



Meeting Agenda

Regular board meeting of	Millet Minor Baseball
Date and time	September 14, 2022 @7:00PM
Location	Millet Agriplex

In Attendance: Jeff Coates, Justin Gessner, Melanie Meade, Tyson Carr, Allison McNichol, Kim Grekul, Sara de la Cruz, Jose de la Cruz

1. **Call to Order: 7:03PM**

2. **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- Melanie Motions to accept previous minutes. Kim seconds. All in favour.

3. **President's Report:**

- **Successes and Challenges**

- Had enough registered players to fill RallyCap, U-9, 2 U-11 and 1 U-15 team- Next year would be nice to look into player share with Wetaskiwin with more open communication.
- Did not have enough players or coaches for a U-13 Team. 3 Coaches were gracious enough to take on the duties of coaching without having a registered player in MMBA
- This was the first year that The Town of Millet has charged us for diamond use.- We are not happy with what has been provided to us for this fee. This will need to be discussed with the town moving forward.
- The town initially kept up with maintenance but were weak in acting on safety and upgrading. Main gate on diamond 1, new dugouts not installed on diamonds 1 or 2, fences in very poor condition on the bottom and top of the chain link in game critical locations (behind 1st base, 3rd base and major backstop deficiencies). The town is slowly picking away at the list of necessary repairs
- Our inaugural GrandSlamBoree was well received and went quite well for our first time. Wetaskiwin was our only visiting team this year and their feedback was great!
- Space out activities between games so that lines for attractions aren't as long. Consider an additional balloon artist, face painter and stress the importance of keeping it simple to keep things moving. Better communication amongst the visiting organizations in the future as well, as we would like to see this day grow!
- Another successful bottle drive proving that this fundraiser is worth it every year
- Our new sponsorship program proved fruitful with many local businesses stepping up and donating. The Millet Pharmacy sponsored the GrandSlamBoree and McConnell Building Movers sponsored the Ball Showdown.
- MMBA welcomed Tyson Carr to the position of Coach and Player Development
- Ball Showdown received positive feedback with our U-9, U-11 and U-15 divisions hosting teams from Hanna, Beaumont, Leduc, Thorsby and Devon (I may have missed a team in there)



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- Our pitch count program was scrapped before it was really initiated as we learned the only way to enforce it would be to designate pitch counters and lay out guidelines and penalties for violations. If we move forward with this rule next year, we could prepare volunteer slots for this task.
- The association windup was held and went well. Teams held their own windups with financial aid from the association thanks to donations from the Lions Club. Poor weather affected some of the windups.- Unfortunately some teams did not hold their wind up parties.
- The Harvest Fair was a success as we held the pancake breakfast, dunk tank and afternoon concession. - Harvest fair was a great success!
- Discussions with the Town of Millet were initiated in regard to a new diamond that could accommodate a U18 team. One goal is to have a premier diamond that the town would maintain and rent out to surrounding communities with priority booking for MMBA. The town has so far declined our initial location of the currently unused soccer field south of the spray park.- We need a bit more information as to exactly what we are going to need and then we will attend a council meeting ourselves to present it.

- **Things we need to improve on:**
- Communication. We have tried more than one format to effectively communicate with each other. Emails were decided to be inconvenient and often a chain of emails with a long string of replies made it difficult to follow the initial point or keep all the information easily accessible. Group texts do not work well cross platform and for those that use their phones for work or cannot use a phone at work at all, it's challenging. We have tried WhatsApp but it also doesn't seem to be an improvement. This being said, what other options do we have other than to bluntly ask members to keep an eye on the chats daily? We should also consider giving the treasurer access to the entire associations email addresses as well - Mandatory response group chat has been created.
- Communication amongst neighbouring associations. I have started working more with the Wetaskiwin Ball Association and we are working together to see if we can help the families in both associations with training, coaching, sharing umpires, holding clinics, providing diamonds etc. We also need to find updated and reliable points of contacts for each association when it comes to our tournaments and be more persistent in solidifying plans with them.
- Volunteer hours. A very high percentage of the registered families followed through with their volunteer commitments, with a few going above and beyond what they were asked. With another busy year behind us we could take a closer look at where we need more volunteers and, in some instances, less volunteers (diamond setup, concession cleanup etc.) We should also consider having our volunteer hours registered at player registration which would mean we would need to plan and schedule our tournaments before registration starts. The volunteer commitment slots will be decided by the Board and not left to one person to determine what needs to be done and how many people need to be involved. At that time, it should also be decided when the families will be receiving their deposit refund, and we stick with that decision.
 - 3 families are left to refund. 1 member is left in bad standings. 2 families have been sent warnings.



