately, there are very limited options that cater to our needs, namely diamonds within the city or surrounding that have lights to host premier leagues.
* We will continue to fight for diamond allocation at John Fry. ELSA has a strong history with John Fry Park; we helped build and create the facility it is today (there is paperwork to back that up).
	+ ELSA and its members need to have a strong voice; individuals need to email and contact our council representatives to plead our case. We need to go through the proper channels, but if we are not being heard we should be looking at other mediums to communicate the issues we face (ex. media, petitions, etc.).
* Enoch has put in a grant for a new facility that will be coming to fruition in the next couple of years; this is something we should keep in mind if we continue to have allocation issues.

**Division Playoffs:**

* There were no playoffs in any division during the 2018 season, as requested and voted on in the 2017 season. Was this satisfactory for teams in all three divisions? Should ELSA look at bringing back playoffs for the 2019 season?

Discussion:

* An August 9 end date for the season was too long and late into the season for regular season play; we should have just moved forward with playoffs if the intent was to have an extended playing period.
* Would a compressed regular season, ending in mid-July, with playoffs being played past that point be a desired format?
	+ Playoffs are preset games based on standings.
* Are teams able to opt out of playoffs?
* The problem is having players commit to games past the end of July, it is hard to schedule with teams in post-provincial play and players not able to attend games.
* We should move back to having our league end on July 31, with regular season ending mid-July and 2 weeks of playoffs after that.
* If there are conflicts with the playoff schedule due to post-provincial play, will teams have to forfeit their bond?

Voting by Division for reinstating Playoffs: *All motions have been put forth by President Kristine Peterson and must be seconded by a member of that division; only members of the given division are allowed to vote.*

**Motion to have playoffs reinstated for Division 1, no seconder for the motion. Division 1 will remain status quo.**

**Motion to have playoffs reinstated for Division 2, seconded by Carla Whitford with the Mayhem. CARRIED** (with 1 opposing vote).

**Motion to have playoffs reinstated for Division 3, seconded by Debbie Pyle with the Pacers. CARRIED** (with 2 opposing votes).

* Executive has noted the scheduling problems for the 2018 season and will be striving to ensure scheduling for the 2019 season will be more consistent.

**Poor conduct during 2018 season:**

* ELSA executive was made aware of poor player, team and spectator conduct for one of our teams that took place during the 2018 season. Unfortunately, we were not advised of the issues until well after the season conclusion; this leaves the board with little recourse in dealing with the offending team.

**Motion to enact a Sportsmanship Conduct provision into the Edmonton Ladies Softball Association bylaws whereas any conduct outside of the defined parameters must be filed as a formal complaint within 48-hours of the offense and the board will investigate; if two complaints are substantiated within the season, that team runs the risk of being suspended or ejected from the association. Seconded by Samantha Pruty with Mint Condition. CARRIED.**

* This Sportsmanship Conduct clause will be added to the roster hard copy for signing beginning with the 2019 season.

**Unrestricted Movement within Rosters:**

* ELSA allowed players to have unrestricted access to play on multiple rosters within their own division or higher on a trial basis during the 2018 season, in efforts to reduce game forfeits due to lack of players. This approach seemed to work well and there were no complaints among teams that it was being abused.
	+ The only thing that was mentioned is that we should have some sort of record that this option is only being used when there are not enough players to field a team for a given game.

**Motion for ELSA to update bylaws to allow unrestricted movement for players to play on multiple rosters within their own division or higher when a team does not have enough players to field a team for a given game moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Blaire Taylor with U19 Warriors. CARRIED.**

**Board Position Vacancies:**

* Year over year we encounter difficulties obtaining nominees or volunteers to fill vacant positions on the board; in the past the annual general meeting is drawn out while waiting for someone to volunteer for key positions, often ending in a stalemate.

**Motion to allow the ELSA executive board to appoint an individual to a vacant position in absence of any nominees or volunteers being produced during the annual general meeting moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Danielle Hoover with Cougars. CARRIED.**

**Other New Business Discussion:**

* Change the start time of the first games to 7pm; players are struggling to arrive on time for 6:45pm start.
	+ The change could affect the ending time of the second game, would push it too late.
	+ Umpires have not been consistent with calling ‘No New Inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes
	+ Games were not being called after 1 hour and 30 minutes, causing the start of second games to be delayed and instances of second games going longer than contracted diamond rental time.

**Motion to have umpires enforce a strict No New Inning to begin 80 minutes and for game to be called to an end 90 minutes after designated game start time moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Betty Carmichael with TripleX. CARRIED.**

**Motion to have the time of the first game changed to 7:00pm moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Eldon Chrystian with High Park. DEFEATED.**

* + Start time will remain at 6:45pm
* Friday Night Games: will these continue to be scheduled in the 2019 season? Many teams have conflicts on Friday nights if they are participating in tournaments.
	+ This will depend on our diamond allocation, but we will try out best not to have to schedule games on Friday night.
	+ If games do have to commence on Friday nights, we will try to work with teams that have scheduling conflicts due to tournaments (but we should be notified of any conflicts as soon as the schedules are distributed, not just prior to scheduled games). We will also ensure there is someone in the office for contact on those evenings.
* Teams not showing up for games during the last half of the season.
	+ As a board, under our bylaws, we can address these instances on a case-by-case basis and determine if the team should be suspended or ejected from the league.
* Number of Umps at each game; reducing to one ump to save on umpire fees?
	+ Resounding opposition in reduction of umpires per game to one. Will continue with having two umpires scheduled for each game.
* Player removal from a given team
	+ If there are cases of players being removed from any given team due to misconduct etc., the league should be notified so other ELSA teams can be made aware of issue with individual in case they look to join another team.

**6**. **Return to Election for New Executive**

* **Treasurer – *1 year term remaining***
	+ Kristine again called three times from the floor for any nomination or volunteers; Allana Bridgewater with U16 Warriors and current Secretary volunteered to take over final term of Treasurer, seconded by Betty Carmichael with TripleX. No further nominations.

**Election of Allana Bridgewater as Treasurer CARRIED.**

* **Secretary**
	+ With Allana stepping into the role of Treasurer, the Secretary position is now open. Kristine again called three times from the floor for any nomination or volunteers; no nominations put forth.

**Motion to have Secretary position appointed by the ELSA executive at a later date moved by Kristine Peterson, seconded by Betty Carmichael.**

* **Events Coordinator**
	+ Duties to include assist in the planning and execution of fundraising events, research and propose other fundraising opportunities for the association.

**Motion to have Events Coordinator position appointed by the ELSA executive at a later date moved by Kristine Peterson, seconded by Eldon Chrystian.**

1. **MOTION TO ADJOURN** moved by President Kristine Peterson, seconded by Lisa Dickner at 8:15pm.