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- Concession issues and upgrades to be discussed would include the installation of ventilation, painting the concession, new appliances, upgrading the electrical panel, new flooring for the outside deck, sponsor board, association pictures and a more practical application when using the square for payments.
- A condensed board will be developed to allow the Association the ability to make decisions that may be financial in nature as well as decision making for processes that should be continued to prepare for the upcoming season. (Concession upgrades, applying for grants, winter and early spring clinics for players, Baseball Alberta AGM results etc.) The members of this condensed board will still share the topics and conclusions with the board members as we will still be providing our meeting minutes publicly. The meeting dates and times would be decided by the President still, but will focus more around the availability of the members staying active. As it states in our bylaws, members risk their good standing on the board if they have missed more than 2 consecutive scheduled meetings and some members are already aware that they cannot commit to a year-round association. - Everyone is in agreement that this is the best way to handle the “off season months”. Jeff, Justin, Melanie, Catherine and Tyson will be on the condensed board.
- The AGM date will be announced at least 2 weeks prior to the intended date and will be announced on our media platforms as well as published. All positions are up for nomination besides VP and Treasurer.

4. Vice President's Report:

Successful events and Highlights

- Rallycap Tournament
 - This tournament was one of my favourites. As I coached the second team and had a blast. I would like to say thank you to all the parents that helped me herd all the kids.
 - The highlight was coach Kelsey, who volunteered for this position. Which I believe is the pinnacle of volunteers.
 - As this was the first GrandSlamBoree, I believe that this event was a big hit. Can we make it better, sure we can.
 - What we could do better is involve our U13 and U15 to help out with this event. This will help out with volunteers hours.
- Millet ShowDown
 - The ShowDown put me through the ringer. It was still a very enjoyable tournament and I was proud of our accomplishments, from the concession to diamond maintenance. With every hiccup that we experienced, we quickly responded to that event.
 - I am a firm believer in parents and players experience should be our top priority. Without them our tournament would not happen. At the start of every game, if the



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lines are not chalked, the diamonds are not groomed, it looks bad on our association.

- My recommendation for moving forward is to form a Tournament committee. The Slamboree and the ShowDown should follow the same template with slight modifications. If we want to try something new such as a chicken hotdog for example. It should be on the Slamborees menu to see how well they sell. As stated earlier in my report U13 and U15 involvement with the tournament should not stop at being a player. Diamond maintenance would be a key piece of their commitment to help the association.
- The Regular Season
 - The highlight of the season was to see the divide between the male players and female players to form a more team atmosphere. Also, it was very exciting to see players have their first big hit of the season to make in field plays.
- The only thing is I didn't like that we were limited on practice times because our game days fell on practice days.- Unfortunately not much can be done about this as Baseball Alberta schedules our games for us.
- Year in Review
 - I want to thank Les and Kelsey for stepping up to the plate to volunteer their hours to help our association and the players they coached, even though they didn't have any kids in baseball. We need more people like them.
- I have a few recommendation for this year
 - I would like to move up are AGM to September/October Reasoning - It seems like we have an AGM and the day we choose, it is always a winter storm. Also, it kicks things off with our planning for our tournament earlier because we know who is voted in the many positions on the board and gives a new member/members a better chance to get acquainted with their positions.- This is stated in our bylaws to be at the beginning of our fiscal year. This can not be changed without changing bylaws.
- Procurement of coaches equipment needs for the upcoming season. Reasoning - I would rather have coaches looking at what they need, other than coaches looking for what they need. The season is short and I rather find equipment off season, so when we start the season, coaches are ready to roll with their equipment.
- Train material
 - I would like to update or renew our train material for all age Groups. Reasoning - New coaches to the sport or coaches that don't have much time to prep before practices. It would mean a standard for all coaches and will help with player development. Jeff has started this but it does need some tweaking.
- I want to say thank you to the board members for your dedication to Millet Minor Baseball. Thank you.

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5. Treasurer's Report:

- 19,918.32 in account
- Will need names and emails of those who completed their volunteer hours at the harvest fair.
- I will also need help doing the year as I have never done it before, as new treasurer.
- I think everything ran pretty smoothly this past year and would like to make the suggestion of making all payments for next years fees be e transfer only, it's easier for me to keep track of who has paid as well as refunded people as well. Have to make it very clear that their e transfer won't be accepted if they don't have their child's name and what team they are on in the comment section of the e transfer.
- I felt very welcome on the board and looking forward to another year as well I am willing to participate in the more condensed board as well.

6. Registrar Report: No Report

7. Coach & Player Development's Report:

- Being the first year as a part of the board I feel the year was a success.
- Tournament went well. Next year as soon as we know dates of tournaments we should assign someone to start looking for donations for swag bags a couple months ahead of time instead of running around a week before trying to figure it out.
- Also I think we should raise the volunteer fee way higher. This way we don't have people backing out of their responsibilities.
- Need to add information about fall ball to registration so that people are aware of it going into the season so we aren't grasping for attendance.
- Was a great season all in all.

8. Equipment Coordinator's Report:

- For the 2022 season the procurement of equipment saw fewer challenges than expected. The availability of items at retailers was very good and shipping times were not unreasonable. Teams were outfitted with their needed items and no concerns of shortages or wanted items were brought to my attention. Several pieces were purchased which proved to enhance the experience for this season. Some of those include two additional L-screens, portable pitching mound, chalk machine, and bats.
- For the 2023 season I look to work with coach and player development to see if there are training aids that can be acquired to help coaches in the development of their players during the season. I would also like to purchase equipment, specifically balls for next year as there is an anticipated shortage for next year.



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- Regarding the condensed board, I have reviewed the Presidents report relating to this and had some questions. With that I will reserve my declaration of involvement until I can get more information.
- Some items that I wish to discuss at the September 14th meeting:
- Purchase of items for the 2023 season in the off season rather than preseason
 - Baseballs – streamlining the different models
 - Buckets for practice balls for each division,
 - Chalk
- Disposing of overstock and expired items,
- General housekeeping of the sea can,
- Confirm contact information that the retailers have – United Sports.
- Jose motions to spend \$1000 on equipment now due to predicted shortages closer to our season start. Sara seconds. All in favour.

9. Concession Coordinator's Report: No Report

10. Tournament Coordinator's Report:

- Goals accomplished:
 - Ran two relatively successful tournaments
- Challenges:
 - Poorly structured volunteer slots
 - Poorly designed system for tracking volunteer sign up
- Suggestions for next year:
 - Return to paper scheduling for volunteering, or utilize a program that works better. There was no notification of when people signed up and each slot had to be checked individually every time the schedule was reviewed
 - More thorough review of volunteering schedule and more input from coaches as to what is actually needed and when

11. Field & Maintenance Coordinator's Report: No Report

12. Public Relations Coordinator:

- Picture Day - success - I liked how we did the group photo first and then after each team was done pictures they could go start on the bottle drive



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- Bottle Drive - raises \$4145.90. Prepare at least 3 trailers ahead of time. Could be used as a volunteer shift. We're we happy with Calmar Bottle Depot?
- 50/50 & Player Board - make Player Board mobile and add another volunteer to take care of it. It made \$365. 50/50 was a success made \$436.
- Avon - made \$228. Very nice of Kristen Ryan to step up. She took care of everything!
- Clothing - made \$406. I liked how clothing was available all season. Jocelyn was very easy to work with and had a quick turn over on orders. No complaints that I knew of. Use black T-ball jerseys in seacan next year or possibly add child's shirt size to RAMP registration.
- Grand Slamboree - have 2 face painters and 2 balloon artists and another blow up house possibly the obstacle course rather than plain house. We will also need a size limit on bouncy houses for parent volunteers. Will need bigger generators. Make sure to advertise for the Food Bank.
- Wind-Up - success the food was great. We could use another volunteer to help cook.
- Website & Facebook - I thought it was good. I would like to see more traffic on the website. Families are quite active on Facebook.
- I would not like to be part of the condensed board.

13. **Umpire Coordinator:**

- We had 5 umpires this year. Most of which were our own players so that did make scheduling a challenge. Sought help from Beaumont a couple times and Leduc often. Beaumont cost us mileage whereas Leduc did not so I did try to only utilize Beaumont when absolutely necessary.
- We helped Wetaskiwin out with quite a few games as well which was great experience for the boys.
- I would definitely like to really try pushing for umps waaaaay earlier in the year next year so that hopefully we have more than just a couple.
- Would like to make sure that coaches are reminded that they are to be respectful of our umpires and that they shouldn't be bullying 14 year old kids to have a game go their way. At the end of the day this is house league and kids hear everything so would like our coaches to be leading by example and respecting the umpires.
- Overall great experience stepping into this position knowing nothing.

14. **Other Items:**

Next Meeting:TBD

Meeting Adjourned: 9:43PM